



Middleton's Lane, Hellesdon  
Norwich NR6 5NF  
Tel: 01603 426550  
Fax: 01603 403361

Headteacher: Mr. S. J. Fisher  
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs R. Robinson  
[www.firsides.norfolk.sch.uk](http://www.firsides.norfolk.sch.uk)  
[office@firsides.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:office@firsides.norfolk.sch.uk)

Dear Parent / Carer,

Welcome back! We hope everyone had a restful holiday; certainly, the children have returned refreshed, keen and eager! The New Year is a natural time to look ahead and think about what the future holds. Our assemblies and PSHE lessons this half-term focus on 'Going for Goals'. We all want children to have high aspirations but of course these remain just wishes unless they plan the small steps they need to take towards their goals. The assemblies will focus on how others have set their sights high and then worked steadily, one step at a time to achieve them – and the Olympians and Paralympians continue to be a real inspiration! We want every child to achieve something they feel proud of every day. We are sure with continuing hard work and your support the children will achieve their dreams!

As you may know, there is evidence that although children in the UK become quite strong readers they do not necessarily become keen readers for pleasure. We intend to do something about this! Further into the newsletter Miss Putt outlines how we hope you will help by taking part in a questionnaire. The outcomes will help us plan strategies that will help ALL children become more avid readers.

*Staff update:* This term we welcome Ms Haugh who joins the Year 4 teaching team. We know that the children will enjoy being taught by her and will have many successes. We look forward to seeing Mr Oakey the caretaker back at work soon after his recuperation from an operation.

We wish everyone a Happy New Year and hope 2013 is a great year for you.

J  
a  
n  
u  
a  
r  
y  
  
2  
0  
1  
3

*[Year News on following pages]*





Middleton's Lane, Hellesdon  
Norwich NR6 5NF  
Tel: 01603 426550  
Fax: 01603 403361

Headteacher: Mr. S. J. Fisher  
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs R. Robinson  
[www.firsides.norfolk.sch.uk](http://www.firsides.norfolk.sch.uk)  
[office@firsides.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:office@firsides.norfolk.sch.uk)

## Year 3 News

Now the children have really settled in at Firsides we are looking forward to a very productive term. Thank you for continuing to read with your child at home – reading 4 times a week will really help them progress (and earn team points in class!). If you initially expressed an interest in coming in to school to help children with reading but have still not managed to arrange this, please speak to your child's class teacher. We are still looking for volunteers!

This term our major project is Ancient Greece. We will be taking historical, geographical and artistic perspectives to allow an in-depth understanding of this fabulous period in history. We are intending to put on a special assembly based on this topic to which all parents will be invited on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2013. More details will follow.

Our work in English will focus initially on poetry, moving later on to myths and legends. This fits in perfectly with our Ancient Greek topic, and after learning about the features of myth stories, we will be having a go at writing our own. Some of our homework will be linked to these topics. As ever, thank you for supporting your child so that they are able to complete these pieces of work by the Wednesday deadline.

Now that the children are more comfortable with the language and methods of Maths Makes Sense, we will be introducing some new and challenging ideas to them. These will prepare the way for later developments in the key areas of arithmetic, geometry, data and measures and reasoning. You can support them at home by helping them to use Mathletics, consolidate 3x, 4x and 6x times tables, learn their halves and doubles and discuss and practise telling the time.

In Science, we will be learning about light and shadows, carrying out investigations and learning more scientific skills. In ICT, we will introduce the children to email and the Internet which we hope will enable them to further extend their home learning. As part of our unit of study, we will be discussing issues of common etiquette, particularly with relevance to email, and thinking about how they can 'stay safe' in the 'virtual world'.

### *Just a few reminders:*

- A pen and pencil are essential for school every day. Replacements can be bought from the school office.
- P.E. equipment is required on Monday for 3H and 3M, Friday for 3Mc and for everyone on Thursday.
- Learning journals should be in school every day and at least four reading sessions recorded each week please. Use this book to pass on any important information to us. It is useful if it is in school every day.





Middleton's Lane, Hellesdon  
Norwich NR6 5NF  
Tel: 01603 426550  
Fax: 01603 403361

Headteacher: Mr. S. J. Fisher  
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs R. Robinson  
[www.firsides.norfolk.sch.uk](http://www.firsides.norfolk.sch.uk)  
[office@firsides.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:office@firsides.norfolk.sch.uk)

## Year 4 News

Thinking back to our first term in Year 4, all of us have been impressed with how much enthusiasm the children have had investigating and working on new topics and subject areas. We have been encouraging the children to take responsibility for their learning by prompting the children to ask questions they want answering about a new subject area and undertake research independently and in groups.

The spring term is always one of the most productive and interesting terms! One of our main themes after half term is a study of China and its cultural traditions. We will be investigating the history of China, the geography of the country, as well as its culture and religion. Watch out for a letter inviting you to an exhibition of your children's work which will be taking place near the very end of term. This longer project will be complemented by studies on materials in Science. We are currently working on Tudors and will be inviting you soon to see what your children have achieved and learnt over the past few weeks.

Further on in the term we will be investigating sci-fi texts and linking that with our science and design and technology through studies into friction.

The deadline for making a decision about whether your child will take part in our Whitwell Hall residential trip has passed. Full payment will need to be received by 28<sup>th</sup> February.

We are planning a familiarisation trip for each class to visit Whitwell Hall for a couple of hours during a school day, plans for this are in place and this will be happening in February. A letter will be coming home once the exact dates have been confirmed.

You will be aware that a slight staffing adjustment has been made this term. Miss Laniado left us before Christmas and we welcome Ms Haugh who has joined the year 4 team, working alongside Mrs Robinson.

### *Just a few reminders:*

- A pen, pencil, ruler and rubber are essential every day. Replacement pens and pencils can be bought from the office.
- P.E. kits are required on Tuesday for 4R, Wednesday for 4HR and Friday for 4P. Year 4s will be going swimming after the half term. There will be a letter coming home shortly about this.
- Learning journals should be in school every day and at least four reading sessions recorded each week please. Use this book to pass on any important information to us.





Middleton's Lane, Hellesdon  
Norwich NR6 5NF  
Tel: 01603 426550  
Fax: 01603 403361

Headteacher: Mr. S. J. Fisher  
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs R. Robinson  
[www.firsides.norfolk.sch.uk](http://www.firsides.norfolk.sch.uk)  
[office@firsides.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:office@firsides.norfolk.sch.uk)

## Year 5 News

(Mrs Turner)

Having completed our first full term in Year 5, both Mr Coe , Miss Fry and myself have been impressed with the enthusiasm with which the children have worked on new subject topics and projects. It has been particularly pleasing that some children have chosen to extend their learning at home and bring interesting items or research write-ups in to show. Most children have enjoyed learning French, in place of Spanish and are using their Learning Journals to record their thoughts about their school week. We are looking forward to a busy and productive spring term.

We are beginning the term with an afternoon focus on History – Roman Invaders. We hope to complete the half term by inviting parents to our very own presentation about the Romans – afternoon of Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup>. February.

Literacy lessons will be focussing on traditional stories, in particular Tales of Robin Hood. We are focusing on improving the quality of selected vocabulary, to give detail and interest to our writing. I would like to thank all parents for their support with 'Talking Homework' it really makes a difference to the quality of writing when a plan or word bank is brought in to help with the task. Some children do not bring in any notes, which can cause worry and anxiety when the writing begins, so please do check that your child has done their homework.

### Reminders:

- Learning journals must be in school every day, especially Monday, when we write our weekly journal entry. They are signed by staff during the week. All children must record at least four reading sessions each week. Please use this book to inform us of anything that may impact on your child's day in school – dentist appointment, lost books, not able to wear school shoes!
- Pen and pencils are essential equipment. Unfortunately some teaching has been delayed when children have come to class without these. Replacements can be purchased from the office before lessons begin.

Games kits, especially in cold weather can include suitable hats and gloves.

- Full payment for our residential trip should be made by 22<sup>nd</sup>. April. Please let the office know if you have any concerns about payment before the deadline.





Middleton's Lane, Hellesdon  
Norwich NR6 5NF  
Tel: 01603 426550  
Fax: 01603 403361

Headteacher: Mr. S. J. Fisher  
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs R. Robinson  
[www.firsides.norfolk.sch.uk](http://www.firsides.norfolk.sch.uk)  
[office@firsides.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:office@firsides.norfolk.sch.uk)

## Year 6 News

We all really enjoyed the first term and are very pleased with the excellent attitude the year group have shown towards their work. Our trips to Gressenhall and the Sainsbury's Centre were very successful, and on both occasions their staff were full of praise for our pupils interest, knowledge and behaviour.

The spring term is a busy and important term for all of Year 6. The children are building towards important assessments early in the summer term (the week starting Monday 13th May). Please do not take family holidays between now and then as any time lost will be detrimental. Please also remember that reading underpins everything and we still expect that pupils in Year 6 will read at least 4 times a week at home. Talking and asking questions about what your child is reading really helps develop reading skills further. Likewise, regular practise of times tables facts will really help pupils perform to the best of their abilities.

We have started our first project of the term which is based on the Solar System and will end with an exhibition. We will then be looking at Fair Trade and hosting a Fairtrade Café for parents before the Easter holidays, where you will be invited to come and buy Fairtrade products made and served by the children.

We also look forward to our residential trip to Kingswood in the summer term (the week starting Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June), the balance for which is due by the 24<sup>th</sup> April.

### Reminders:

- Indoor PE kit for Friday (change of top, shorts, plimsolls or bare feet).
- Games kit for Thursday (tracksuit bottoms and warm sweatshirt).
- Pencils and blue handwriting pens can be bought from the school office.
- Please record the reading you do with your child in their Learning Journals.
- Please ensure Learning Journals come to school every day, especially Monday and Friday.



## Reading for pleasure - Questionnaire

In the next couple of weeks, your child will be completing a questionnaire about the reading they do outside school and their feelings about themselves as readers. In order to get the fullest picture possible, we are also inviting all parents/carers to fill in a questionnaire which has been given to children today. The information we receive will support the planning of reading events over the coming year. The deadline for the return of questionnaires is Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January. Additional copies of the questionnaire will be available from the office.

## Building maintenance

You will be aware that we having some maintenance work completed to the front of the school. Once work starts we *may* be a little restricted in using the front doors of the school and will let you know if we need to use a different entrance. We also ask parents to take particular care when supervising any younger children when waiting in this area at the end of the school day. Please make sure they do not swing or climb on the scaffolding (or gates).

## Bad weather and school closure

We have had a remarkably mild winter so far but harsher weather is forecast. *IF* the school is ever forced to close we will notify parents via the county website and local radio. You may be certain that closing the school is always the *very* last resort and you may safely assume that the school is open unless a message is sent out as outlined above.

## Diary

### January

Thurs 10 <sup>th</sup>	Mad Science starts .....	after school
Mon 14 <sup>th</sup>	EA Tennis club starts .....	after school
Tues 15 <sup>th</sup>	Fitness club starts.....	after school
Wed 16 <sup>th</sup>	Governors monitoring working party in school	
Thurs 17 <sup>th</sup>	FOF meeting .....	9:15
"	SESMA martial arts club starts	
Fri 18 <sup>th</sup>	CSF Multi-skills/Football club starts [a few places still available] .....	after school

### February

Wed 6 <sup>th</sup>	Coffee and Chat – parents drop-in (Shelley Logan).....	9:00-10:00
"	Governors, resource committee meeting in school	
Mon 18 <sup>th</sup>	Half-term week	
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup>	School re-opens	

**Hellesdon Library:** On your next visit to the local library, please take time to enjoy the display of our children's photographs taken last term.

**Handwashing:** We understand that a number of families suffered ill health over the holiday period. As you know we regularly remind children of the importance of hand-washing. Good hand-washing is the key to stopping the spread of germs. Thank you for reminding them about this at home.



**Attendance – a polite reminder:** School opens at 8:30 ...and not before! Lessons start at 8:45 ...and not later!

**Mobile phones:** Some lucky children have been given a mobile phone for Christmas. Can we remind everyone that these should not be brought into school unless there are exceptional circumstances. Any request for exemption should be made in writing, please. The school cannot accept responsibility for personal items if they are lost or damaged. Please keep them at home!