

# Pinetree Matters

## Message from the Head

At the end of the summer you reflect on the success you have seen over the last year and maybe contemplate things you could have done better.

At this time of year, the focus is often heavily on the year 11's and how they do in their exams. This is never easy as it does have a lasting impact on their lives. It is with this in mind I want to congratulate all the Year 11's for the completion of their exams, as this in itself is an achievement you should all be proud of.

But also across the school there are many pupils who have made an active change and their achievements should too be celebrated. This was culminated in our celebration evening on 11.7.23—where those achievements were celebrated with parents/carers and staff.

The successes of the term could not have been achieved without the hard work and dedication of the staff. They arrive each day to school, striving to get the best out of each pupil, and to ensure that progress is made over time. As Head of School I cannot be more proud of leading the team of staff and the pupils we teach.

Next year will bring its own challenges but together we can and will overcome these. Like every term the focus will be getting back in the swing of learning and ensuring progress is made.

Finally with the holidays drawing in, and hopefully some warm weather on the horizon, I hope you all have an enjoyable, relaxing summer break, filled with laughs and family fun whilst remaining safe in the sun. I wish you all the best summer possible and look forward to seeing and working with you in the Autumn term.

## Staff News

As many of you will be aware Mr Denmark will be leaving at the end of this term. Mr Denmark has had a big impact on many of our pupils' education. We are sad to see him leave and we thank Mr Denmark for this hard work over the past 7 years and wish him all the very best on his new journey.

## Summer 2023

### Dates for your diary

School opens: 6th September 2023

School closes 20th October 2023

Half term: 23 October –27 October 2023

School opens: 30 October 2023

Schools Closes: 20 December 2023

## Pupil News

I want to congratulate all the pupils who were celebrated during the Pinetree celebration event. We were so thrilled at the amount of pupils who were celebrated and the amount of parents/carers and family members who attended.

Well done to all those pupils who sat exams this term. All pupils were a credit to themselves and we are extremely proud of the effort you all put in during the busy exam period. Looking forward to seeing you on results day on 24th August 2023.

## Community

This term our pupils have been involved in several community projects, including serving meals to those at the Salvation Army. We have also had a careers theme day with some local businesses such as RAF Honington supporting the event.

# English

In KS3 English this half term, pupils have been looking at poetry based on the theme of identity. They have been discussing what makes up their own identities as well as looking at the cultures behind some of the poets including Benjamin Zephaniah, Carol Rumens, and Sujata Bhatt. A few pupils have written their own identity poems too.

This half term we are looking at the play 'Blood Brothers' and pupils will be looking at themes of family and social issues as well as exploring how scripts are written.

KS4 have been working hard on revision in preparation for their exams! Year 11 put some good effort in and we hope they have done well! Year 10 will be beginning to look at 'Lord of the Flies'.

Both KS3 and KS4 have been working on 100-word stories for another Young Writers competition - this time the theme is 'Unsolved' and several pupils have already made a good start with these! Details about publication etc. will be sent nearer the time.

# Maths

It has been a busy year in the Maths classroom, culminating in 7 pupils sitting their GCSE examinations in June. Pupils have continued to benefit from using the Sumdog program to fine tune their maths skills, and the level of competition when answering Maths questions to lift up the level of their junkpile, has been immense! As ever, the aim in the Maths classroom has been to support pupils in strengthening their overall level of numerical ability, leaving them ready to face the challenges of adult life when it comes to managing things like their finances and time.



# Science

In this edition of our school newsletter, we are thrilled to showcase the exciting discoveries made by our Science class this term. With a focus on batteries, circuits, and fuses, our students have delved into the fascinating world of electrical systems.

Through hands-on experiments and engaging discussions, our budding scientists have gained a deep understanding of how batteries power our lives and how circuits enable the flow of electricity. They have explored the importance of fuses in protecting electrical devices and preventing potential hazards.

We applaud our Science class for their curiosity and dedication to unravelling the mysteries of electricity. Their newfound knowledge will undoubtedly empower them in an increasingly technology-driven world.

Keep up the scientific spirit and embrace the wonders of the universe!

# Art

## KS3 Art

In Art lessons this term we have been focusing on building a range of artistic skillsets through the study of African Tribal Art and artist Chief Jimoh Buraimoh. Pupils have been learning about craft techniques through making and creating 3-D masks inspired by African tribes.

## KS4 Art

In Art lessons this term year 11 pupils successfully sat their 10-hour GCSE Art exam. Using inspiration gained from the Art trip to London last term. The Art department is so very proud of them and we cannot wait to see what our new year 11 produce over the next academic year.

# R.S.H.E

## KS3 RSHE

In RSHE this term KS3 have been learning about puberty, sex and relationships. During these lessons pupils have had the opportunity to engage in a range of activities such as group discussions, drama, self-study, art, and creative writing.

## KS4 RSHE

In RSHE this term KS4 have been learning about a range of sex and relationships. During these lessons pupils have had the opportunity to engage in a range of activities such as group discussions, drama, self-study, art, and creative writing.

# History

This term we have been studying History. Pupils have learned about crime and punishment; from the early Victorians to the present day. We have looked at how World War 2 began and how soldiers felt leaving home including what it was like in the trenches.

We have gone back in time to the Romans, Vikings, and Saxons and looked at how life was in the past.

# Food Technology

## Year 7

This term we have been making various dishes from the different food groups such as cheese and onion triangles, and pizza pittas with added fibre. The aim of the module is to teach pupils the importance of eating all aspects of the Eatwell Plate for a balanced diet. Additionally, pupils have been looking at how we cook different kinds of eggs. We have been 'travelling around the world' to try foods from different countries.

## Year 8 and 9

This term we have been making recipes which address different dietary needs, allergies, and intolerances. This teaches the pupils that in all walks of life they may be required to prepare or make food for other people rather than just for themselves. We have also been looking at cultures and food from different countries.

## Year 10 and 11

This term pupils have been making different pastry products from millefeuille, using puff pastry, to quiche or Cornish pasty using short crust pastry.

Pupils have also been using 'summer' as our topic and using the outside BBQ to prepare food items, such as marinating chops or kebabs.



# P.E.

Greetings, students and parents!

We are thrilled to share the highlights of our summer Physical Education activities in this edition of the school newsletter. This term, our students have been actively engaged in various outdoor sports, including high jump, javelin, and football.

The high jump sessions have been a soaring success, with students reaching new heights both physically and personally. Their determination and perseverance have been truly inspiring, as they conquer each hurdle with grace and determination.

Our javelin enthusiasts have embraced the challenge of mastering this ancient sport. Through dedicated practice and guidance, they have honed their skills and achieved remarkable throws, unleashing their inner strength and unleashing the spirit of competition.

Meanwhile, our football sessions have brought students together in the spirit of teamwork and camaraderie. The sound of laughter and the joy of scoring goals fill the air, reminding us all of the pure happiness that comes from being outdoors and active.

As we continue to enjoy the sunshine and fresh air, we encourage everyone to make the most of this term by engaging in these invigorating PE activities. Let's celebrate the joys of physical fitness and relish the countless benefits of being outside.

Stay active, stay motivated, and have a fantastic summer!



English	French	Visual
Blue	Bleu	
White	Blanc	
Red	Rouge	
Yellow	Jaune	
Green	Vert	
Orange	Orange	
Brown	Marron	
Pink	Rose	
Black	Noir	
Grey	Gris	
Purple	Violet	

# French

Our French lessons this year have seen pupils develop their understanding of key vocabulary such as: greetings, numbers, days and months, birthdays, colours, and physical description. They have also tried French cuisine in the form of croissants and pain au chocolat, and experienced other aspects of French culture such as playing boules. Allez!

# Careers

This has been a very busy year; we have implemented work experience for Year 10's & 11's which has been very successful. There have been placements at Ford, Costa, Pizza Hut and more. Pupil confidence has soared, giving them the skills needed going forward.

We also organised a careers theme day with some exciting activities that included RAF chefs, St Giles Trust, and football academy. This gives the pupils the chance to experience some of the possibilities that are available to them in their future.

Lastly, I would like to wish all the Year 11's the best of luck in their future endeavours and hope they will come back to visit us in the future!



# Computing

Last half term pupils across KS3 and KS4 worked on making their own Kahoot quizzes based on topics of their choice. Kahoot allows a competitive quiz to be played across devices and the pupils enjoy using this in lessons. Now they have had a chance to research and make their own! The topics have been varied from 'The Pinetree Quiz' to cars to many random mixtures of topics. One pupil even made a 100-question quiz!

This half term pupils are exploring 3D modelling - looking at the history of the computer technology involved and using an online programme to make their own 3D models.



# Life Skills

## Resilience and Perseverance

This term pupils have been learning how to fend for themselves in the 'wild'. They have learned how to put up a tent and cook on an open fire. Pupils have completed an Introduction to first aid. They have also learned about the local area; this included taking part in some cycling in the local woodland. To build pupil confidence we have organised competitive activities and developed the pupils' social skills through trips such as bowling and the zoo.

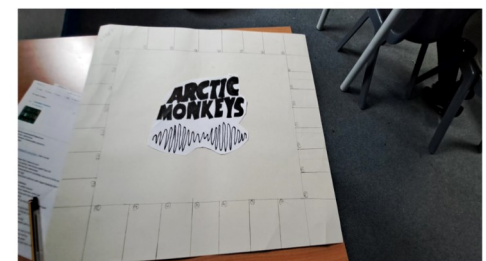


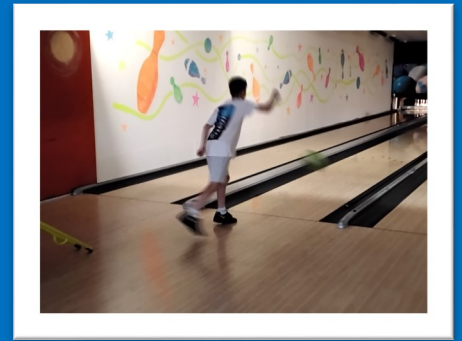
## Creativity and Emotional Literacy

In Life Skills lessons this term pupils have been on several trips to understand the history and culture of Thetford. They visited The Ancient House Museum, The Priory, Castle Park, Barnham Common, and Thetford Town Centre. These trips helped them gain inspiration to be able to collaboratively create several large-scale art murals; these are to be displayed on the external walls of the school.

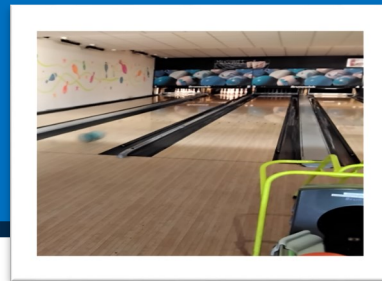
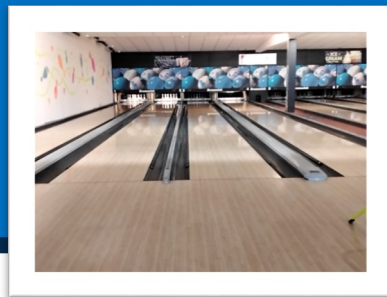
## Communication and Oracy

In our Life Skills sessions this year, pupils have once more considered the cost of living crisis and discovered new ways to both eat and entertain themselves at no great cost. They have created recipes from scratch, bought key ingredients from Norwich market, and developed their own games to play that are fun and don't cost the earth.





As part of life skills this term, some pupils had the chance to go bowling at Mr G's in Brandon. They had a fantastic time and only a few bowling balls got stuck... Some great scores were achieved and pupils enjoyed the competitive challenge. It was great to see how well the pupils represented themselves and the school at the bowling alley, showing politeness, and excellent turn-taking skills. An experience of ten-pin bowling was also beneficial to the pupils' Maths skills. 10 is a triangular number, don't you know....



On the 28th June pupils who achieved 90% attendance and above attended the Royal Norfolk Show. Despite the pouring rain, pupils were in good spirits as they departed school at 9.00. We were extremely lucky that there was minimal traffic and we arrived at 10.00. On arrival the pupils and supporting adults were separated into their different groups and were sent in different directions by the trip leader, with the aim of coming back with some stories. Some pupils explored the sports arena and food court trying all the different samples on offer. It was decided the best food stall was the crisps stall with all their different varieties.

At 12:00 the pupils met up to swap stories and have some lunch before going off again. The pupils were being enthusiastic and sharing some exciting stories about their day so far. The pupils were still in good spirits and were enjoying the day despite the boggy fields.

Pupils then went to find the exciting stalls they hadn't yet been to; this included a trip to the army and R.A.F stall, taking part in problem solving activities and getting through a spider's web.

At 14:00 pupils returned to the minibus with all the 'free stuff' they had collected throughout the day. These included a football, painted vinyl disc and lots of pens and bands. Overall the day was a huge success, the pupils had a very enjoyable day and showed an excellent attitude, really embracing the experience.

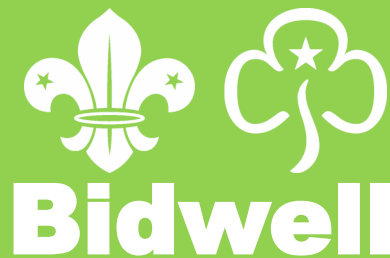


# Northgate Library

As part of our on-going enrichment of the curriculum and promotion of reading, a group of pupils were invited to visit the Northgate Library following lots of positive comments about the books and opportunities available. Mr Rice, Miss Townsend, and Mrs Warren took 3 pupils to the mainstream school to visit the library. Whilst there the pupils acted with politeness and respect.

The pupils looked through an array of books often stopping to look more closely at several chosen books. A Year 8 girl got engrossed in a fictional novel, whilst Year 7 and 8 boys shared books on the world wars and how incredible a time this was. The boys also shared stories they had been told by grandparents/great grandparents.

Overall, the pupils really enjoyed the visit and it was pleasing to see them leaving clutching different books they were returning to school with. I was extremely proud of the pupils who showed enthusiasm and courteousness throughout.



As part of our Life Skills lessons pupils had the opportunity to go to the Bidwell Centre. This term the final round of pupils went who had not already been. While at the Centre pupils got the chance to create a camp fire, play games as a group, and cook bangers on the fire. I think there may even have been some camp fire songs. So many of our pupils have suggested they enjoyed the trip and have eaten far too many sausages. The pupils returned smelling of camp fire smoke and full bellies. The pupils loved the opportunity to be out and at 1 with nature.



# Kickstart

the moped hire charity

As part of our commitment to giving pupils opportunities within different industries we had the pleasure of the charity Kick-start spending the day with us at school. They provide mopeds and scooters for young people who need transport. As part of the visit pupils were able to look at the bikes, dismantle them, put them back together whilst also learning about the bikes along the way.

Two different bikes were brought along; a modern day electric bike and an older petrol bike. Pupils learned the difference between the two. They looked into the running costs of these, part availability, and some basic differences in terms of speed, functions, and ride style. During the talks the pupils were full of questions and wanted to find out a range of information about the bikes. The favourite was definitely the electric bike with all the modern day features.

Throughout both the talks and practical sessions pupils were incredibly engaged, polite, and full of questions. The pupils were keen to learn about the bikes and showed real enthusiasm to learn.

My favourite part was hearing a year 10 female pupil say: "that was great, I didn't expect to like that".

We really thank Dale and the kick-start team for their time and knowledge.



# Careers theme day

On 28.6.23 we had a whole school Careers day focused on pupils understanding future careers and looking into what skills would be required for when they go into the World of work

Like all theme days different departments contributed to the day organising either visitors into the school and putting on activities demonstrating a future career.

In PE pupils were utilising and working on skills they would need in the work place, such as teamwork, communication and leadership. Pupils were given a talk around future careers Pathway and this was supported by information supplied by DESA football academy who couldn't be in attendance on the day.

In order to work on these skills pupils completed a series of individual and team challenges. Pupils had to "cross the river". Pupils had to set a time using problem solving skills both on their own then as a team, knowing one step in the river and they would be eaten. We then progressed on communication, leadership and tactical skills in capture the flag, where pupils have to steal the other teams flag. The majority of pupils were enthusiastic throughout.



In Food Technology we were privileged to be joined by RAF Honington. Four members of the team joined us with the military chefs sharing their skills and teaching the pupils new skills but also what a career could look like.

They supplied the tortillas, vegetables, and whole chickens. They showed the pupils how to fillet a chicken correctly, spoke about hygiene, and how to make sauces and gravy from the carcass of the chicken.

The pupils made some excellent tortilla wraps, experimented with fajitas seasoning, and tried new foods.

This all helps build skills in the kitchen and life skills. The pupils were so enthusiastic about the opportunity and had so much fun watching and learning from the experts. All the pupils felt like they had learnt new skills but also were full of knowledge about the RAF. One year 10 boy commented "I didn't know you could be a chef in the RAF, I might do that". The pupils were also impressed by the skills the chefs had.

I would like to thank RAF Honington taking the time to spend with our young people.





Pupils also had the opportunity to explore journalism and photography and what a career in this field might look like. With pupils watching and writing match reports and pieces following sporting events. This showed the pupils there is a point to the work they complete in English. Pupil also began to plan what career paths they might choose, and why, also thinking about what skills they may need to make this happen.

For RSHE pupils had a talk from the St Giles Trust about many of the dangers in the world and what pupils can do to keep themselves and others safe. Although much of this content was hard to hear, pupils received this information well and took a keen interest in the content.

Overall the Careers Theme Day was a huge success with many pupils commenting they had enjoyed the day. This alongside the apprenticeship work-shops and college talks have given the pupils a real insight into how life at post-16 could look for them.



# VeloBuild™

This term pupils from Birch and Acorn have had the opportunity to build their own bikes through Velobuild. The project is organised by All Things Active – their aim is to give all young people the opportunity to have a bike and understand how to maintain it.

The bikes arrived with just a frame and the pupils were expected to make the rest of the bikes themselves. They begin by attaching wheels to the frame. Pupils then progress onto leading putting brakes and gears onto the bikes. Pupils have to make sure these are all tightened and ready for usage. Pupils are also shown how to maintain the bikes successfully. They practice repairing a flat tyre and how to make basic repairs or general maintenance to the bikes.

The final part of the project is test riding the bikes. The pupils need to make sure they are roadworthy and that they will not fall apart. The pupils took the bikes out onto the field to test ride them. This was the favourite part of the project for many.

The bikes from all pupils look excellent and the pupils are really proud of their efforts. The majority of pupils have already taken bikes home and are really pleased with them... One pupil even rides his to school every day.

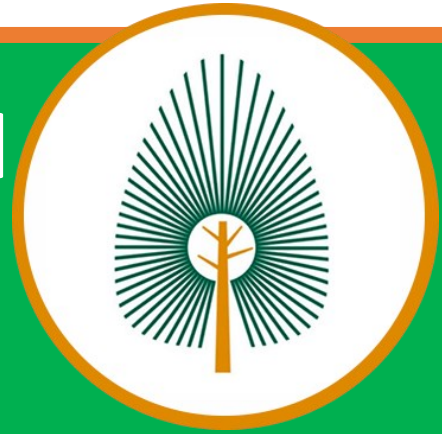
During the project both groups acted in a really mature manner and tried really hard throughout the project. They showed enthusiasm throughout and got a lot out of the project with many pupils suggesting it was one of the best things they had done at school.

Year 7 “This is the best thing ever – I have wanted a new bike for ages – I will be able to go to the shop for Mum now”.





# A Pinetree School Celebration



On 11.7.23 the school hosted it's first ever celebration event. This gave us as a school community the chance to celebrate each others' achievements alongside parents and carers.

Three pupils from each subject who have made exceptional progress were nominated by teachers and invited to the event where senior trust staff, parents, and school staff all mingled to celebrate .

53% of pupils got a nomination and 30% of parents and carers joined us for the event which started with some refreshments and a chance for parents and carers to get to know each other. During the event an Art exhibition was held to highlight and display all the wonderful work pupils had done in Art across this year. It was great to see pupils showing parents/carers their work and telling them what they had learnt. There was so much on display from GCSE final pieces to aboriginal boomerangs. Thank to Miss Everist and Mr Messerre for putting this on.

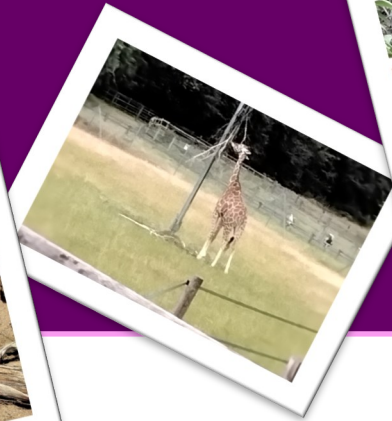
Once pupils and adults had eaten and strolled through the Art gallery each subject was called upon to give out their certificates and prizes for their chosen pupils. 1 by 1 pupils came up to a lovely round of applause from the hall to receive prizes from the staff. It shouldn't be lost what a magnificent achievement this is for our pupils to do this especially in front of others. I was extremely proud if them.





As part of our Life Skills and Science curriculums pupils had the chance to visit Banham Zoo to both witness first hand adaptations that take place but to also understand nature and the world around us. The final raft of pupils went during this term. The pupils were very excited about the trip and were well behaved throughout whilst wandering around the site and when listening to the educational talks. One of our pupils even brought back a cute cuddly toy snow leopard. They reported they saw some wonderful animals from across the world including giraffes, meerkats, and snow leopards. The favourite amongst the pupils though appeared to be the giraffes. The pupils gave a really good representation of themselves whilst out on the trip and we applaud the pupils for that.

Along with the learning the pupils took part in it was also brilliant to see the pupils interacting maturely and safely with each other. The pupils really enjoyed the trips and many hope they get the chance to go again.



## SAFER SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

**PROTECTING, RESPECTING AND SUPPORTING YOU**



This term we have continued our sessions with the local police in order to improve our pupils knowledge and understanding of safety. We have had sessions this term for both KS3 and KS4. At KS3 pupils have had sessions on county lines, drugs, and hate crimes.

In Key Stage 4 pupils have had sessions around safety, county lines, drugs, and knife crime. Throughout the sessions the majority of pupils have maintained a high level of engagement and got a lot out of the sessions.

There has also been a session on road safety and joy riding and the dangers involved in this for the year 10's and 11's.



# MOYSE'S HALL MUSEUM

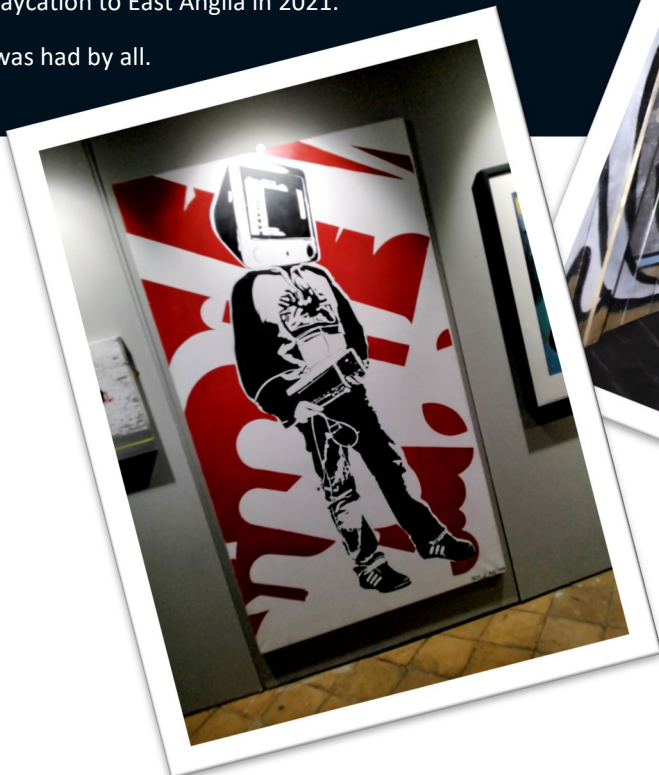


During the final weeks of the summer term the Art department took the GCSE pupils to Moyses Hall Museum in Bury St Edmunds. This was to attend a fantastic exhibition - 'The Urban Frame: Mutiny in Colour', that celebrates modern street art.

Pupils were able to view over 100 original artworks from some of the world's most renowned artists including Banksy, Blek Le Rat, Pure Evil, My Dog Sighs, Kaws, the Connor Brothers, Damien Hirst, Tracey Emin, Sherlock, Swoon, Ben Eine, Bambi, Hush, and Lamont White, to name a few.

Pupils were able to enjoy a completely new exhibition, with a number of pieces being exhibited for the very first time in public, including Sandcastle Girl, which was painted on a wall in Lowestoft by Banksy during his Spraycation to East Anglia in 2021.

A great time was had by all.



# Wellbeing

Here is some information for anyone struggling over the summer break. Below are some details for parents if they have any concerns for their child at this time of year.

## **Just One Number 0300 300 0123**

Just One Number is our single point of access for Norfolk & Waveney Children & Young People's Health Services. This includes;

- The Norfolk Healthy Child Programme
- Norfolk & Waveney Children's Speech and Language Therapy Service.

Families, professionals, and young people can get in touch with Just One Number by calling 0300 300 0123.

Your call might be for an appointment change, or you might have a parenting question, or a worry about your child's physical & emotional health, or communication development. Whatever your reason to contact us, our team are here to help you.

## **Parentline 07520 631590**

Parentline is our text service for parents and carers to get in touch about any parenting questions or concerns.

You might find it hard to call in to Just One Number during opening hours, due to a hearing impairment or you may just prefer to chat by text with a health professional.

If you need advice about your child or young person's health or wellbeing, simply send a text and one of our team will text you back.

You can text at anytime on 07520 631590. A health professional from the 0-19 team will reply during our opening times. You can have the whole conversation by text if that works best for you, or the practitioner can call you.

Also, you can contact your **local council** if you have concerns for the household around cost-of-living expenses. They can offer guidance, local food banks, and help and advice for energy costs.



# The Office

## Mrs Frost

Wishing you all a relaxing and enjoyable Summer holiday. Hopefully the weather will be glorious.

Keep safe and I look forward to continuing to work with you during the new academic year.

## Mrs Andrew

Wishing all the students a sensational summer break. May your days be filled with sunshine and laughter and cherished moments with family and friends. Have a wonderful time off and return with renewed energy for an amazing school year ahead .

Communication between home and school continues to be a vital way of ensuring that both parties are informed of any attendance/trips/ issues and any other information that needs to be shared to ensure our pupils achieve their full potential and are fully supported.

As you are aware, there are several ways in which we can communicate: via telephone, email, letter, Parent App, Website, Parents Events. The school telephone number is 01842 752756 and email address is [office@pin.unity-ed.uk](mailto:office@pin.unity-ed.uk)

There is a new system called Parent App in place. Parents have been sent a request to download the app and sign up, this was sent via email. Thank you to those parents who have already actioned this. It has a number of different uses one of which is attendance. If you need any support or guidance please contact the office

As you are aware the safety and well-being of your child/ward is paramount to us at school. Therefore, it is imperative that the school is informed if your child is going to be absent from school, (please contact the school on the day as early as possible using one of the above procedures, a message can be left). Alternatively, please acknowledge our telephone call or contact via Parent App. If it is a medical appointment then evidence of the appointment is required.

If there are any changes in home circumstances e.g. change of address, telephone number etc. please contact the school so we can update our records.

Dinners are ordered daily and pupils should pay on the day or in advance – payment can be made via cheque or BACS (please contact the school office for the BACS details). Dinners cost £2.40 per day regardless of whether it is a hot dinner or packed lunch.

# Supporting Teaching and Learning

## Miss Van Kleek

Have a safe and enjoyable summer holiday, we look forward to seeing you all back in the new academic year, refreshed and ready to go.

## Miss Bennett

It's great to find myself once again working at the Pinetree school and it has been great getting to know all the pupils. I wish you all a happy and safe summer break and look forward to seeing you all in the new academic year.

## Miss Spence

Have an amazing summer break, take some time to relax and recuperate ready for the start of the academic year. Looking forward to seeing you all in September.

## Mr Messere

After a fantastic year of creativity in the art department and not forgetting a very successful trip to London taking in the many sights of Brick Lanes urban art, I'd like to wish everyone a lovely summer break, keep the creative juices flowing and get refreshed for next term.

## Miss Dale

As the school year is coming to a close, I would like to wish you all a fantastic summer holiday filled with joy, relaxation, and memorable experiences. May this break bring you the well deserved rest and rejuvenation you need to return refreshed and ready for new adventures in the academic year. Enjoy every moment, have a safe break, and I look forward to seeing you all in September.

## Mr Maplesden

Once again we find ourselves staring at the big void that is the 6 week summer holiday. This year has felt like the blink of an eye, yet so much has happened and so much achieved by the pupils of the Pinetree School. I would very much like to take this opportunity to wish all of our leavers the very best for the future, and for those that are still with us I wish you a happy and safe summer and look forward to seeing you refreshed in September.