Autumn Newsletter

John Grant School

Working together, to be the very best that we can be

John Grant School * September 2026

Welcome to our first newsletter of the year! It has been a pleasure getting to know our new families and we have been really proud of how all of the pupils have settled into their new class groups. We have a variety of parent and carer events planned for this academic year and would love to see you there – please keep an eye out for our parents open evening information coming soon!

Useful dates

Tuesday 6th October - Tempest Photography
Thursday 22nd October - Parent/Carer Coffee Morning
Tuesday 3rd November - Parent/Carer Open Evening
Week Commencing 9th November - Empathy Week
Monday 30th November - Hairdresser

Parent-friendly schools Last year, the school was recognised for our work with parents and carers by achieving the 'Silver' Parent Friendly school award- you can find out more about this at www.parentfriendlyschools.org This year we are hoping to celebrate our work together further by achieving the 'gold' award – part of this may mean asking you to share your views about how we work together to support your child with a visitor from the parent friendly schools' team. If you would like to be involved with this please let us know by emailing Jo Mixer or popping a message in your home school book. **Thank you!**

Lunchtime club

This week marks the start of an exciting lunchtime club that will be accessible for all pupils in Primary, Secondary and FE. We have a Kuk Sool Won lunch club, a type of martial arts run by Antony from Kuk Sool Won Acle, starting this week that we will look forward to provide for our pupils each Tuesday. This is a very unique activity and we are delighted to be able to share it with the pupils!

Eco School

Eco-Schools We are delighted to announce that JGS has been awarded the Eco-Schools Green Flag with Distinction! 🌱💚 This achievement recognises the hard work and commitment of our pupils and staff in making our school more environmentally friendly. We are looking forward to another exciting year of Eco-Schools activities, working together to make a positive difference to our school, our community and our planet. 🌍

Empathy Week – Caring for Others

Empathy Lab

At JGS we are always looking for new ways to include our young people in local and national initiatives. In 2024 we signed up for Empathy Lab. This is an amazing company which supports schools across the country to deliver and support young people to develop their understanding of Empathy through the reading of quality books. Empathy Lab defines empathy as the ability to understand and share other people's emotions and perspectives. This can be a really tricky thing to develop for many of our students. Due to their neurodiversity and developmental stage, many young people develop this at a slower rate than others or they absolutely do have empathy but show it in a different way. The school has dedicated 3 weeks a year to work on Empathy Lab. Each Empathy Week has a topic - caring for others, Animal care etc. Students take part in activities and read books related to these topics. We invite external speakers in such as authors, charity representatives and sports people. The students have gained a huge amount from these opportunities and never fail to surprise us with their engagement and understanding. We will be sending home an information sheet with the dates and topics we will be covering during our empathy weeks. We will include practical and fun activity ideas for you to try at home. If you are able to do any of these at home or any other activities related to the topic, please do let school know. If you can send in pictures or photos too, we would love to see them! Each student in Secondary and FE have an Empathy lab journal. Anything you send in can be added to this too. If you would like to learn more- please have a look on the Empathy Lab Website- https://empathylab.uk/ or contact Heidi Alexander Deputy- Headteacher or Hayley Fraser- Literacy and Communication Lead in school.

Safeguarding Reminders

Our safeguarding leads in school are
* Heidi Alexander (Deputy Head)
* Jo Mixer (Specialist Parent Advisor)
* Belinda Brookes (Head teacher)

If you have any worries about safeguarding please do get in touch with us.

Attendance

Please make sure you let the school know directly via the school office if they are not going to be in – we are unable to accept this information from transport staff and may have to call you to follow this up during the day. Thank you.

PSHE.... Coming soon this term we will be relaunching the NSPCC Speak Out Stay Safe programme. This programme teaches children to understand that they have the right to be safe and what to do if they feel worried. More information to follow.

If you need any help feel free to contact me. Belinda Brookes, Headteacher
office@johngrant.norfolk.sch.uk 01493 720158

Let's Celebrate....Learning for Life Fortnight



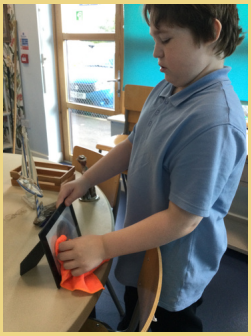






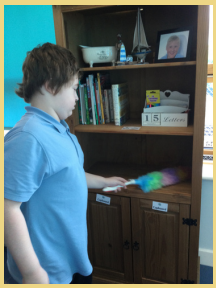


At the end of last term, we enjoyed our first Learning for Life fortnight in school where pupils had the opportunity to take part in a huge variety of different activities linked to practising lots of important independent living skills – **Well done** to everyone involved in planning this and to the pupils for trying lots of new experiences!











Term Dates

Autumn Term 2026

Thursday 22nd October 2026	3.15 pm School Closes for half term
Half term holiday Friday 23rd October 2026 to Friday 30th October 2026	
Monday 2nd November 2026	School opens
Friday 18th December 2026	3.15 pm School closes for Christmas Holidays
Christmas Holidays Monday 21st December 2026 to Monday 4th January 2027	

Spring Term 2027

Monday 4th January 2027	School Closed – Staff Training Day
Tuesday 5th January 2027	School Opens
Friday 12th February 2027	3.15 pm School Closes for half term
Half Term Holiday Monday 15th February 2027 to Friday 19th February 2027	
Monday 22nd February 2027	School Opens
Thursday 25th March 2027	3.15 pm School Closes for Easter Holidays
Easter Holidays Monday 29th March 2027 to Tuesday 13th April 2027	

Summer Term 2027

Monday 12th April 2027	School Closed – Staff Training Day
Tuesday 13th April 2027	School Opens
Monday 3rd May 2027	School Closed – Bank Holiday
Friday 28th May 2027	3.15 pm School Closes for half term
Half Term Holidays Monday 31st May 2027 to Friday 4th June 2027	
Monday 7th June 2027	School Opens
Wednesday 21st July 2027	3.15 pm School Closes for summer holidays
Summer Holidays Thursday 22nd July 2027 to September 2027 (To be confirmed)	

Norfolk County Council



Norfolk Crisis and Resilience Service

Ifyou’restrugglingto payforfood, energy or otheressentialcosts, you’renoton yourown.

We can supportyou in a crisisrightnow,andalsohelp you feel more secure in the future.

Apply for support

norfolk.gov.uk/crs

If you don’t have access to the internet at home, you can go online at any of our Norfolk libraries.

Who can apply?

You can applyifyou are16 orover, live in Norfolk, and are onameans tested benefit or working on a low income.

Crisis support

If you need urgent help right now

You can ask for help with:

- food
- energy costs
- oil

How to apply

1. Fill in the short online form or our website **norfolk.gov.uk/CrisisSupport**
2. We'll email you to ask for your most recent bank statement
3. Once we receive it, we aim to review your request within 48–72 hours

Resilience support

If you need more ongoing support

You can also ask fora full resilience assessment. This means talking through what's going on and getting joined up support so that money problems are less likely to come back again.

We can help by:

- Supporting you with money management, budgeting and reducing your bills/energy tariffs
- Checking if you're eligible for further help with food and energy, and other needs such as household goods or repairs to essential items
- Helping with applications for grants or other financial help
- Putting you in touch with debt advice services, and supporting you with first appointments
- Referring you to advice organisations and community groups, supporting you with first appointments
- Helping you access learning or employability support if work is part of the picture
- Supporting with Disability Related Expenses claims which may reduce social care costs

As part of your assessment, we will need to have a conversation with you about your situation. We usually do this over the phone. However, if you would prefer to speak to someone face to face, let us know when you apply and we can arrange for a member of the team to come out and meet you.

Apply here: www.norfolk.gov.uk/HardshipSupport

Apply online or get help another way

Youcan applyonline forboth types of support at:
www.norfolk.gov.uk/crs
However, If using the internet is hard for you, you can still get help. Call us on **0344 800 8020**. A member of the team will take your details over the phone, answer your queries and help you apply. You can then send us your bank statements by email to **crs@norfolk.gov.uk** or post them to Norfolk Crisis and Resilience Service, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2UE
We're here to help.

Whether you need urgent support or longer term help, please get in touch and we'll work with you to find the right support.

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June 2026

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