

The Strand

Welcome to our latest Newsletter - May 2026

office@sidestrandhall.norfolk.sch.uk



It has been a busy few weeks, with our students who have been out and about, swapping the classroom for real-world experiences, along with meeting some Alpacas. A huge thank you to the staff who organised these trips, and well done to our students for representing the school so brilliantly.

The countdown to expedition season is officially on! Our dedicated Year 11 students who are working towards their Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) have been working incredibly hard preparing for their upcoming Bronze adventure, with them completing their practice walk and camp this week. Finally, we want to extend a huge thank you to all the parents and carers who attended our recent Parents' Evening. It was great to see our school halls buzzing with conversation and to connect with so many of you in person. The additional stands offering advice and guidance were also well received and helped to support parents connect with outside agencies.

Thank you for your continued support and I look forward to next term where we have some whole school events which hopefully I will see you at.

Have an enjoyable Half Term break.

Ms S Taylor
Headteacher

TERM DATES



- Friday 22nd May - Last day of term, students finish normal time
- Monday 1st June - Back to school
- Friday 17th July - Last day of term, students finish at 1.30pm
- Thursday 3rd September - Students return for the new Academic Year
- Thursday 22nd October - Last day of term, students finish normal time
- Monday 2nd November - Back to school

2nd hand school uniform

We would be delighted if you are able to send any clean school uniform which your child has grown out of to school.

For a small donation, we will be offering these garments to parents/carers at some of this term's school events. If you could label any bag you do send into school with "school uniform", we can make sure it reaches the right place. Thank you.



School trips

Please remember to return consent forms AND pay for trips by the due date.

If your child is in receipt of free school meals in main school, then pupil premium can pay for the trip - please tick the appropriate box on the consent form.

If your child is in 6th form and in receipt of 16-19 Bursary or Vulnerable Bursary and you wish that to pay, please tick the appropriate box on the consent form.

If you will not be paying for the trip then please let us know at consent stage so we can assess if the trip is viable to go ahead.



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.

Please note that we are currently not able to accept any donations. We will keep you updated as to when we are able to accept them again.



Please ensure you contact reception **EVERY DAY** that your child is off ill 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

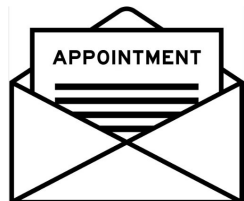


please note the email address



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. Please send this to the student absence email.

studentabsence@sidestrandhall.net



Maple Class

On Monday 11th May, Maple class were joined by Jo from the Royal Lifesaving Society and Ed a Lifeguard from the RNLi to talk to the class about beach safety. They shared the flags used on the beach and their meaning, along with what the class should do if they get into trouble. They learnt the meaning of 'float to live'.

The class asked some interesting questions and got a chance to look at the equipment that Lifeguards use when going into the water.



Just a reminder about our sun cream policy:

- Please apply sun cream to your child before they come to school on hot days
- Send in sun cream if you would like more applied later on in the day
- Provide a named hat
- Ensure that your child has a named water bottle



Please can you complete the google form that was sent to you.



KS4 Animal Care Group Visits

What a busy half term we have had!

Hillside

Unfortunately, not all animals are treated kindly. Our group have been learning about the neglect or mistreatment of animals, whether they are pets, animals in the wild, or farmed animals. We found it really sad to read some of the information as to why the animals are there when we visited Hillside. All the rescue animals certainly look happy now! We met the llamas who were very naughty and kept jumping over the fence. They are not small, so it was a bit disconcerting, but they soon jumped back again. We also loved the enormous bunnies and we adopted one of the fluffy white ones called Rosie. Rosie's mum came from an intensive rabbit meat farm. Rosie certainly won't be on anyone's plate - she will live the rest of her days playing with her brothers and sisters.



Gressenhall

We visited Gressenhall to see the working horses and the animals on the farm. There were lots of newborn lambs and we were lucky enough to get to stroke one. We met two of their Suffolk Punch horses in the stables. Jack (who is their youngest horse) was not doing as he was told, as he just wanted to scratch his behind on the door post! We learnt that sometimes you just have to be patient and work with them - especially when they weigh the same as a small car!

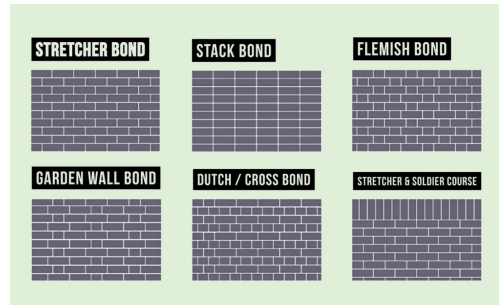
Konik Ponies at Hickling Broad

Rob Colman from the National Trust met us at Hickling Broad to give us a guided walk on the wildlife of the Broad. We found the wild Konik ponies, but they were a bit shy, so we never got to stroke them this time. The Broad has them roaming the land to keep down new tree growth which would otherwise take over the wetlands. We were so lucky as it was the first day of sunny weather in a long time and we even enjoyed eating our lunches outside.



Construction groups have been busy learning about bricklaying bonds. We have visited various buildings around the school site to try and identify some. We used biscuits and bricks to create the different bonds in the workshop. We are looking forward to using mortar and tools in the coming weeks.

Mr Anderson and Mr Smith



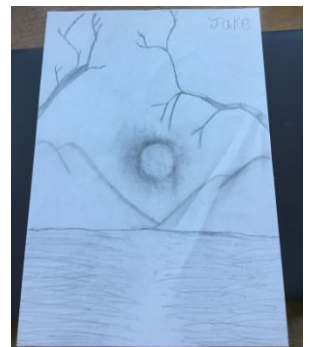
Having just returned home after spending an hour or so at the Parent Consultation afternoon, I would like to extend thanks to the staff who set up such an informative event, and to the family members who came along to chat with tutors but took the time to check out the information available from the teams from Colleges, Mental Health, Titan, Residential, 6th Form and others, which was really useful. A special mention for our second-hand uniform stock, if you are needing to replace items do contact the school office. We are still looking to recruit 2 Parent/Carers as Parent Governors. If you feel you could help by filling this important role, please do get in touch via the Office or Reception for more information.

Angela Wrighton
Chair of Governors



Pine Class

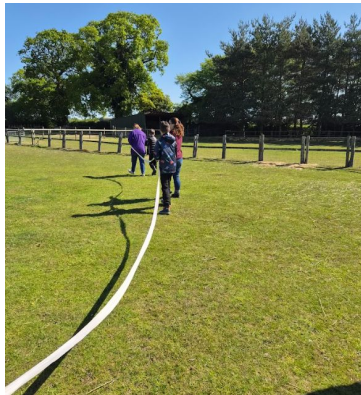
It's been a busy half term in Pine Class with highlights being the wonderful landscapes the children have produced in their art lessons. We also enjoyed a great trip to Bure Valley Railway where we travelled on the steam train from Wroxham to Aylsham. When we arrived at our destination, the children had an opportunity to pretend to be the stoker, driver and guard on the train and they all listened brilliantly to a talk about steam engines.





Olive Class

We had a lovely time at Ann's Alpaca Farm at Burnt Fen. We enjoyed catching them and putting their head collars on. We appreciated her South American Yurt too. We enjoyed a lovely walk through the bluebells and ended with feeding the alpacas some carrots. There was also time for us all to have a go at making yarn on a loom using the alpaca's wool.



As part of our RSHE unit on knowing the importance of physical exercise we were fortunate enough to take part in a Rebound session on our school's olympic trampoline. A big thank you to Jess and Michelle, our trained practitioners from Residential for coming into school in their own time to deliver a session which supported our own mental well-being.



Sidestrand Hall School Lunch Menu

April 2026 - October 2026

Jacket potato with cheese or beans are available each day.
Packed lunch available each day with ham, cheese, egg or tuna sandwich filling plus fruit, yogurt or pudding of the day.

WEEK 1	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Hot	Chicken wraps with wedges and salad GF/DF	Sausage pasta bake, salad and garlic bread GF/DF	Roast chicken breast with roast potatoes, stuffing ball, veg and gravy GF/DF	Chilli with rice, salad and taco GF/DF	Pork and apple burger with chips GF/DF
Vegetarian	Sweet and sour Quorn with rice and naan GF/DF	Cheese and potato pie with beans GF/DF	Herb coated Quorn fillet, stuffing ball, veg and gravy GF/DF	Veggie lasagne with garlic bread and salad GF/DF	Veggie nuggets with chips DF
Dessert	Chocolate oatie DF	Apple sponge and cream DF	Strawberry jelly with cream and sprinkles GF/DF	Vanilla ice cream with chocolate sauce GF	Old school slice with sprinkles DF
Week 1: 14th Apr, 27th Apr, 11th May, 1st June, 15th June, 29th June, 13th July, 3rd Sept, 14th Sept, 28th Sept, 12th Oct					

WEEK 2	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Hot	Sweet and sour chicken with rice and naan GF/DF	Steak slice with new potatoes and salad	Cheese pizza with wedges and sweetcorn DF	Beef lasagne with salad and garlic bread GF/DF	Fish fingers with chips and beans GF/DF
Vegetarian	Tomato pasta bake with salad and garlic bread GF/DF	Cheese and onion lattice with new potatoes and salad	Vegan meatballs with pasta and garlic bread DF	Veggie curry with rice and naan GF/DF	Veggie burger and chips DF
Dessert	Syrup sponge and custard GF	Apple crumble with cream DF	Chocolate angel delight GF	Flapjack DF	Vanilla cupcake with icing DF
Week 2: 20th Apr, 5th May, 18th May, 8th June, 22nd June, 6th July, 7th Sept, 21st Sept, 5th Oct, 19th Oct					