

The Strand



Welcome to our latest Newsletter - July 2026
office@sidestrandhall.norfolk.sch.uk

I hope you enjoy reading our newsletter for the Summer Term, and what an incredibly busy one it has been. Again we have seen some trips out to help support learning and what students are learning in the classroom. Our Year 11s completed their Duke of Edinburgh expedition, and our Year 11 and Sixth Form students enjoyed their Leavers party.
Thank you to those that came along and helped support our Summer Fayre, it was good to see so many of you join us. We held our Sports Day at Beeston Hall again this year and it was good to see so many parents, carers and extended family come along and support the students.
We have had some great Whole School events with Strandfest and Sports Day, these take a whole school effort and we are lucky to have a talented team of staff who support and coordinate these events that allows us to give these opportunities to the students.
This term we are saying goodbye to Mrs Hannah Letts, who has been at the school for 11 years, and in this time has helped support the Science Curriculum, and has contributed to the middle leadership undertaking the role of Phase Leader and more recently a Curriculum Leader. As a school we thank Hannah for her commitment and contribution and her experience, knowledge and support will be missed, we wish Hannah lots of fun and enjoyment in her retirement.

We hope you all have a lovely Summer Break, and we look forward to welcoming the students back to school on Thursday 3rd September.

Take care
Ms Taylor

TERM DATES

- 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 at normal time
- Monday 2nd November - back to school
- Friday 6th November - Whole school photos
- Friday 18th December - last day of term - students finish at 1.30pm
- Tuesday 5th January - back to school

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



Help with living costs

For parents and carers who may be struggling with living costs for a range of reasons, there is help available. They can also contact Norfolk County Council or visit www.norfolk.gov.uk/costofliving for further information. Please use the link below for the booklet.
https://www.schools.norfolk.gov.uk/media/46889/Help-with-living-costs/pdf/k0Cost_of_Living_Booklet_May_2026_accessible.pdf?m=1779885601713

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



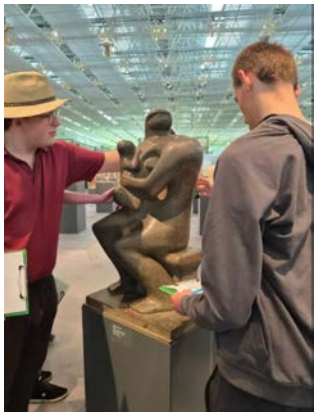
Maple Class

In our Outdoor Learning lessons this half term, Maple have been learning about how to look after our outdoor environment and why it is important for living things to pick up any rubbish. They enjoyed helping to make our school site safe for animals and look beautiful by taking part in a litter picking lesson.



Visiting the Sainsburys Centre

We went to the Sainsburys Centre with our Sixth Form History group on the 10th June. We looked at the sculptures and art with a focus on Ancient Egypt. We really liked finding out the history of the gallery with Mr and Mrs Sainsbury having built it. It is a really calm building to be in. We got to touch the Henry Moore statue and some 3D printed objects like the hippo and baboon. We also saw an exhibition called The Power of Play. We played several games and it was fun.



By Junior - Endeavour Class



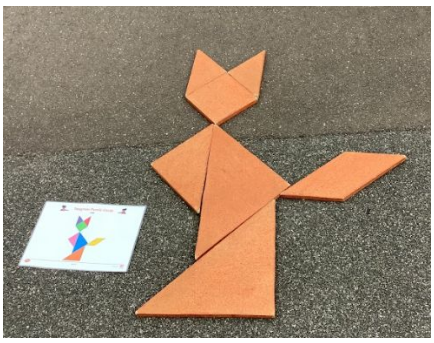
Maths Puzzle Day was a real problem… to solve!

Our students put their maths skills to the test with fun, teamwork and problem-solving. Working together in groups, they tackled a series of large maths puzzles, sharing ideas, testing strategies, and cheering each other on along the way.
It was fantastic to see so much collaboration, resilience, and mathematical thinking in action.

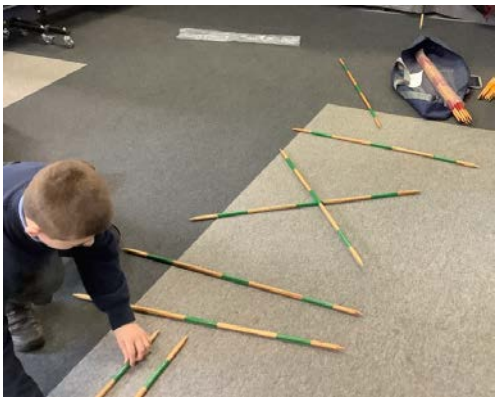
Mrs Price
Maths Lead



















PE News

During the Summer term the students have experienced activities such as Athletics, Cricket, Rounders and Football. One of the favourites has been Cricket where lunchtime clubs were put on for students due to the demand which was fantastic to see.
A new green space is back on the top field which has been brilliant for the students to play different activities such as Football and Cricket.

We had the Year 10/11 football team represent the school at the FDC Bowthorpe for a football tournament this term. They had great team spirit and togetherness throughout the day. A highlight was a fantastic goal from Mikey.

Unfortunately the Athletics competition at the UEA was cancelled due to 38 degrees heat in Norwich that day, fingers crossed for next year.

A massive well done to everyone for their efforts in PE this year. We are looking forward to more trips and new activities to try next year.



Summer Opportunities



Below are some websites and names of organisations that are offering summer activities/sports to children over the summer holidays. Please take a look and get in touch with the organisations through their websites if your child is interested in attending.

-Big Norfolk Holiday Fun (BNHF) – Free holiday activities for eligible children, including multi-sports, football, cricket, dance and outdoor adventures.
-Sportspark, Norwich – Holiday clubs, swimming, climbing, tennis, badminton and junior sports coaching.
-Barracudas Holiday Camp – Multi-activity camps with a wide range of sports, games and team challenges.
-Football Fun Factory – Fun football sessions for younger children, focusing on enjoyment, confidence and skill development.
-Norfolk Cricket Foundation – Cricket holiday camps and beginner coaching sessions across Norfolk.
-Community Sports Foundation-The Nest (Norwich) – Football camps and community sports activities during the holidays.
-School's Out Holiday Clubs – Active holiday childcare with sports, games and creative activities.
-Norfolk Hoopstars- Basketball camps and coaching courses for children. Norfolk Hoopstars have delivered sessions at Sidestrand before.
-Holt Country Park- Free Archery sessions on Friday 21st August for children educated in North Norfolk. (Type this into google) Green Futures: Archery Tickets, Multiple dates | Eventbrite

Rules about free school meals (FSM) are changing with effect from 1st September 2026 when there will then be two categories of FSM entitlement

- Targeted FSM- for pupils in households receiving Universal Credit with annual earnings of £7400 or less or receiving other qualifying benefits .
- Expanded FSM – for pupils who do not qualify for Targeted FSM but who are in households receiving Universal Credit.

Please note that FSM aren't automatically provided if you are eligible IE you MUST apply for them.

Norfolk County Council will be checking all existing FSM pupils eligibility over the summer holidays so there is NO need to reapply IF already receiving free school meals.

If you think you now fall into one of the two categories above and AREN'T currently in receipt of FSM please apply through Norfolk County Council via https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

Please note that school will only receive pupil premium for Targeted FSM pupils so we will have to change our processes around supporting trips for FSM pupils. Further information on this will follow in the new academic year.



This summer term has rapidly disappeared! I was pleased to attend the Awards Ceremony to see so many of our students being recognised for their achievements. The Summer Fayre is always an enjoyable event and enables families to come and socialise, helping to raise funds.

This term we say a big thank you to Marie Greer who has been on the Governing Board since 2019, and has been invaluable setting up systems to monitor safeguarding. She will remain, becoming an Associate member. We welcome Dawn Mountain back to the Board as a Parent Governor. We are still looking to recruit another Parent Governor plus a Co-opted Governor. If you feel you could help by filling this important role or know someone who could, please do get in touch via the Office or Reception for more information.
Angela Wrighton
Chair of Governors

Bay class

Bay class and I would like to say a massive **THANK YOU** to everyone who has shared words of encouragement, donated or supported us over the past few weeks while we have been fundraising.

I completed my wing walk on Saturday 27th June and I absolutely loved it! In fact, I enjoyed it so much that I've already signed up for next year to do an aerobatic wing walk, including going upside down!

Together, we have now raised just over £1,200, which is an incredible achievement. Thank you all for helping us reach this amazing total.

Thank you once again for your generosity and support - it really does mean a great deal to both Bay class and me.

Ms Davis





Upcoming vaccination dates

- 16th September Flu vaccinations (New School) Whole School involved
- 14th October - Catch up Flu vaccinations, Year 8 students HPV & Yr9 students for DTP/MenACWY

Olive class had a fantastic time exploring the rock pools at West Runton Beach. There were plenty of curious questions, exciting finds, and happy faces along the way! We found some crabs, jellyfish, anemones, water snails and tiny fish. We were especially proud of their exceptional behaviour throughout the day. They showed great respect for the beach, each other, and the creatures they discovered. A brilliant day of exploring, learning, and making memories!

Life in Residential

It's been a very busy term in residential. This term has seen the opening of “Strandbury’s” the residential shop. Boarders gain “boarding bucks” to spend through their attendance levels. We are very proud of the children who have helped decorate, stock design a sign and work in the shop. Everyone will be given the opportunity to be involved. We were lucky to have a very special guest open our shop, Sheila Neale, who is manager of Strands charity shop. We would like to thank her for giving up her time to do this. Also a big thank you to Paul Dybal who supplied the signage. We look forward to continuing the development of our onsite shop.

Our clubs have been going strong with the children taking charge. Children have designed and run their own clubs for everyone this term including quiz, football, dance, art and party game club to name a few. Well done to those children who ran a club.

We have had some fantastic community visits this term including trips to the beach, cinema, meals in Norwich, trips to Halsey house and paddleboarding. The paddle boarding proved extremely popular so another session is booked for September.

Our relationship with Halsey House continues to grow with Michael visiting Ted Luckin where they looked at Ted's RNLI memorabilia from his time working on the lifeboats. Children wrote penpal letters to the residents and have met their individual penpals.

We are looking forward to celebrating the end of term with our latest theme evening focused on the 60’s called “Lodge Stock” . We hope everyone has a good summer break and look forward to seeing you in September.













The Options Pet Care group had a lovely visit from Pingu, Mrs Loftus' little dog. He is absolutely gorgeous and so well behaved. We all tried training him with instructions like 'sit' and 'paw', so he had a lot of treats that day! We took him for a walk, where we learnt how to train Pingu to walk safely. It was certainly a highlight of the half term and we would like to thank Mrs Loftus for trusting us with her absolute super little chap.



Both KS4 art groups visited the UEA's Sainsbury's Centre to look at the wonderful art collection. There is something for everyone, from art installations to ancient art, with many pieces from famous artists. The children loved the immersive interactive art room where they could catch the moving coloured shapes. Some of the children's sketches were amazing! After lunch we wandered around the grounds with its sculptures dotted along a trail. As always, it is a fabulous place to visit, as there is such a wide variety of amazing art.



Year 10 had a great day at Wroxham Barns as part of their careers work. We were so lucky with the weather, as it was cooler than expected so we could enjoy all the facilities, including a lovely sheltered outdoor area for lunchtime. One of the farm's team, Vic, gave the children a talk on how she started off doing work experience at the Barns and then decided that this was a vocation she wished to pursue. She has been working there ever since and thoroughly enjoys being part of their team.

We handled the guinea pigs, fed the lambs and alpacas and bottle fed their young calves. They were very hungry, so feeding them was extremely messy! We also gave their Shetland ponies a cooling wash and groom. Wroxham Barns has really expanded and now has different adventure play areas, so the children had great fun. It wasn't only very informative for anyone thinking of working with animals, but a fabulous trip to end the year on for Year 10.











Conkers class

We have had a very busy and very hot term to end our Conkers journey for the year! We packed in as much as we possibly could, highlights include our awesome Star Wars Dance for Strandfest. We had a dark side versus light side battle and Conkers absolutely smashed it on the day!

We also had an amazing ocean crafts day based on our Under the Ocean topic, we painted stones, made colourful jellyfish and octopuses! We turned egg carton sections into our favourite sea creatures. It was great fun and everyone made something special to take home. Here we are holding our rocks.

We had a great two transition days meeting our new classmates and teachers and are all looking forward to the new school year in September.

Our last term has also been tinged with a little sadness as we say goodbye to our classmate Dave who has been at Sidestrand for three years. He is starting at a new school in September and all his friends here wish him lots of luck. We will definitely miss the jokes!
Conkers Class would like to wish everyone a happy summer holiday!

Congratulations to our fantastic Year 11 students who have successfully completed their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award.

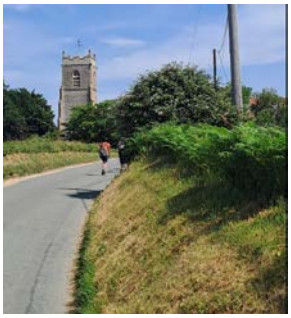
Over the past two years, they have shown dedication and commitment while working towards the Skills, Physical and Volunteering sections. Students challenged themselves by taking up new activities such as mountain biking and paddleboarding and made a meaningful contribution to the school community by setting up and supporting a recycling scheme. This initiative has resulted in thousands of kilos of paper being recycled. They have also developed valuable life skills, including a strong foundation in basic first aid, enabling them to support family and friends in emergency situations.

In addition to completing these sections, students undertook a two-day expedition around Baconsthorpe and North Norfolk during the first heatwave of the year. Despite the challenging conditions, they demonstrated resilience and determination, coping exceptionally well with the high temperatures. I was particularly impressed by how well they organised themselves throughout the expedition, both while walking and camping.



They should all be incredibly proud of their achievements. We hope many will continue their journey and go on to complete their Silver or even Gold Award.







Sidestrand Hall 2026/27

Achievement Beyond Expectation

September 2026

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October 2026

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November 2026

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December 2026

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January 2027

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February 2027

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March 2027

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April 2027

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May 2027

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June 2027

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July 2027

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August 2027

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

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: 3rd Sept, 7th Sept, 21st Sept, 5th Oct, 19th Oct **Please note that we will be running Week 1 menu for the first two weeks back**					

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: 14th Sept, 28th Sept, 12th Oct					