



Worstead CE VA Primary School

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Monday 2nd February 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

A colleague sent around a photo of our school's teaching staff from 1908, nearly 120 years ago. After the jokes about how Mr Read and I looked different back then had stopped, it did make me think about what has and hasn't changed in the education system over time, and how similar or different the experiences our children have today will be from those attending the school 100 or more years ago.

Technology will be the biggest change, of course (not least the colour photo rather than sepia), but we also have a whole body of research around effective teaching practices on which to base our teaching now.

When designing our curriculum, we focus on introducing new learning in small steps, clearly modelling approaches to work, revisiting content periodically to 'break the forgetting curve' and encouraging collaboration and talk about learning to help to deepen understanding of topics and processes rather than rote learning and focussing on correct answers. For any children with additional needs, we adapt teaching in class and provide additional support in and out of the classroom so that *all* our children progress and reach their full potential.

Thinking about similarities was harder once I'd ticked off the actual building. Then it came to me, and I've mentioned this before – it's the people. Not the exact individuals despite the jokes, but their shared purpose and ethos. The people who place the children and their wellbeing and learning at the forefront of everything they do and make our school such a warm and welcoming place to work and to learn.

I wonder how the staff of Worstead Primary will look back on us in the 2140s...

Have a fantastic week.

With kind regards

Steven Boast

Executive Deputy Headteacher
North Star Federation



Random Acts of Kindness

A big thank you to Mrs Lal for her efforts in preparing for and introducing our Random Acts of Kindness Day last Wednesday. I did my own act of kindness in supporting Ginny with one of her Tackling Tables tests (she smashed it – well done, Ginny) and loved hearing about the children's, both from school and home.

Among other things, we had – giving advice, cheering people up, holding doors open, looking after and fussing pets, tidying up the school, sharing resources and SO MUCH MORE! Well done, Team Worstead, you make this school special.

Parents Evening

Our school website was upgraded to a new platform last week – a development we've been waiting on for a few weeks. It is found at the same address and looks like the old one but is more user-friendly for school staff and in a format that will continue to be supported and updated by our website provider, Juniper.

Unfortunately, a consequence of this is that we need to set up details on here that will allow us to run the online parents evening booking system. We only need to do that once, but we were unable to do it before it went live, and it will take a little time. Consequently, and to save parents and school rushing around, we are postponing parents evening until after half term. We will publish new dates and times as soon as possible.

Out of school success

Congratulations to the following on their fantastic success outside of school:

- Alex S for his sporting achievements – player of the match in his football team last week **and** UIIs MVP (most valuable player) at the National Youth Basketball League this weekend.
- Myles for completing Stage 2 swimming **and** earning his 5m swimming certificate too!
- Rosie and Chloe for their swimming achievements. Rosie completed stage 7 **and** achieved her 200m swimming badge, while Chloe completed stage 4 **and** achieved her 20m badge.



Fantastic sports stars, one and all!



Gold Book Prize-Winners – 23.01.26

Ambition

Robins – Esme, for trying hard to spell the words correctly in phonics.

Swifts – Jenson for working hard on his handwriting both at home and at school.

Hérons – Theo, for being ambitious in every aspect of his learning; he always wants to do more, know more and improve more.

Kestrels – Eva, for using a range of grammatical skills and ambitious emotive language in your final piece story – it almost made Mr S shed a tear.

Generosity

Robins – Eleanor, for making sure her friends are able to have a turn with the toys by sharing with them.

Swifts – Willow Q for helping to keep the classroom tidy and putting away things she had not used herself.

Herons – Eva, for being a reliable member of the class who will always lend a helping hand, whether she has been asked to or not.

Kestrels – Edith and Hanah for being lovely working partners, who give their time to help each other.

Perfect Presentation

Robins – Jack, for trying hard to draw a picture of his Pirate Submarine to capture the escaped snake.

Swifts – Theo for trying hard to form his letters accurately and sit them on the line.

Herons – Harper, for recording short multiplication clearly in her book; using a ruler to ensure her work is neat and well presented.

Kestrels – Monty, for taking his time in his published work, taking his time over every letter formation and piece of punctuation.

Sports Star

Robins – Louis, for trying hard to jump with control and in different ways.

Swifts – Robin for creating an interesting 'magical toy' dance.

Herons – Rose, for overcoming her fears and performing her dance routine brilliantly in front of an audience.

Kestrels – Rowan, every week, he brings intensity in his facial expressions and movements.

Tackling Tables

100% - Rose W, Kacie, Ivy N, Elijah, Ginny, Isla W,

Reading Prizes

Herons: Kacie, Alex B, Eva, Bella, Henry, Kyla, Molly

Kestrels: Autumn

Forest School

Bowtruckle goes to Jack for helping to clear up somebody else's mess, thank you for doing that, you are a team player and always have such a responsible attitude. Also a special mention goes to Ivy for her perseverance in whittling and making a wooden wind chime.

Groot goes to both Mabel and Jack in year one for helping to plant spring bulbs that will bloom every spring.

Diary Dates

FEBRUARY		
Monday 9 th Feb		No art club
Tuesday 10 th Feb		Safer internet day
Wednesday 11 th February		Swifts trip to the Aviation Museum
Wednesday 11 th February		Choir after school club
Thursday 12 th February		No choir
Friday 13 th February		Last day of term
Friday 13 th February	5-7pm	School Disco

Monday 23 rd February		Pupils return to school
Tuesday 24 th February	9-10am	Parent workshop: Children's sleep
MARCH		
Monday 2 nd March	2pm	Herons' family café
Tuesday 3 rd March		Robins trip to How Hill
Thursday 5 th March		World book day
Monday 9 th March	2pm	Kestrels' family café
Thursday 12 th March		Yr6 Pupils to Gresham's -Steam outreach event
Monday 16 th March	2pm	Robins Family Cafe
Thursday 19 th March		School choir performing at Norfolk County music festival (details to follow)
Monday 23 rd March	2pm	Swifts Family café
Thursday 26 th March	2pm	Easter service at the Church
Friday 27 th March		Last day of term