George White Junior School Newsletter

Friday 26th September 2025

Dear parents,

It has been another fantastic week — full of memorable experiences, proud moments, and new learning beyond the classroom!

On Tuesday, our Year 6 pupils visited West Runton and Cromer, and what a great day they all had! From exploring the coastline, observing coastal erosion first-hand and even becoming fossil hunters. A huge thank you to the staff team who supported the trip and made it such a positive and memorable experience for everyone involved.

Back at school, a small group of Year 3 children took part in a sporting event yesterday, representing George White with confidence and pride. Their enthusiasm and behaviour were a real credit to the school and we're incredibly proud of their teamwork and the way they supported each other.

Teaching Assistant Day 2025 – A Celebration of Support

Today in school, we proudly celebrated **Teaching Assistant Day 2025**, taking the time to recognise and thank our incredible team of Teaching Assistants for the vital role they play in our children's education and wellbeing. Our TAs provide unwavering support - from helping pupils to reach their potential, to offering a listening ear and a calm presence every day, they are truly the unsung heroes of school life. We're sure you'll join us in celebrating and thanking our wonderful Teaching Assistants for all that they do!

As always, thank you for your continued support. We hope you all enjoy a restful weekend, and we look forward to another exciting week ahead!

Warm wishes,

Mrs Petchey

We're Hiring – Midday Supervisory Assistant (MSA) Vacancy

We are currently looking to appoint a Midday Supervisory Assistant (MSA) to join our lunchtime team here at George White.

MSAs play a vital role in ensuring our children have a safe, happy, and well-supervised lunchtime — both in the dining hall and on the playground. We are looking for someone who is caring, reliable, and enjoys working with children. The role involves helping children with meals and encouraging positive playtimes.

If you or someone you know may be interested, please get in touch with the school office for more information or to request an application form.

Hours: 12:00–1:10pm, Monday to Friday – term time only
More information can be found linked Midday Supervisory Assistant | Education Job Finder or please call the school office for a conversation with Mrs Chester.

We welcome applications from parents, carers, or members of the local community who would like to be part of our friendly team!

Exciting New Nursery Provision at Mousehold Infant School!

Do you know anyone who is looking for a nursey place for their 3-year-old?

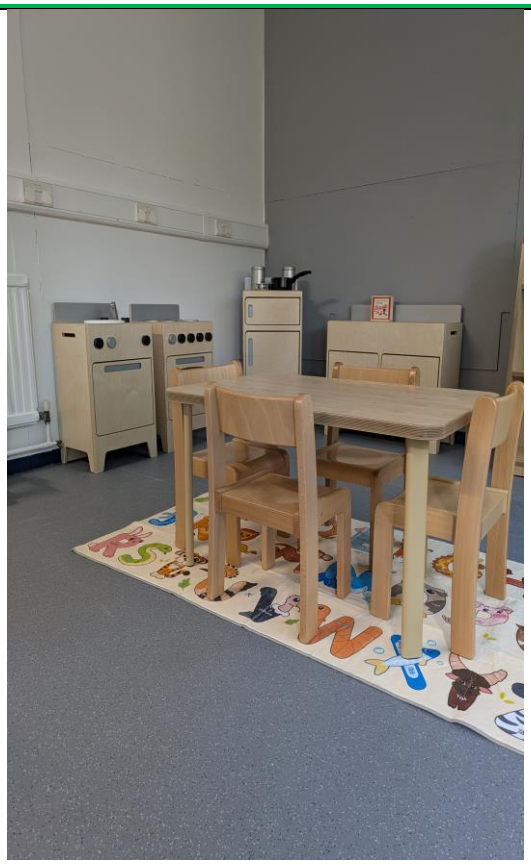
We are thrilled to share that our new nursery provision at Mousehold Infant School is now open — offering a warm, welcoming, and stimulating environment for our youngest learners!

Our nursery has been refurbished with brand-new furniture and high-quality resources, creating a vibrant space where children can explore, play, and learn with confidence. The children also benefit from an exciting outdoor provision, designed to support active play, curiosity, and a love of nature in all seasons.

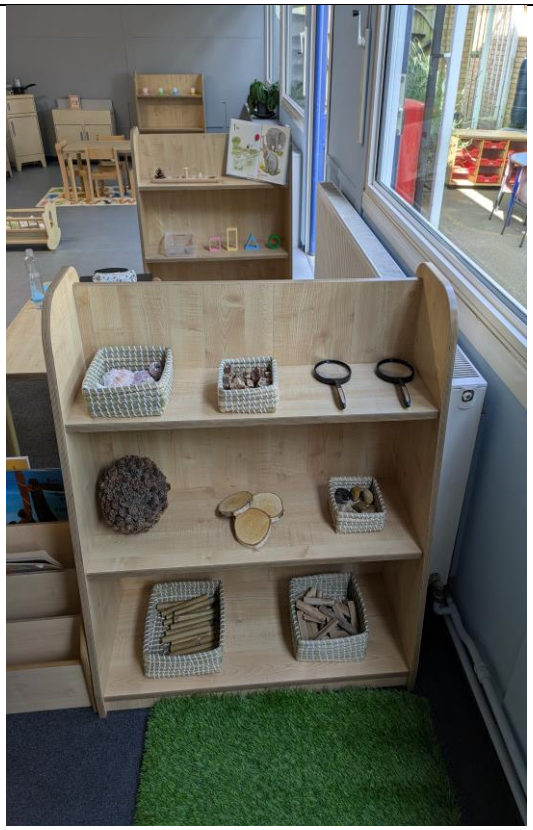
Our experienced Early Years team provides a caring and nurturing atmosphere where every child is supported to thrive. There are places currently available, and we accept government funding for both 15 and 30 hours.

The Nursery team would love to welcome you for a visit! Please contact the Mousehold school office to arrange a tour and meet the team on **01603 427012**


WOW!







Is my child too ill for school?



We know that children come down with mild illnesses such as colds, coughs and sore throats and it can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school when they are unwell, therefore we have sourced some NHS guidance to help you make the right decision.

If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school or nursery on the first day. Let them know that your child won't be in and give them the reason.

If your child is well enough to go to school but has an infection that could be passed on, such as a cold sore or head lice, let their teacher know.

What to do about other conditions

Feeling anxious or worried

It's normal for children to feel a little anxious sometimes. They may get a tummy ache or headache, or have problems eating or sleeping.
Avoiding school can make a child's anxiety about going to school worse. It's good to talk about any worries they may have such as bullying, friendship problems, school work or sensory problems. You can also work with the school to find ways to help them.

Coughs and colds

It's fine to send your child to school with slight cough or common cold symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat or headache, as long as they're otherwise well and do not have a high temperature.
But if they have a high temperature, keep them off school until the temperature has gone.

Chickenpox

If your child has chickenpox, keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over.
This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared.

Conjunctivitis

You don't need to keep your child away from school if they have conjunctivitis, unless they are feeling very unwell.
Do get advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly.

Hand, foot and mouth disease

If your child has hand, foot and mouth disease but seems well enough to go to school, there's no need to keep them off.

Vomiting and diarrhoea Children with diarrhoea or vomiting should stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea for at least 2 days (48 hours).

This Week's Attendance

We hold a celebration assembly every Friday morning to share and celebrate the children's achievements. During this assembly, we also recognise the class with the highest overall attendance for the week. Each individual child's attendance counts towards this.

Well-done to 4T this week, for having the highest attendance.

6E: 95%
6W: 94%
5W: 92%
5D: 96%
4T: 99%
4B: 95%
3C: 95%
3L: 97%

Whole school attendance for this week: 95%

School Target: 96%

This week you will have received the 'Attendance Quick Guide for Parents'. This includes details of how to report pupil absence and key timings of the school day. Please remember the gates open at 8:30am and close at 8:50.



Safeguarding

Designated Safeguarding Leads

Mrs. Petchey, Mrs. Stolworthy, Mrs. Greenwood, Miss Derer, Mrs Thorpe, Miss Whing, Mrs Burman and Miss Alderton.

These members of staff monitor and manage all safeguarding practices and ensure staff are supported and have the training they need. Please ask to see one of these adults if you are worried about the safety of a child at school.

If you have a safeguarding concern about a child out of school hours, then the number to ring is:

CADS – Children's Advice and Duty Service –

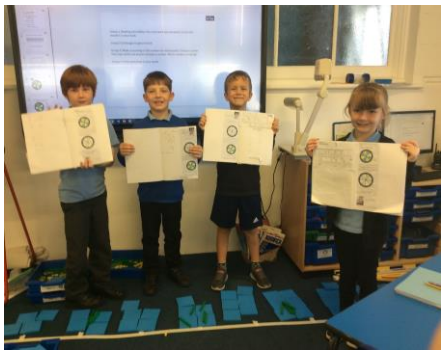
0344 800 8021



Look at what we're learning

Year 3

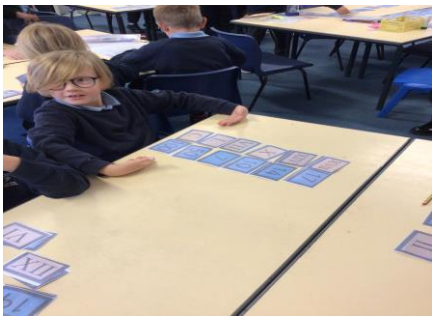
We've had another fantastic week in Year 3! One of our highlights was exploring counting in 50s during our maths lessons. The children created colourful number lines to show intervals of 50 using Base 10 equipment, helping them visualise the concept clearly.
To make learning even more fun, we played a game of maths bowling—each pin was worth 50 points, and the children had to use their counting skills to add up their scores.





Year 4

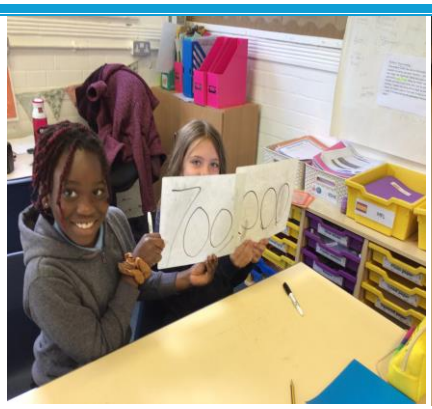
What a fantastic week we have had in year 4! We started the week looking at Roman numerals and we played a matching game to help consolidate our learning. This week our highlight has been in our D&T learning, the children went to the kitchen and worked in small groups to make their pizzas! These all looked very delicious. The children were all super proud and excited by their outcomes and could not wait to eat them when they got home! We hope you all have a lovely weekend, and we can't wait for our Roman day next Thursday!

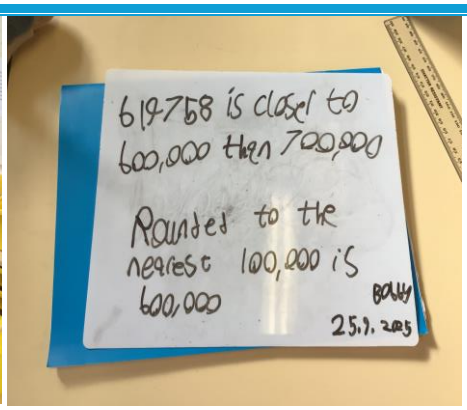




Year 5

We've had another wonderful week in year 5 and the children have been working so hard across the curriculum! A highlight this week was in our seeing the children become investigators in our science lesson, exploring materials around the classroom to discover whether or not they are magnetic! We have also been working hard on accurately punctuating for direct speech in English, linking this to our Beowulf text and working hard to practise rounding numbers to 1,000,000 in maths!







Year 6

It's been a great start to Year 6 Theme learning and we have been enjoying learning about our local coast. Our trip to the beach was chilly (!) but a real delight to see coastal erosion firsthand. We saw caves being made by erosion and the cliffs falling away as a result. We enjoyed searching for fossils and lots of us found belemnites and sea glass. In other learning, we have started our work on calculations in Maths and we have begun reading Shackleton's Journey in English. We were really excited to choose our first library book from our sparkly new library! - by Tom and Viv



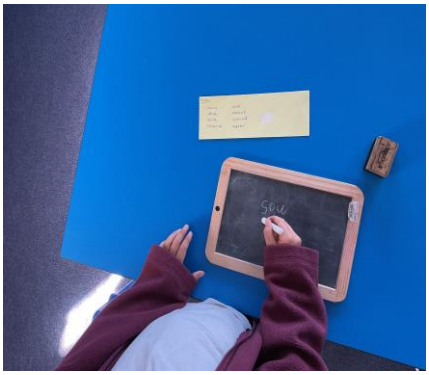


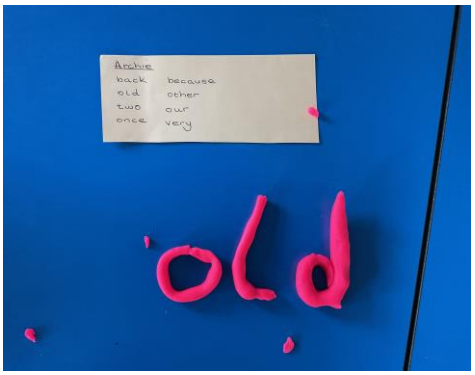


SRB

Children in the SRB have been working hard on learning their spellings this week. We use a multisensory approach to encourage children to think about the shape of the words and the letter formation. When a spelling is secure, we cross it off the list and add another. We focus on high frequency words which they are more likely to come across in reading and use in their own writing.







Dates for the Diary 2025/2026

Wednesday 1st October	Book Fair in school for 1 week, come along after school to browse through a selection of books and stationery available for you to buy.
Tuesday 7th October	Open Classrooms for all year groups 3.20pm
Friday 10th October	School Photographer in for Individual & Sibling photo's
Thursday 16th October	Flu Vaccination team in
Friday 17th October	Year 5 Cake sale at the end of the day on the playground. If the weather is wet, this will take place in the school hall.
Tuesday 21st October	Parents Evening 3.30- 5pm – more details to follow
Wednesday 22nd October	Parents Evening 3.30 - 7pm – more details to follow
Friday 24th October	Year 6 Weight & Height check
Friday 24th October	End of term at 3.20pm
Monday 27th October – Friday 31st October	Half term holiday
Monday 3rd November	Back to school – gates open at 8:30am
Thursday 13th November	SEND Cafe 9-10am
Friday 14th November	Children in Need – More details to follow
Tuesday 18th November	Open Classrooms for all year groups 3.20pm
Thursday 20th November	Flu Vaccination team in follow up
Thursday 11th December	Christmas Jumper Day
Thursday 11th December	Christmas lunch
Thursday 11th December	George White Christmas Fair 3.30 -5pm
Wednesday 17th December	Carols round the Tree 2.30pm
Friday 19th December	End of Term at 3.20pm
Tuesday 6th January 2026	Start of the Spring Term – gates open at 8:30am

Did you know?

11% of FSM eligible school children have not yet taken up the offer, according to the latest DFE data

Benefits of Free School Meals

Free School Meals benefit pupils, and schools too, in many ways beyond the simple financial support they provide to disadvantaged families.

Health

School dinners are healthier than the average packed lunch. Surveys have indicated that just 1.6% of packed lunches meet the Government's School Food Standards. They are less likely to contain fruit and vegetables and more likely to contain saturated fat, snack foods, sweets and sugary drinks than Free School Meals.

School meals have been proven to help reduce obesity. The introduction of Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) in the UK led to lower obesity rates.

Mental wellbeing

The security offered by Free School Meals can greatly improve pupils' mental wellbeing. Children from food insecure households are more likely to suffer with mental health problems. Teachers often see signs of anxiety in children who come to school hungry, according to a 2022 survey.

Also, we all know that children are sponges; it's easy for them to pick up on tensions at home and see the cost of their packed lunches or self-funded school meals contributing to their parents' problems.

Attainment

Hunger also has detrimental effects on pupils' behaviour. An overwhelming majority of teachers feel that hungry children tend to be excessively tired, distracted, and disruptive in school.

Unsurprisingly then, after the introduction of UIFSM, teachers reported that pupils' behaviour, concentration and readiness for learning all improved.

Lack of awareness of Free School Meals

Some parents don't realise that their child meets the criteria to receive Free School Meals. Children in state-funded schools are eligible for UIFSM throughout reception, year 1, and year 2. Therefore, parents are unlikely to look into the issue during these years, this does not mean they are not eligible. When their child transitions to year 3, they may assume their options are to start paying for school meals, or switch to packed lunches, which are often seen as a cheaper

Cost of living vouchers

If you are eligible for free school meals you will receive a monthly 'cost of living' voucher.

The vouchers are £15 per month, per child. Additional payments of £15 will be made in April for Easter, in July and August for the school summer holidays, and in December for Christmas.

To check if you are eligible to receive Free School Meals

Please visit www.norfolk.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals or ask for an application form at your school

FACE

October Timetable

All sessions delivered live online via zoom. 90 minutes long

£24 each or FREE with School Membership

Book online at facefamilyadvice.co.uk

Recordings available for 48 hours (excluding Free Talk)

Understanding The Teenage Brain	6 Oct 10am
Supporting Healthy Sleep	6 Oct 7pm
Supporting A Child With ADHD	13 Oct 10am
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	13 Oct 7pm
Autism Improving Communication	14 Oct 10am
Improving Family Communication	14 Oct 7pm
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	20 Oct 10am
Facing Defiance	20 Oct 7pm
Anxiety Based School Avoidance	21 Oct 10am
Understanding Anger	21 Oct 7pm
FREE - Raising Self-Esteem	**23 Oct 7-8pm**
Anxiety Explained	27 Oct 10am
Cannabis and Ketamine Awareness	27 Oct 7pm
What Is ACT?	28 Oct 10am
Introduction To OCD	28 Oct 7pm

FACE

FAMILY ADVICE · COMMUNICATION · EDUCATION

Are you struggling with a defiant child?







Facing Defiance

A six part online course for parents that you can complete in your own time. A step by step guide through a specific strategy aimed to support parents of children aged between 5 to 12 who are displaying very challenging behaviour, including children with ADHD, ODD and PDA.

go to **facefamilyadvice.co.uk**

Book online £48

on the **Online Parenting Courses** page