



Principal's Newsletter: Kindness in belonging

Dear Parent and Carer,

We have reached the end of November which always seems a long month as we move from autumn to winter and the short days have arrived. However, the optimism remains high at JFAN, demonstrated most clearly at last night's first parents' evening of the year which had a really positive atmosphere. We enjoyed welcoming our Year 8 families to school to meet their teachers which was great to be able to host in person, as last year we conducted this event virtually. Thank you also to our dedicated NPA team who hosted a highly thought-provoking drugs awareness talk for parents and carers at JFAN yesterday evening, with a specialist speaker, for all of the Uttlesford community.

As you are aware, our theme for this academic year is to create a sense of belonging for all of our community and this has been evident in many of the lessons I have popped into over the past fortnight with pupils creating some imaginative work. I was impressed with the line dancing that our Year 8 pupils have been learning in dance, executing a challenging routine to

traditional music. I was very pleased to see the work that Year 11 have been doing in textiles as part of their mock examination, creating some highly intricate and thoughtfully designed corsets from a specific era.

On Friday, I asked teaching staff to share some excellent work that pupils have done so that I can display this outside my office on my 'Principal's Progress Board'. I have received some fantastic pieces but a special mention must go to Niamh in 11 Morden who has completed an insightful critical study of the artist Cezanne with a recreation of still life painting that is exceptional. Additionally, Henry in 10 Trappes has produced some superb collage work that will also take pride of place on the board. All pupils whose work is chosen to be displayed on my board, will be given a Principal's Commendation before the end of term.

Outside of the classroom, we have hosted a number of impressive events over the past two weeks including two multi-skills sports sessions for 135 pupils from our feeder primary schools; as always, it is great to see our Year 10 Sports Leaders supporting these events and being wonderful advocates for our school. Also gathering pace are the rehearsals for *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, our school show that will be performed in the summer term. On Wednesday evening, the car park was very busy at the end of the rehearsal, demonstrating how popular our school show is with our pupil community.

Thank you as ever for your support of our Inset Day today. I do understand that these days can be disruptive to the family routine and therefore I always like to explain some of the work that has taken place. Staff have been working hard to standardise and moderate recent mock examinations to ensure that there is consistency in the marks that are being awarded. Furthermore, our curriculum leaders have spent the day in a different Anglian Learning school, experiencing a leadership and coaching workshop. Without these days, these types of important initiatives would not be able to take place.

I said to colleagues last week, we are living in a VUCA world currently: volatile; uncertain; complex and ambiguous. Outside of the school gates, there are struggles, tensions, unpredictable leaders and increasing conflict. The antidote to this in school therefore must be positivity. We must harness and celebrate what's good; catch pupils doing the right things; provide praise when it's needed and clear explanations when when mistakes are made. In assemblies this week, Mr Langley has focused on the importance of kindness and consideration in conversation. Examples were given of the unintended consequences of language and how the words of others, can make you feel good about yourself; a powerful reminder of the impact of being positive even if the world around you is feeling unsettled.

In the words of Charlie Chaplin, "You'll never find a rainbow, if you're looking down."

Best wishes for the weekend and the week ahead.

Duncan Roberts

Principal

29th November 2024

Joyce Frankland Academy

Community news



- **Christmas Jumper Day:** On Wednesday the 18th of December pupils are invited to wear a festive jumper for the day to help raise funds for two great charities, Children in Need and SIDS. Donations of £2.00 can be made via MyEd Parent Pay or cash on the day.
- **Primary schools Athletics competition:** On Wednesday we hosted the indoor athletics competition for local primary schools, including Great Chesterford, Elsenham, Newport and Clavering . Pupils from years 3 to 6 took part in a variety of track and field events ably assisted by our year 10 sports leaders. Congratulations to the overall winners, Clavering Primary school, who will representing us the next stage of the competition.

- **Stephenson's 441 Service:** We have been notified by Stephenson's that the 441 service is to be discontinued and from the 6th of January 2025 users of this service will need to make alternative arrangements to get to school. Please contact Stephenson's if you have an annual pass for the 441 and to see the timetables for the 316 and 301 as an alternative. <https://stephensonsofessex.com/>
- **Last day arrangements:** A reminder that our last school day of this term will be Friday 20th December and school will finish at 13:20. Buses will be available to collect pupils who require this transport. If your child is unable to leave site at this time, please inform their form tutor so that the necessary supervision can be provided.

Key updates



- **Cold weather and uniform reminder:** At JFAN we do understand that pupils need to wear a coat in school as they travel to and from school and move around our site from building to building. Pupils do need to remove coats in classrooms. However, hoodies are not allowed and pupils will be asked to remove these. If the same pupil is seen wearing a hoodie again, it will be confiscated and returned at the end of the day and their smart card will be signed.

- **Sparx Reader:** As a result of the success of Sparx Maths for setting homework and Educake in science, the Academy has now committed to rolling out Sparx Reader for Key Stage 3 next term. Sparx Reader is an engaging and supportive platform in which pupils can develop their reading and literacy skills. This program can assess every child's reading ability within minutes and then produce a whole set of texts which meet that child's needs. Additionally, there are options to enlarge text, check the meaning of unfamiliar vocabulary and answer quiz questions. Sparx Reader tasks will be set as English homework for Key Stage 3 on a phased approach next term. We will write to you with further details about this before the end of term.
- **Impact time:** Impact time is a short period of 30 minutes or, maximum 45 minutes, served after school as a consequence for a mistake that a pupil has made. During this time, we encourage pupils to reflect upon what has happened and consider ways that they can prevent it from happening again. For the large majority of our school community, impact time is not needed. However, if your child is informed that they must attend an impact slot, this is compulsory. If you have difficulty collecting your child after impact time, please let your child's form tutor know and other arrangements will be made.
- **School tours for current parents/carers:** From January, we will be once again launching our school tours for current parents and carers. As you know, parents and carers receive the option of a tour of the school when their child is in Year 6 but, once they join, this option stops. However, for the last two years we have offered tours, followed by a Q and A from a colleague in our leadership team to current parents and carers so that you can see the school on a typical day. Tours will take place once per half-term on Tuesday mornings. Information about when the first tour will take place and how to book will be shared with you in January.
- **Christmas Dinner 2024:** A reminder that JFAN's annual Christmas Dinner will take place on 18th December 2024. There will be a traditionally festive menu for our pupils and staff to enjoy. We have posted a menu on our website and social media pages.

Wimbish Primary Academy



Pupils fly the virtual skies with flight simulator experience: Pupils from Wimbish Primary Academy and The Meadow Primary School, part of Anglian Learning, tested their piloting skills with a flight simulator experience led by a local aviation heritage trust.

The two computer simulators are based on the WW1 SE5a fighter plane used by the British Armed Forces during World War One. Pupils put on the VR headset which is programmed with missions 'Scout' pilots would have accomplished during the war.

Also included in the day's activities was a quiz led by Cllr Stewart Luck, who donated the experience to the two schools as part of the Uttlesford District Council Youth Initiatives Working Group.

Stewart said, "From my first interaction with the academy to the event day, the teachers, staff, and pupils were truly outstanding. We had an incredible time, made new friends, and built connections that I believe will inspire collaboration and the sharing of skills in the future".

Chris Steadman, Senior Class Teacher of Wimbish Primary Academy, said "All pupils had a fabulous day and learnt so much from the visitors from The Aviation Heritage Trust. The VR experience was amazing, and the historical background was enriching and informative for all".

30 Pupils from The Meadow Primary School, who partner with Wimbish Primary Academy under their Executive Headteacher, Nichola Pickford, were also invited to take part in the activities.

Nichola said “We are incredibly thankful to Cllr Stewart Luck for providing this unique opportunity for our pupils. Experiencing history firsthand helps our pupils to understand the past and boosts their engagement and love of learning. Both our staff and pupils have been inspired by the STEM activity and are thankful for the time given by the heritage trust to answer any questions.”

In the afternoon, pupils took part in an art session, capturing what they had learnt during the activity within their artwork.

The WW1 Aviation Heritage Trust is a registered charity set up to provide an enduring flying collection of World War I Allied and German aeroplanes. Their goal is the education of current and future generations as testimony to the aircrews of the Great War, their planes, and their sacrifice.

To find out more about the heritage trust, please visit: <https://ww1aviationheritagetrust.co.uk/>

To find out more about Wimbish Primary Academy, please visit: <https://wimbishprimary.org/>

To find out more about The Meadow Primary School, please visit: <https://meadowprimary.org/>

Children in Need: Wimbish pupils also took part in a non-uniform for BBC Children in Need! Thank you to all our families who have donated to this wonderful charity



1 - Wimbish Primary Academy pupils



2 - Wimbish Primary Academy pupils



3 - Wimbish pupils flight simulator experience



4 - Wimbish pupils flight simulator experience



5 - Wimbish pupils flight simulator experience

Thought of the week



"You'll never find a rainbow, if you're looking down." Charlie Chaplin

Dates for the diary coming up...



Wednesday 11th December Christmas Concert

Friday 13th December NPA Winter Food Stall

Wednesday 18th December Christmas Jumper day

Wednesday 18th December Christmas dinner

Friday 20th December Term ends - Early closure at 1.20pm

2025

Monday 6th January Term starts

Thursday 9th January Year 11 Parents evening

Thursday 16th January Careers Fayre

Thursday 23rd January Year 9 Parents evening (online)

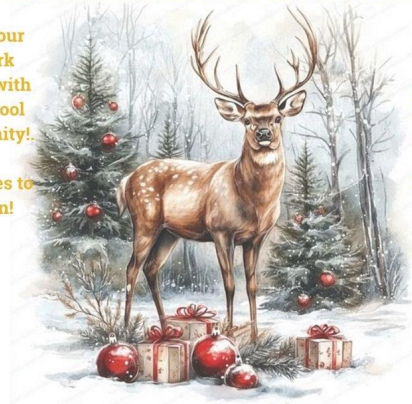
Christmas Card Competition 2024

Get creative this Christmas!



Have your artwork shared with the school community!

Art prizes to be won!



Please complete your design and hand to your art teacher by Monday 2nd December.

www.joycefrankland.org

6 - Christmas Card competition 2024

FESTIVE FOOD

Wednesday 18th December

Roast Turkey, Pigs in Blankets,
Roast Potatoes & Gravy
OR
Vegan Soya Bean & Cranberry
Wellington, Roast Potatoes & Gravy
All served with stuffing, carrots,
peas & brussel sprouts
Followed by
Traditional Christmas Pudding with
Vanilla Sauce
OR
Festive White chocolate confetti
Cookie

£3.00

www.joycefrankland.org

7 - Christmas Menu



8 - Christmas Jumper day



9 - Primary schools event



10 - Primary schools event



11 - Charlie and the Chocolate Factory rehearsals





13 - Christmas Concert

Success stories



If your child has achieved something exceptional outside of school please do let us know.

Newport Parents Association (PTA)



The Newport Parents Association (PTA) help to raise funds for the enrichment of the school and to co-ordinate activities for school parents, families and the local community. We are also a registered charity. We aim to bring together parents, teachers and others to raise money and to support the school raising vital funds to buy items or provide support for pupils not covered by the school budget. For example, the provision of therapy / counselling for students , the provision of new sports and dance equipment , the provision of equipment for the music department and so much more!

We're always happy to welcome new volunteers who would like to dedicate some of their time. That could be sparing an hour or two to help at an event or you may wish to join the NPA committee, new members are always welcome.

If you would like to get involved with the NPA please contact the Chair of the NPA Kerinda Trigg via the Academy's administration email address. jfaadmin@joycefrankland.org

Friday 13th December NPA Winter Food Stall

Feedback Friday



WE WANT

YOUR

FEEDBACK



Vacancies



Details for all the current Academy and Anglian Learning vacancies can be found on our website [here](#)

Contact Us



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Visit us on our website at www.joycefrankland.org

Please follow our social media pages. [Facebook](#), [JFAN Performing Arts](#) and our dedicated [sixth form Facebook](#) page.