

Yox Valley Partnership



Academy Head - Gail Jerman
head@yoxvalley.org

www.southwoldprimaryschool.org.uk
www.yoxfordandpeasehallprimaryschool.org.uk
www.middletonprimaryschool.org.uk

9th September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome Back

I hope you all had a wonderful summer and enjoyed the lovely sunshine we were treated too – the warm weather even reached as far as Wales and the clouds disappeared for most of the time I was there!

Although we are only a week into the new academic year, there has been a very positive atmosphere around the schools. Children have come back refreshed and ready for learning and the staff are keen to embrace that and ignite their enthusiasm. It really is lovely to hear that buzz around the schools.

Having said that we are now ending the week with the sad news of the death of Queen Elizabeth II. It is hard for our children to understand the significance of this event, and what it means for us as a country, but each school has held a special assembly this morning looking back at her life, and thinking about how we will remember her. Further discussions have been held in class, at an age appropriate level and as the weeks progress, we will respond to questions by the children, and think about how they want to mark the occasion.

I would like to extend a very warm welcome all the new children and families that have joined us in Reception and Nursery – we really hope you have a great time at Yox Valley and we look forward to seeing you all grow, in every sense of the word. And of course, a warm welcome to those that have joined us further up the schools – it is really great to have you with us too.

As you may be aware, we have been advertising for Teaching Assistants within Yox Valley and we will be interviewing next week. We currently have two vacancies at Yoxford and Peasehall and a vacancy at Middleton. We very much hope to fill those positions and I will keep you updated once I have more information. Unfortunately, recruitment of Teaching Assistants is an issue nationally, and we are not the only schools experiencing this challenge.

The start of the term is always very busy as we all adjust to new routines and expectations, and put new plans in place. Hopefully you have now received your class newsletter outlining what the focus is in each class. You should also soon be receiving the programme of Enrichment Clubs for each school. As you know, the Government funding for supporting the free enrichment hour has come to an end. We are trying to put on a full club offer as well as we can but we are required to make it financially viable and are also limited with staffing. We realise that there are some gaps and we very much hope that as the term progresses we can fill these and extend the provision we are able to offer.

Never giving less than our best

Yoxford and Peasehall Primary School, High Street, Yoxford, Suffolk. IP17 3EU
Email: officeyoxford@yoxvalley.org
Middleton Primary School, Rectory Road, Middleton, Suffolk. IP17 3NW
Email: officemiddleton@yoxvalley.org
Southwold Primary School, Cumberland Road, Southwold, Suffolk IP18 6JP
Email: admin@southwoldprimaryschool.org

Tel: 01728 668291

Tel: 01728 648251

Tel: 01502 723137

Attendance:

This academic year the government is really focused on improving attendance within schools, and will be monitoring this closely. They are keen to discourage unauthorised absence, and as a Trust we are in agreement with this. We fully appreciate that many holidays were disrupted due to COVID and families are rebooking ones that were previously cancelled. However, this leads to children missing vital elements of schooling on top of the already large impact of COVID disruption and absence. Our staff are committed to addressing areas of learning that have been impacted, and further absence makes this even harder for your child. Our Trust has historically not issued penalty fines on behalf of the local authority and any decisions to fine have been at the discretion of the School leaders. However, the Trust stance on this is changing and fines may well be carried out (and these apply to each child in your family). Therefore, I am asking that you think carefully before booking holidays during term time.

Diary dates:

We have begun to plan in some of the key dates for this term and these can be found on the next page. We will be adding to these very soon, with the Christmas events in the diary. This will be included in every newsletter so please keeping checking it for updates. We want to give you as much notice as possible about events as we know you are busy people, and sometimes need to make changes to work commitments.

Celebration Assemblies:

We really enjoy celebrating the success of your children, and we want you to share that with you. Therefore we will be starting our Celebration assemblies next week - will continue on a 3-week cycle and again, the dates are on the Diary page. Due to staffing and timetabling of PE we have needed to move Middleton assembly to the afternoon, we very much hope this doesn't cause any problems for anyone.

Pupil Voice:

In the next few weeks we will be appointing new Head Boy and Girls, prefects, house captains and of course School Council. We are looking at ways we can develop the roles further to give more children opportunities to have a say in what they want to achieve at school, what projects they want to develop and what changes they want to make. We will be sharing this with you as things develop and am sure you will support them in the challenges they set themselves.

This is going to be an exciting year for all our schools and our primary aim is to give our young children the best we can. We continue to fully embed the school 'motto' of '**Never Giving Less than our Best**' and we will be expecting all the children to rise to this challenge.

Best wishes,

Gail Jerman

Yox Valley Partnership



Academy Head - Gail Jerman
head@yoxvalley.org

www.southwoldprimaryschool.org.uk
www.yoxfordandpeasenhallprimaryschool.org.uk
www.middletonprimaryschool.org.uk

Diary Dates - Autumn Term 2022

Harvest (TBC) at Church

12/10/22 2.15pm Yoxford & Peasenhall
20/10/22 9.00am Middleton
21/10/22 9.00am Southwold

Parent consultations

12/10/22 and 13/10/22, from 3.30pm until 5.30pm

Phonics Information meetings - for parents of children in Reception, Year 1 & Year 2

Friday 20 September 3.30 at Southwold
Monday 26 September 3.30 at Middleton
Tuesday 27 September 3.30 at Yoxford & Peasenhall

Celebration assemblies

Yoxford & Peasenhall at 8.45am
Friday 16 September
Friday 7 October

Southwold at 2.45pm
Friday 23 September
Friday 14 October

Middleton at 2.45pm
Friday 30 September
Friday 21 October

We hope you can attend these dates. Further dates will be in the upcoming newsletters.

Never giving less than our best

Yoxford and Peasenhall Primary School, High Street, Yoxford, Suffolk. IP17 3EU
Email: officeyoxford@yoxvalley.org
Middleton Primary School, Rectory Road, Middleton, Suffolk. IP17 3NW
Email: officemiddleton@yoxvalley.org
Southwold Primary School, Cumberland Road, Southwold, Suffolk IP18 6JP
Email: admin@southwoldprimaryschool.org

Tel: 01728 668291

Tel: 01728 648251

Tel: 01502 723137