



# The Strand



Welcome to our latest Newsletter—October 2025

office@sidestrandhall.norfolk.sch.uk



As we begin this exciting new academic year, we're proud of how well the students have started their new school year, they have all settled well whether they are new to the school, in their new classes or are in a new phase. Our school values are —Kindness, Aspiration, Resilience, and Independence—and are at the heart of everything we do. It has been a delight to see our students showing incredible kindness in supporting new pupils settling into school life, and helping them to navigate new routines.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter which shares some of the exciting things that our students have been getting up to in their learning.

Ms Taylor  
Headteacher



## Diary Dates

- Friday 24th October - half term, students finish normal time
- Monday 3rd November - back to school
- Tuesday 16th December - Whole school Carol Service - more details to follow
- Wednesday 17th December - Pantomime - more details to follow
- Thursday 18th December - Christmas Dinner Day and Christmas jumper day
- Friday 19th December - last day of term, students finish at 1.30pm
- Tuesday 6th January - back to school

Did you know that we run a breakfast club for our students. It starts at 8.30am, it is free and open to all students. If you would like your child to join, please contact the school office.



This time of year there are a lot of illnesses going round. Please check the link below to see when your child should have time off school. Don't forget to keep us informed when and how long your child will be off.

[Is my child too ill for school](#)

studentabsence@sidestrand.net

The next Financial Support voucher (for those on free school meals or where granted 16-19 bursary has been granted) for £45 will be sent out by 29<sup>th</sup> November to cover November and December (£15 for November and £45 for December). The final one for £45 will then be sent 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026 to cover January, February and March 2026 (£15/month). After this the vouchers will stop.

Materials payments - thank you to all those who have paid so far. If you have not yet paid then please do so or complete the google form sent out at the beginning of term. [Materials form](#)

Trip payments - if you send a form in consenting to pay then please do so by the due date. If we don't have enough people paying for trips then we may have to consider cancelling them.

Dinner debts - we would encourage all parents to book and pay for dinners using Arbor. Where bookings are made in the classroom please ensure you keep your payments up to date to avoid the provision of dinners being withdrawn.



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.



### 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.

We are always looking for donations for our charity shop. If you are having a sort through, please keep us in mind. Donations can be dropped off at the school or at the shop.



### Maple class

We have had a great start to the year and are enjoying learning lots of new skills. During our Independent Living lessons, we have been learning



about how to store food safely in the fridge and how to use different kitchen appliances. The class particularly enjoyed using the toaster to make toast! Maple class can't wait to continue learning more as the year progresses.



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](mailto:studentabsence@sidestrandhall.net)

**\*please note the email address\***



# Sidesstrand Hall 2025/26

September 2025							
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	

October 2025						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

November 2025						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December 2025						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

January 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

February 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

March 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

April 2026						
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		1	2	3	4	5
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

May 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

July 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

August 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

White dates – School Open to Pupils
Green dates - Pupil Holiday
Yellow Dates - Staff Training (Closed to Pupils)



## So what are the Governors for?

Our 3 core functions are

1. To ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
2. To hold executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the performance management of staff
3. To oversee the financial performance of the organisation and make sure its money is well spent



## So what do the Governors do?



After an initial meeting in September to appoint key roles, Committee membership and agree the terms of reference for Committees, we meet towards the end of each term as a Full Board after each of the 3 Committees have met. Decisions made in Committees are then ratified by the Full Governing body. Agendas, Minutes, Documents and Information are all shared online at Governor Hub. A trained Clerk is employed to assist us. Details of Governors can be found on the school website.

The 3 Committees monitor as follows

### **Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare [PDBW]**

Including Safeguarding , Residential, Behaviour, Attendance, SEND, SMSC , GDPR



### **School Improvement and Standards [SIS]**

Including Pupil progress data, the SIDP and SEF, Teaching/Learning/ Curriculum, IQM, Ethos and Vision, Educational visits

### **Finance, Premises and Personnel [FPP]**

Including all business and spending matters, maintaining the school site, salaries, staffing, resources, performance management, CPD, Pupil Premium, Health and Safety



## How do we do it?



We ask questions!



We have discussions!

We make decisions!



We read .... documents and policies !



We visit!



We talk to you and listen!



We do training!



We interview!



We check up on things!



We support parents and carers!



We support events at school!





The Sidestrand Strollers completed the 10K walk for Cancer Research UK. Many of us reached the finish line just after the 2 hour mark! It was a cold windy evening but we felt the emotions of everyone around us and we are so proud to raise beyond our group target of £1,652.58 plus gift aid! Thank you everyone.



### Hazel class

We have been completing our Duke of Edinburgh Physical Recreation. Last year we learnt to ride bikes and travelled to Bacton Woods to cycle off-road through the trees. This year we have been learning water sports at The Mike Thurston Centre. Here the students have been trying out canoes, paddleboards and sit-on kayaks. The whole class succeeded in paddling Canadian canoes in pairs, rafting up and learning how to paddle correctly. Once these skills



had been mastered, the class moved onto paddleboards. Initially lying, then kneeling, and even standing, on the paddleboards the students practised and mastered the skills, gaining in confidence and playing games on the lake.

We had a mixed bag of weather over the month from sunshine to rain, but everyone enjoyed themselves and had a free choice of watercraft on the last session. Some became so expert that they tried to do it without their boards!



### Pine class

We have had a lovely half-term in Pine class getting to know each other and making new friends. We have enjoyed reading Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl, writing books about ourselves and writing adverts using persuasive writing. We have also enjoyed a trip to Sidestrand Church, lots of exciting art projects (like these beautiful stained glass windows) and making shelters in Outdoor Learning as well as lots of delicious meals in Food Technology.





The Norfolk FA has asked us to share a helpful tool designed to make it easier for families to find local football clubs for their children.

The **Find Football** feature lets parents and carers quickly search for football clubs, sessions, and opportunities nearby, whether their child is new to the game or looking to join a team.

Scan the QR code or click the link below to explore:

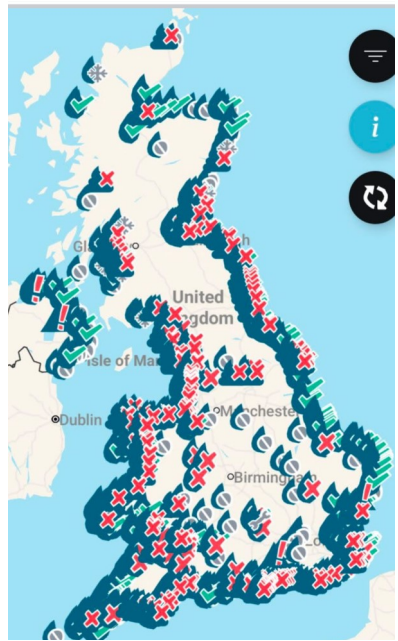
<https://www.norfolkfa.com/players/ways-to-play/find-football>



Thank you for helping us connect more children with local football opportunities. Together, we can make sure everyone has a place to play!



Mrs Mann and I have been spending this October raising money for Surfers Against Sewage by getting in cold water every day! We have been swimming in the sea at Overstrand after school most days, and the river Bure on other days. The water temperatures have ranged so far from 12-14 degrees, brr! We have managed to raise nearly £600 with 7 days to go of the challenge. It has been tough but invigorating and lovely to talk to the many walkers we meet who tell us we are mad. We are doing it to raise awareness of the state of our rivers and seas in the UK. We are so lucky in this part of the country not to have too many problems, but



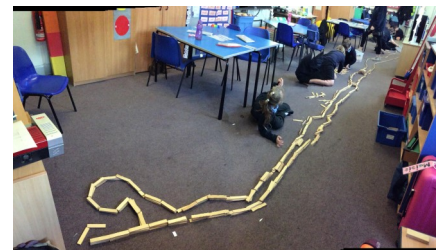
as you can see from the map, much of the UK has real pollution issues. We want to make sure our children, grandchildren, pets and water life have the best future ahead of them. The weather is turning, so the last week will be tough, wish us luck!

Dr Smyth.



### Olive class

We have enjoyed our topic on 'comparing China to Norwich'. As a class, we built The Great Wall of China, tasted Chinese cuisine of noodles, seaweed crisps, Rambutan and Chinese white tea. In Art, we made our own Chinese dragon puppets, a Chinese tea cup and calligraphy writing. We then discovered China's diverse physical features including the Gobi Desert and Mount Everest.





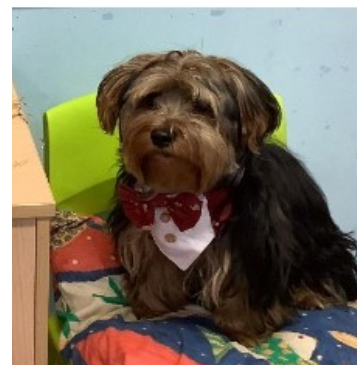
## Catkins class

### “The Scarecrows Wedding”

Catkins class had a brilliant time recreating the wedding from “The Scarecrows Wedding” by Julia Donaldson. The children helped to make a list of everything that they might need and wrote some invitations in a literacy lesson, which they then hand delivered to some members of staff around the school. Every child had a role to play, including a vicar, father of the bride and a photographer! They dressed up for the occasion, wearing smart jackets, pretty dresses and carried bouquets. Everyone helped to decorate the classroom with natural items from our autumn tray. They practised fine motor



skills by punching little paper hearts for confetti and made paper chains to hang along the aisle. In art we made our own scarecrow, which will remain in class as part of our autumn display. After the ceremony, the bride and groom cut the cake, then we ended the day with food and dancing. Special mention has to go to Pingu the dog, who is a regular visitor to Catkins class, as he was the official ring bearer and he even dressed up for the occasion!



In 6th form History lessons, we have been researching the past of our school and the surrounding area, especially the prominent family that used to reside here. They were the Hoares. There were 6 different Samuel Hoares. Can you believe that?!

Now you may be wondering what made them so prominent? well Samuel the second (we'll just call him Sam 2) is one of the men that were behind abolishing slavery. He moved to Sidestrand in 1897. It was quite a poor village at the time so he built the farmers new homes but only after he made them pull his carriage instead of horses to the hall: can you believe that?



Now let's get into the actual school's history. It has been a special school since 1950, and at one point it was even a hospital in the second world war. Oh, how things change. It has now been helping children for 75 years and isn't planning on stopping anytime soon!

We are also collating photos, documents and old log books to put together in a school museum.

by CJ, Endeavour





## Conkers class

We have had a really busy start to the new school year! We welcomed 6 new students to our school so have been showing them the ropes alongside all of our learning. In Topic we have explored Beijing in China and made comparisons with Norwich. We looked at famous buildings and made these amazing models of Norwich Cathedral and The Yonghe Temple, also known as the Lama Temple.



Norwich Cathedral



Yonghe Temple

We are all looking forward to next term's exciting learning!



We have also had fun creating our pumpkin design for the school competition. We chose to create a spooky looking eyeball!



Variety, the children's charity, recently supported us in our bid to secure a new Sunshine Coach; their efforts were generously supported by our own Strands Charity along with local businesses; Stanford Coachworks and The Alan Boswell Group. The Sunshine Coach was officially presented to the school by our generous sponsors and the ceremony was thoroughly enjoyed by all, including some key members of our Student Council. We're looking forward to many outings during the weeks to come.



## PE NEWS

In PE this term we have tried a range of sports including Football, Tag Rugby, Indoor Tennis and Multi Skills working on agility and balance. The students have understood the basic skills in Football and Tag Rugby which were passing, running with the ball/dribbling and scoring a try/goal. They have then put these skills into practice within game situations.

Some groups have also received some Indoor Cricket sessions from Norfolk Cricket Coach Andy which have been super as always.

We look forward to next half term with learning some new sports and the start of a few PE trips.





## Activities page

As the days are getting colder, why not use this activities page to keep your children occupied.

F	H	O	T	C	H	O	C	O	L	A	T	E	O
D	A	U	E	R	P	E	K	D	Y	C	X	D	C
K	R	R	L	D	E	R	U	A	P	O	W	M	T
G	V	X	R	G	C	O	N	K	E	R	S	R	O
W	E	H	J	D	A	Z	L	H	L	N	L	I	B
P	S	M	U	E	F	J	O	R	R	S	P	F	E
U	T	V	M	H	Y	L	E	A	V	E	S	D	R
M	A	O	P	I	O	Y	P	U	Q	O	E	A	F
P	B	I	E	T	P	A	E	T	J	U	T	Q	R
K	S	F	R	F	L	R	J	U	F	S	K	F	U
I	J	Z	S	W	R	U	D	M	S	P	W	I	K
N	T	Q	P	K	E	W	I	N	D	Y	A	K	I
S	U	Y	X	R	Y	K	S	Y	L	O	P	U	R
P	L	J	T	N	O	V	E	M	B	E	R	T	O

- Autumn
- Windy
- Leaves
- Pumpkins
- Hot chocolate
- Acorns
- Harvest
- Conkers
- October
- November
- Jumpers

Can you find all these words in the word search?

### Cheesy pumpkin muffins

#### Ingredients:

- 300 g pumpkin (chopped, peeled)
- 2 cups self-raising flour
- 1/4 cup oil
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup cheese (grated)
- 1/3 cup parmesan cheese (finely grated, to coat)



#### Method:

Steam pumpkin for 10 minutes or until soft. Allow to cool then mash with ¼ cup of the cooking liquid. Preheat oven to 180°C and use an olive oil spray to grease the muffin pans. Combine the pumpkin mash, oil and eggs in a large bowl and whisk to combine. Sift flour into bowl, add the grated cheese and half of the parmesan and stir or beat until just combined. Spoon into muffin pans and sprinkle with extra parmesan cheese. Bake for 20-25 minutes until golden and a skewer inserted into the middle of a muffin comes out clean.

When you are out on a walk, why not collect some leaves and make your own leaf rubbings. Collect leaves of different shapes and sizes, either fresh leaves or dried fallen ones. Place a sheet of paper over the leaf. Rub the side of a crayon or an oil pastel gently over the leaf. As you do this, you'll see the coloured areas start to take the shape of the leaf.



<https://www.kidspot.com.au/kitchen/recipes/sneaky-pumpkin-muffins-recipe/nlf7bgw3>





# OCTOBER HALF TERM HOLIDAY CAMPS



## Sports Activities Include

## Creativity Activities Include

**MULTI SPORTS  
DODGEBALL  
NERF COMBAT  
FOOTBALL  
CRICKET  
AND MUCH MORE!**

**FREE PLAY  
LEGO  
CRAFTS  
DEN BUILDING  
BOARD GAMES  
CARDS**

@activeeducation1



Active Education



**Regular Time (9am -3pm) - £20  
Early Drop Off (8:30am) - £2 extra  
Late Collection (4pm) - £3 extra**

Children will need a packed lunch, plenty to drink, suitable clothing/footwear and bundles of energy for the day!



**Ages 5-12 Years Old**



**CONTACT US  
07399520948**

[www.activeeducation.info](http://www.activeeducation.info)  
[office@activeeducation.info](mailto:office@activeeducation.info)



## OCTOBER HALF TERM CALENDAR



Below are the dates, venues and activities we have planned for the upcoming holiday camps!

Please note, we will also be running Creativity activities alongside our sports activities, which include arts and crafts, board games, Lego and much more!

**Monday  
27<sup>th</sup> October**

**Roughton St. Mary's  
Endowed CofE Primary**

**Dodgeball and Nerf  
Combat**

**Tuesday  
28<sup>th</sup> October**

**Astley Primary School**

**Dodgeball and Nerf  
Combat**

**TRICK  
OR  
TREAT**



**Wednesday  
29<sup>th</sup> October**

**Great Massingham CE  
Primary School**

**Dodgeball and Nerf  
Combat**



**AND**



**Thursday  
30<sup>th</sup> October**

**Harpley CE VC Primary  
School**



**Dodgeball and Nerf  
Combat**

**Friday  
31<sup>st</sup> October**

**All Saints Stibbard  
Church of England  
Primary Academy**



**Gymnastics**

**Swanton Morley VC  
Primary School**

**Gymnastics**





# ACTIVE EDUCATION HALLOWEEN CRAFTS



We are really excited to deliver Halloween Crafts at our Astley, Great Massingham and Stibbard Holiday Camps this October half term!



Children will be provided with all necessary resources to create their very own Halloween Crafts



**HALLOWEEN CRAFTS INCLUDES THINGS LIKE PAPER PLATE PUMPKINS/MASKS, SPOOKY COLOURING/DRAWING, COTTON SWAB SKELETONS, LANTERNS AND MUCH MORE!**

# SIDESTRAND HALL SCHOOL LUNCH MENU Autumn Menu Nov 25- March 26

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
<b>Hot</b>	BBQ Chicken with wedges and sweetcorn	Bolognaise, pasta and garlic bread	Roast Pork with mash, carrots, peas and gravy GF/DF	Steak lattice with peas and new potatoes	Battered cod with chips and beans GF/DF
<b>Vegetarian</b>	Veggie sausage pasta bake with garlic bread and salad	Cheese and tomato pizza with wedges GF/DF	Herb coated Quorn fillet, mash, carrots, peas DF	Veggie bolognaise with pasta and garlic bread	Veggie burger with chips and beans DF
<b>Dessert</b>	Cherry oatie DF	Chocolate sponge and custard	Strawberry jelly with cream and sprinkles GF	Fruit crumble with cream	Chocolate chip muffin

**Week One: 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov, 17<sup>th</sup> Nov, 1 Dec, 15<sup>th</sup> Dec, 12<sup>th</sup> Jan, 26<sup>th</sup> Jan, 9<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 16<sup>th</sup> March**

WEEK 2	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>Hot</b>	Chicken goujons with wedges and beans	Toad in the hole with mash potato, peas and gravy	Cheese and onion lattice with new potatoes, salad and coleslaw	Chicken korma with rice and naan GF/DF	Beef burger with chips GF/DF
<b>Vegetarian</b>	Veggie meatballs with pasta and garlic bread	Veggie curry with rice and naan GF/DF	Vegetarian Lasagne with new potatoes	Cheese potato pie with beans and coleslaw GF/DF	Veggie nuggets with chips and beans
<b>Dessert</b>	Chocolate oatie with icing (GF/DF Cake)	Fruit muffin	Strawberry angel delight with biscuit crumb	Apple crumble with custard (GF/DF Cake)	Vanilla cake slice with icing (GF/DF Cake)

**Week Two: 10<sup>th</sup> Nov, 24<sup>th</sup> Nov, 8<sup>th</sup> Dec, 6<sup>th</sup> Jan, 19<sup>th</sup> Jan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb, 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb, 9<sup>th</sup> March, 23<sup>rd</sup> March**