The Strand

Welcome to our latest Newsletter - February 2025

office@sidestrandhall.norfolk.sch.uk

Once again we have had another fun packed term with some brilliant learning and exciting trips. I hope you enjoy reading about what has been happening. We have had Cross Country this week, with students across the school taking part. They have all worked hard during the term, trying to increase either the number of laps or their time. Well done to all those students who have taken part. There is no further update regarding the new building, planning has been extended and so hopefully in the next term we should be able to share some more information. Wishing you an enjoyable half term break.

Ms Taylor

Headteacher

Diary Dates

- Friday 14th February - Last day of term, students finish normal time
- Monday 24th February - Back to school
- Friday 4th April - Last day of term, students finish AT 1.30pm.
- Wednesday 23rd April - Back to school
- Monday 5th May - Bank holiday
- Friday 23rd May - Last day of term, students finish at normal time
- Monday 2nd June - Back to school
- Tuesday 22nd July - Last day of term, students finish at 1.30
- Wednesday 3rd September - Back to school

We are moving to communicating with parents by email rather than text to reduce costs. Please ensure we have your up-to-date email address and check your emails regularly to ensure you aren't missing a communication from us (including spam/junk files). We will only be using texts in an emergency and will no longer be able to receive texts from parents/carers.

We had a great day celebrating Number Day. Look inside for more pictures from the day!

The Year 10s have now started their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award. Several students are following their own personal courses out of school to achieve sections of the Bronze Award. We have students taking skiing lessons, swimming lessons, playing in basketball clubs, helping out with younger people (both in and out of school), working at a boxing club and participating in Guides and Beavers, amongst other things. In school they have been following a First Aid course and are learning to ride bikes, on and off road in Bacton Woods.

Volunteering is a large part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and this year Hazel and Poplar have been recycling all the waste paper in the school. Each week they collect the paper from each classroom, weigh and recycle it. This is an amazing scheme that has been set up and run by the students themselves, benefiting both the students and the environment.

The Governing Board is looking for a Parent Governor to join us, as Dawn Mountain has had to step down due to personal circumstances. If you feel you have the time and skills to fill this vacancy, please contact me to have a chat about what it means to be a Parent Governor.

Remember - Governors can be contacted via the School Office.

Angela Wrighton Chair of Governors

Oak class

This half term Oak pupils have been working in pairs to set up a shop! Pupils took turns as both a shopkeeper and a customer. We worked on transactional language and how to be polite. We chose products for sale and chose what to buy. Pupils used coins and notes to pay and to give change and they wrote a receipt when it was their turn to be the shopkeeper.

Strands Charity Shop

We are looking for volunteers to help out in our school charity shop in Cromer. If you would like more information please contact the School Business Manager (Wendy) at the school or Sheila Neale, the Shop Manager on 01263 515188. Volunteers will be subject to an enhanced DBS check.

KS4 Animal Care Group

We had a marvellous day with Rob Coleman from NT and the Norfolk Wildlife Trust ranger at Hickling Broad. Thank goodness the weather was kind, as we walked to the hides along the broads observing lots of different birds. The highlight of the trip was visiting the wild Konik ponies who have been introduced in small female led herds to maintain the grasslands. We were told they would be very shy of us, so we would probably only see them in the distance, but they came running up and a couple of them were giving us kisses! If you love walking and animal watching this would make a fabulous family activity. The visitor centre was a warm place to eat our lunch - thanks to them for letting us squeeze in.

Cory won the Junior Rookie Karting Championship at the first time of asking at Ellough Park near Beccles in 2024, he achieved 7 wins out of 8 finals and a further podium. He also won the 2024 Junior Rookie Showdown, winning the final by 49 secs. The awards were held at the Wherry Hotel Oulton Broad on the 25th January 2025.

Please ensure you contact reception **EVERY DAY** that your child is off sick before 9.15am.

This could either be via telephone, leave a message or by email.

01263 578144— opt 5 to speak to reception

01263 578144— opt 1 to leave a message

studentabsence@sidestrandhall.net

please note the email address

NORWICH SCIENCE FESTIVAL
15–22 FEBRUARY 2025

Looking for something fun to do this half term?

Please look at this website and book today!

https://norwichsciencefestival.co.uk/

We are always looking for donations for our charity shop however, we have a really low supply of menswear. If you are having a sort through, please keep us in mind. Donations can be dropped off at the school or at the shop. If there are large amounts to be donated please call the school first to discuss as we may not have room to take everything.

Strands
SUPPORTING SIDESTRAND HALL SCHOOL

Sixth Form Animal Care Group

We were lucky that Martin at the Bug Parc opened on a Tuesday just for us! It was super interesting and we got to handle all sorts of bugs and invertebrates. There were lots of good bits, but we were amazed at the leaf cutter ants who walk along open vines. Some of them dropped on the floor! Some of them are huge and can bite to the bone, so we certainly kept our fingers out of the way. The staff were so knowledgeable and friendly, we learnt a lot about very unusual pets. The Bug Parc makes a great day out for a family as they have outside children's activities and they are making the setting lovely. There is still work to be done and hopefully we will be able to revisit when the reptile part is open.

The Bug Parc

Fig class

We have enjoyed getting into the world of the Ancient Egyptians learning about the Gods/ Goddesses, farming, mummification, dress, traditions, culminating in a visit to Norwich Castle where the class did Egyptian workshops. The class made Egyptian necklaces, looked at real Egyptian artefacts, explored the daily life of Egyptians from how they farmed and made food to how they celebrated, as well as helping with the process of mummification. They enjoyed trying on clothes, acting and retelling myths from Egyptian times. The class had a fantastic day and were complimented on their knowledge by the museum staff. They were also very excited to see Norwich Castle. In class the pupils have made their own cartouches in clay using hieroglyphics to write their names.

If your child is off due to a medical/ dental appointment, please can you provide proof of appointment i.e letter confirming the time and date.

Which class had a tea party with our French trainee teacher?

Read on to find out!

Proud Connections: Parents & Carers is an online peer support group for the parents and carers of LGBT+ young people facilitated by experienced members of staff from The Proud Trust.
https://www.theproudtrust.org/proud-connections/

Olive Class

We enjoyed a Programming and Coding workshop at Stemex. One group enjoyed building their Robots, each one uniquely personalised. They then finished with a game of Robot Wars. The second group made windmills and had a go at programming the speed and direction of their propellers. The class gave the workshop a five star rating! Stemex are offering activities in half term so please do check out their website.

Bay class

We have had a really busy half term in Bay Class. We have enjoyed learning about 'The land before dinosaurs.' We learned all about Mary Anning and looked at some fossils before making our own dinosaur fossils out of clay. We also learned about what Earth would of looked like when dinosaurs roamed and made our own dinosaur dioramas in our DT lesson. In our Literacy lessons we have been learning about writing for communication. We visited Overstrand Post Office to buy postcards and stamps. We wrote our postcards and then walked to the post box to post them home.

Maple class

We have enjoyed learning about the Chinese Lunar New Year. We read the story of the 12 animals that won the race across the river and had a year named after them. Pupils found out which animal year they were born in. We made decorations for our class celebration, including banners and snakes.

It was great fun trying to pick up objects with chopsticks!

The class enjoyed prawn crackers, sweet chilli sauce and a fortune cookie each.

Chestnut class

Chestnut has had a very busy term. In Topic, we have been learning everything about middle ages. Who the dominant class was and how they lived. We also talked about who William the Conqueror was and the notable castles built by him.

On Number Day, we set up a shop and students could pay for the items they bought. The shopkeepers did really well; they were able to give the correct change to their customers. Well done!

In English, we have been learning all about adverts. Pupils have learnt what a slogan, logo, product, persuasive language, and alliteration are. Then they created their own adverts.

NSPCC Number Day

Our first Number Day was positively received by students and staff. All children participated in a range of Number themed activities across the school day. We had some very creative Number costumes and many of the children got to share their favourite Footballer number shirts too. In Food Technology, students got to bake numbers which gave further opportunities to build Number Oracy. Mr Wright set up a lunch time sport activity with a number focus for all to enjoy. Many classes spent the afternoon creating wonderful Numberline displays to use in future Maths lessons!

Thank you for supporting your child and our school with raising the profile of Mathematics and your generous donations to the NSPCC children's charity. We have raised a total of **£130.81.**

NSPCC HELPLINE
0808 800 5000
help@nspcc.org.uk

Pine class

We've had a busy few weeks since the beginning of the Spring Term. In Outdoor Learning we've been climbing trees, clearing the woods and making bird feeders. In Topic we've been learning about the Middle Ages and we've tried our hands at weaving our own Rag Rugs. We've also been helping to show Felix - our French trainee teacher - how we work as a team. He has played his first game of cricket and shared his Handball skills with us! In Art we have enjoyed exploring the work of abstract artists including Jackson Pollock.

Bert's Amazing Creatures

KS4 and Sixth Form Small Animal Care groups had an 'amazing' visit from Bert who brought in a python, chinchilla, rats, a tortoise, guinea pigs and lizard. It was brilliant as Bert was so knowledgeable about the animals and let us hold them as well. He also answered lots of questions about how to get into working with animals.

SIDESTRAND HALL SCHOOL LUNCH MENU Winter Menu Nov - Easter

Jacket Potato with cheese or beans available each day

Packed lunch available each day with ham, cheese, egg or tuna sandwich filling plus water, fruit, yoghurt or pudding of the day

WEEK 1	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Hot	BBQ chicken, wedges and sweetcorn GF/DF	Beef Bolognaise with pasta and garlic bread GF/DF	Toad in the Hole with mash, peas and gravy GF/DF	Chicken korma with rice and naan bread GF/DF	Pork and Apple burger with chips GF/DF
Vegetarian	Veggie curry with rice and naan bread GF/DF	Shepherdess pie, carrots and gravy GF/DF	Cheese and onion lattice with new potatoes and salad	Quorn Bolognaise with pasta and garlic bread GF/DF	Veggie burger with chips
Dessert	Chocolate Sponge with custard GF/DF Cake	Apple crumble with custard GF/DF Cake	Strawberry jelly with cream and sprinkles GF/DF(no cream)	Cherry Oatie GF/DF Cake	Vanilla cupcake with icing GF/DF cake
Week One: 4th Nov,18th Nov, 2nd Dec, 16th Dec,13th Jan, 27th Jan, 10th Feb,3rd Mar,17th Mar,31st Mar					

WEEK 2	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Hot	Battered chicken fajita with wedges and salad GF/DF	Pork and beef meatballs with pasta and garlic bread GF/DF	Roast chicken with stuffing roast potatoes, peas, carrots and gravy GF/DF	Cottage pie with carrots and gravy GF/DF	Fish fingers with chips and peas GF/DF
Vegetarian	Cheese and potato pie with beans GF/DF	Cheese and tomato pizza with wedges	Herb coated Quorn fillet with roast potatoes, carrots, stuffing and gravy GF/DF	Veggie Sausage Pasta bake	Veggie nuggets with chips with beans
Dessert	Chocolate Oatie GF/DF Cake	Vanilla Sponge with custard GF/DF Cake	Orange jelly with cream and sprinkles GF/DF(no cream)	Strawberry Angel Delight GF	chocolate chip muffin GF/DF Cake
Week Two: 11th Nov, 25th Nov, 9th Dec, 7th Jan, 20th Jan, 3rd Feb,24th Feb, 10th Mar,24th Mar					

PE News

In PE this term all students have been practising for the Cross Country race. All have run the beautiful Cross Country route we are lucky to have on our school site and they have tried to beat their times each week. Some students have also learnt how to play Handball and follow the correct rules of the game.

Year 11 Sports Leaders got to try out a new game with a view to bring it into school and teach the younger students the rules. They went to Blazing Padels in Reepham and had a go at playing the game with the different types of bats and balls. Padel originated in Mexico and Spain and the game is now becoming more popular in England. It is a mix between Tennis and Squash.

A group of students got to represent the school at the UEA and playing in the annual indoor Cricket tournament. Well done to all that took part who scored lots of runs and took some brilliant catches. Special mention to Oli who was brilliant at batting and showed great sportsmanship to others.

Mental Health Support

There are lots of places for both parents/carers and young people to find support for all mental health concerns, worries or if you're feeling just a bit low.

ChildLine - offering support and advice across the whole spectrum of mental health issues facing young people in 2025. Services include 1-2-1 text sessions, as well as speaking directly with someone. See web-site childline.org.uk or call on 0800 1111.

Kooth - a great online support service offering tips and advice, as well as a live chat should you need to contact someone directly. All for free. See www.kooth.com or download the free app.

Just One Norfolk - advice and guidance for any mental health worries.
Parents/carers - Text Parentline - 07520 631590
Young people - Text Chat Health - 07480 635060
Or call 'Just One Number' on 0300 300 012

The Benjamin Foundation - in person 1:1 support sessions for a range of mental health and well-being reasons. Sessions are paid for by parents/carers.
Please see their website at benjaminfoundation.co.uk for further details.

Why not make the most of the outdoors this half term by going for a woodland walk. See how many of the following you can see while you are out and about.

Robin ☐

Squirrel ☐

Snowdrop ☐

Deer ☐

Rabbit ☐

Pine cone ☐

Snail ☐

Pheasant ☐

Crocus ☐