



## Morley Church of England Primary Academy

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Laura Green

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9<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

### Welcome to the new school year!

It is always a delight to welcome the children back to school after the summer break and to hear their holiday stories! We also welcomed new children on Wednesday and it already feels as if they have always been with us!

We send a lot of information to parents/carers at the beginning of the new academic year and our newsletters are posted on our website every Friday, but if there is anything you are unsure about, please ask. It is easy to overlook our new parents sometimes as some of what we do has become second nature, so don't hesitate to speak to one of us or email the office or your class teacher. We also have lots of useful information on our website, eg. school calendar, school brochure, our policies and your child's class information.

If you wish to catch me at any time, I will be based at Morley on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and at Tacolneston on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Our Assistant Headteacher – Mrs Cooper – is available at Morley on Thursdays. Our Senior Teacher at Tacolneston – Mrs Rixon – is also able to deal with parent queries if the class teacher is unable to help in the first instance. If you have queries about your child's special educational needs, you can contact Mrs Ketley who is available on Mondays and Tuesdays. Our Office Manager, Mrs Ralphs can be contacted at the email address at the top of this letter if you need any information or would like to arrange a meeting with one of us.

### Length of the School Day

The DFE have advised school leaders that all state-funded mainstream schools should deliver a school week of at least 32.5 hours by September 2023. The white paper '*Opportunity for all: strong schools with great teachers for your child*' sets out this expectation, and state-funded mainstream schools currently offering a school week of below 32.5 hours should work towards increasing their hours to provide at least 32.5 hours by September 2023 at the latest. With our current start time of 8:50am and finish time of 3:15pm we are providing 32.25 hours per week. We intend to extend our school week to 32.55 hours per week by the beginning of the Spring Term. Please be aware that from 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023 the school day will begin at 8:40am and finish at 3:15pm.

In the meantime, we will still offer our 'soft start' option to parents whereby we open our gates and welcome the children into their classrooms from 8:30am. We offer this soft start to ease the traffic and parking congestion outside the school in the mornings.

**Morley C of E Primary Academy**

Diocese of Norwich St Benet's Multi Academy Trust

Registered office: Diocesan House, 109 Dereham Road, Easton, Norfolk NR9 5ES

Registered in England & Wales Company Reg. No: 11276240

Tel: 01603 550147 Web: [stbenets.org](http://stbenets.org) Chief Executive Officer: Mr Richard Cranmer

### **Your support needed**

We are always looking for help from our community of parents and relatives and would really appreciate it if you were able to take part in any of the following activities:

#### **Forest School**

Forest School sessions take place at Morley on Tuesday afternoons. We would welcome helpers for these sessions. Please speak to the office or Mr East for further information.

#### **Friends of Morley School – FOMPS**

We have a very dedicated and hardworking team of parents/carers who support our work in school through their fundraising efforts. They are always looking for more help and would welcome any new members – even if you were only able to give a limited amount of time. The money raised by FOMPS has enabled us to buy books, furniture and play equipment in recent times. Look out for information about their first meetings this term.

#### **Parent/Carer Cafes:**

I hold a meeting for parents once per term where I can share what we're up to in school and receive feedback from you. I have found these meetings extremely helpful as a way of gaining understanding of the types of issues that parents are interested in and are keen to know more about. If you have been one of our regulars, thank you for your continued contribution. If you haven't attended one of our meetings, do try to get along or send your comments and questions with a friend. We're very informal and babies and toddlers are welcome. The next meeting will be:

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October – 8:45 to 9:45

#### **Helping Out:**

- One of the most important ways in which you can support us, is by offering a small amount of time each week to **read stories to the children or hear them read to you.**
- Are you a practical person who could be of help in our afternoon **art and design technology** sessions or our **outdoor learning** sessions?
- Are you interested in finding out more about primary school teaching and would like to **support the learning** in a class?
- A small but dedicated team of parents regularly arrange a couple of hours on a Saturday morning for a school tidy up, eg. cleaning and clearing outdoor areas, light weeding, painting fences and play equipment etc. Could you spare a couple of hours once every half-term?

If you do have time to spare and would like to help us, please contact Mrs Ralphs to discuss times etc. Please note, that we have a policy of not placing volunteers in their own child's class.

#### **Collective Worship and Our Value for This Term:**

This term, we are focusing on '**Generosity**':

I hope that you will support us by talking to your children about their thoughts and questions in relation to this Christian value. Our first major focus for this value will be our Harvest Festival celebration in October when we will be asking for donations for the Wymondham Food Bank.

If you would like to join us for Collective Worship, you would be very welcome. It takes place every day at 10:30 for 15 minutes. Just give us some notice as, due to timetable changes, we sometimes move it to a different time in the day. Your child's class will invite you to a special assembly later in the year and you will also receive invitations to our learning

cafes. We will also be holding our Friday morning reading sessions for parents/carers and children in Pine and Oak classes. These sessions run from 8:40 to 9:00 am.

### **Shared reading tips**

We ask you to read every day with your child. Here are some tips which you may find helpful when supporting your child's reading at home:

**Tip 1: Ask questions about the book.** Support your child by asking a range of questions about the book they are reading together with you.

- The 'five Ws'—who, what, where, when, and why—can provide useful question starters.
- Use a mixture of closed questions (which can be answered with a single word, or a small number of words) and open questions (which require a fuller response). For example, a closed question might be – 'Did you like this story?'; an open question might be – 'What did you like about this story?'
- Children might also be asked to summarise what has happened in the book or story so far, and to predict what will happen next.

### **Tip 2: Link reading to the real world.**

- By talking about links between the book and real life, you can make the story more interesting and help your child to develop their understanding of ideas in the book. For example, while reading about Cinderella going to the ball, you might discuss the similarities between a ball and a birthday party.

### **Meet the Teacher**

Next week, there will be the following opportunities to meet your child's teacher and find out what the class will be covering. These will take place in the school hall:

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 9am – Pine Class

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September 9am – Rowan Class

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September 8.30am – Sycamore Class

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September 9am – Willow Class

### **Read Write Inc.**

At Morley we are embarking on a new phonics programme called Read Write Inc. This will be taught from Reception to Year 2, but will also include some children in KS2 that still need phonics.

Read Write Inc. is a proven and popular phonics scheme that teaches children the sounds in English, the letters that represent them and how to form the letters when writing.

Read Write Inc. includes reading books written using the sounds that they have learnt so that children will quickly feel confident and successful.

Here is the link to a useful short video overview of Read Write Inc. phonics. We will also be sending home some parent information booklets about Read Write Inc. to the parents and carers of children who will be participating in the programme.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sjIPILhk7bQ>

Here you can find lots of information and free resources to support your child's learning.

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/reading-schemes-oxford-levels/read-write-inc-phonics-guide/>

### **Online Safety**

We want to work with parents/carers to ensure that our children use the internet safely. We will be sending out a monthly newsletter to offer information and guidance about online safety and you will find attached to this newsletter a booklet called '**A Guide To Parental Controls**' which contains some very useful information about different operating systems, social media sites, TV/streaming services etc.

### **Families in hardship and needing wider support**

In addition to the offer of FSM vouchers for eligible families, there is support available for families who are facing hardship and need support.

Anyone experiencing hardship may be able to receive support through the Norfolk Assistance Scheme (NAS), which may be able to provide support for food, fuel, clothes, and other essential household items to families experiencing hardship. Wider support from a range of partners can then also be made available with NAS working alongside the Children's Services Community and Partnerships service.

Families may get in touch with NAS via their [dedicated website which includes an online application form](#), or if they cannot access the internet, they can call **0344 800 8020**.

### **Children's Britannica Set**

We have been approached by an ex- pupil of Morley School, who has a lovely set of Children's Britannica books – 20 in total. He would like to donate them to a book loving home. Please contact the office if you are interested.

### **Monthly Kids Club**

Monthly Kids Club is starting back on Thursday 15th September - For ages 7-11 at Morley Methodist Church on Chapel Lane.

6PM - 7.30PM.

£1 entry (please let them know if this is a problem)

It will be a mixture of Christian themes, crazy games, songs, prizes and more.

We've got a bit of a Lego theme carrying on until Christmas. Come and find out more!

This is organised in partnership with Morley Methodist Church and Raise Kids Work. ([www.raisekidswork.org.uk](http://www.raisekidswork.org.uk))

This is the link for people to register online should they wish to do that.

<https://raisekidswork.org.uk/what-we-do/churches/morley-kids-club>

It is very exciting to be at the beginning of a new academic year – welcoming our 4 and 5 year olds to the start of their primary school life and watching all of our children developing and growing in skill, knowledge, confidence and love. Thank you for the trust that you place in us to do this work.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Laura Green'.

Laura Green

Newsletter additions:

- Diary dates
- Norse Myth-busting poster

## Diary Dates Autumn Term

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- 13/09/22 – Pine Class meet the teacher 9am
- 14/09/22 – Rowan Class meet the teacher 9am
- 15/09/22 – Willow Class meet the teacher 9am
- 15/09/22 – Sycamore Class meet the teacher 8.30am



- 10/10/22 – Parent Consultations week
- 19/10/22 – Parent café 8.45 – 9.45am
- 21/10/22 – Sycamore Learning Café – 9am

**24/10/22 – 28/10/22 – HALF TERM**



- 04/11/22 – Oak Learning Café – 9am
- 09/11/22 – Flu Nasal Immunisation team in school
- 11/11/22 – Willow Class Learning Café – 9am
- 13/11/22 – Remembrance Day
- 14/11/22 – Photographer in for individual & sibling groups
- 18/11/22 – Rowan Class Learning Café – 9am
- 18/11/22 – Pine Class Bedtime story – 6-7pm
- 25/11/22 – Yr R Height, Weight, Vision & Hearing screening  
Yr 6 Height & Weight screening.



- 16/12/22 – End of Autumn term 3.15pm



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## Spring Term



### January

04/01/23 – Children return to school  
30/01/23 – parent consultation week



03/02/23 – Oak Class Assembly – 9.15am

**13/02/23 – 17/02/23 HALF TERM**

23/02/23 – Rowan Class Assembly – 9.15am



02/03/23 – Pine Class Learning Café – 9am

31/03/23 – End of Spring term



## Summer Term

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17/04/23 – Inset day – school closed to pupils  
18/04/23 – School starts



01/05/23 – Bank Holiday – school closed  
**29/05/23 – 02/06/23 – HALF TERM**



05/06/23 – School starts



21/07/23 - End of School Year 3.15pm



## MYTH BUSTING SCHOOL MEALS

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CATERING

### "My child is a fussy eater"

Our menu offer variety and choice to suit all tastes. In our experience, children are more likely to try new foods when they have regular school meals in a social setting.

### "I cook a meal in the evening"

We fully understand that some families eat a hot meal together in an evening so we have developed our own cold lunch options and jacket potatoes menu to help support this.

### "They're not healthy"

Our menu consist of well-balanced dishes that adhere to the school food standards. Real fruit is used in over 50% of our dessert recipes; **we have reduced sugar content by 25%** and wholemeal flour is used in all of our bread and pastry recipes!

### "My child has a food allergy"

We have developed 'allergen aware' menus for children with medically-defined food allergies. Registration forms can be found on our website.

### "I love my school lunches!"

*"I like the different flavours and how tasty it looks on the plate!"*

**School Council Feedback**

Did you know, **on average less than 2% of packed lunches** from home meet all of the school food standards?

**Source:** The Independent School Food Plan



 @NorseCatering  
norsecatering.co.uk