

Waveney Valley Newsletter



Autumn Term 1 | October 2025



Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a wonderful half term and as we head into the final week I would like to thank all parents for their overwhelming support. We received the results of our parent survey this week and the results are incredibly positive. Thank you for providing us with the insight into the progress we are making. Areas of the survey have provided us with areas of improvement which I will be sharing with you as the term progresses.

Start of the School Day - I have been asked to provide more information regarding the school day. There is a breakdown of times on our [school website](#) as well as [policies](#) which go into greater detail. The school day begins at 8:30 and children are expected to be in school for this time, this is when teaching and learning will begin with fluency tasks, reading, phonics and a variety of other valuable starters that our teachers provide. It has been lovely listening to Seedlings start the day with songs and nursery rhymes. Our policy and website stresses how important that 8:30 start is please see these for further details.

Reading - We love reading at Waveney Valley and we want your children to love reading too! We recently sent home a letter about all the wonderful things that we are doing for to encourage our young readers. I can assure you this is just the beginning.

On the 6th of November Mendham will be hosting a Scholastic Book Fair! Children and parents across both schools will be welcome to attend after school to browse the books and purchase them via QR code.

I would love to host this at both sites but unfortunately, we have to alternate it each year. If you are a St Eds parent and are interested in visiting the fair but you are unsure when to visit then please contact either office and we can let you know when and where to go.

Celebration Assemblies - If your child has achieved something outside of school, please let us know! Photographs, certificates, medals and many more things are all welcome additions to the celebration assembly, and we will try our best to celebrate them with you all.

Henry Huxtable, Academy Head

A message from Mrs Jones - 'Reading is crucial for a child's future success, as it is the single most important indicator of their educational attainment'. Only 1 in 3 (32.7%) children and young people aged 8 to 18 say they enjoy reading in their free time (National Literacy Trust).

With reading being such an important factor to enable children to access and then achieve in education, this academic year we will be focusing on developing a love of reading for our pupils. There will be lots of fun activities planned through the year. To get us started we have launched our first competition 'Where have you been caught reading'? Remember to email in photos of your children reading in unusual places. Due to a lack of entries, we will be extending the deadline to the 7th of November. The entries will be displayed and celebrated in school.

Year 6: Applying for Secondary School - Reminder that you need to apply for your child's secondary school place **by the closing date of Friday 31 October 2025**. Any issues please contact the school office who will try and help - you apply to your local council online even if applying for a school in another county

Safeguarding information - The DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead) for the safeguarding in school is Mr Henry Huxtable. The ADSL's (Alternative designated safeguarding lead) are Mrs Nicola Jones, Mrs Julie Rogers and Mrs Sheri Frearson. A copy of the safeguarding policy and all other policies are available on the school website. The Suffolk safeguarding Partnership website contains a wealth of information: www.suffolksp.org.uk If you are worried about the welfare or safety of a child speak directly to Mr Huxtable or Mrs Jones. If concerns are outside school hours, please contact Customer first on 0808 8004005 (24hrs). If the matter is urgent because a child or vulnerable adult is in immediate danger, phone 999.

Half Term - Our last day of term is Friday 24th October (St Eds pupils collection is from the church after the harvest festival). Pupils will return to school on Monday 3rd November.



Email:

office.mendham@consortiumtrust.org.uk

uk Tel: 01379 852520

www.mendhamprimaryschool.org.uk



Email:

office.stedmunds@consortiumtrust.org.uk Tel: 01379 668283

www.stedmundsprimaryschool.org.uk

Diary Dates



2025/2026



27th October - 2nd November Half Term

19th December Last day of Term | Christmas holidays 22nd - 2nd January | PD Day 5th January |
Back to school 6th January

Mendham

October

- 21st October - Sycamore choice menu.
- 22nd October - Cross Country at Mellis for KS2.
- 23rd October - Juniper class Library Trip

November

- *Autumn Term 2: Sycamore swimming every Monday.*
- 3rd November - Poppies available in school.
- 6th November - Bookfair at school all week
- 11th November - Remembrance service at Mendham War memorial: 11am
- 11th November - Parental consultations - All year groups.
- 12th November Flu immunisations for R-Yr6
- 13th November - Parental Consultations - KS2
- 14th November - Juniper Thetford High Lodge
- 18th November - Juniper Roman Day

December

- 11th December - Sycamore drama day at Hartismere High School
- 17th December - Christmas Lunch
- 18th December - Festival of Christmas at Mendham church 6pm (No ESC)
- 19th December - Last day of term

St Edmunds

October

- 21st October - Be Bright Be Seen Day
- 22nd October - Cross Country at Mellis for KS2.
- 23rd October - Beech Class Library Trip.
- 23rd October - Rowan choice menu.
- 24th October - Harvest Service at Hoxne church from 2.30pm

November

- 3rd November - Poppies available in school.
- 5th November - HPTA AGM at 3.15pm
- 11th November - Remembrance service at 8.45am in school
- 11th November - Parental consultations - book via Arbor.
- 13th November - Parental Consultations - book via Arbor
- 14th November - Beech Thetford High Lodge
- 18th November - Beech Roman Day at Mendham
- 20th November - Flu Immunisations for R-Yr6
- 21st November - Acorns Drop in Session for Reception 2026 and Nursery spaces.

December

- 11th December - Rowan Class Day of Drama
- 12th December - Enterprise Fair
- TBC December - Festival of Christmas
- 16th December - HPTA Diss Cornhall Panto
- 17th December - Christmas Lunch
- 19th December - Last day of term



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Academic calendar 2025/26

September 2025							
wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
36	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
37	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
38	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
39	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
40	29	30					

October 2025							
wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
40			1	2	3	4	5
41	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
42	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
43	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
44	27	28	29	30	31		

November 2025							
wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
44						1	2
45	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
46	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
47	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
48	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December 2025							
wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
49	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
50	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
51	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
52	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
1	29	30	31				

January 2026							
wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
1				1	2	3	4
2	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
3	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
4	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
5	26	27	28	29	30	31	

February 2026							
wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
5							1
6	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
8	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9	23	24	25	26	27	28	

March 2026							
wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
9							1
10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
11	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
12	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
13	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
14	30	31					

April 2026							
wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
14			1	2	3	4	5
15	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
16	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
17	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
18	27	28	29	30			

May 2026							
wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
18					1	2	3
19	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
21	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
22	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June 2026							
wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
23	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
24	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
25	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
26	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
27	29	30					

July 2026							
wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
27			1	2	3	4	5
28	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
29	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
30	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
31	27	28	29	30	31		

PD Days							
1/9/2025 - Statutory Training							
2/9/2025 - School Directed							
5/1/2026 - School Directed							
22/5/2026 - School Directed							
20/7/2026 - School Directed Wellbeing							

Mendham Primary School News



Email: Office.mendham@consortiumtrust.org.uk

Mendham Primary School

Mendham

IP21 0NJ

Tel: 01379 852520

www.mendhamprimaryschool.org.uk

HALLOWEEN



Pine Class

We have been using the glockenspiels and drums to represent the Mr Men characters using music and sounds. We then tried to guess which Mr Man each pair had chosen. These instruments were purchased with grant money and have been a good addition to the instruments we have in school.

During Art we have been creating face sculptures based on Picasso and Miro's techniques. These will be completed tomorrow, so look out for these amazing creations coming home!

Sycamore Class

In Sycamore this week we have been working hard on our literacy. We have been writing our final drafts of information texts about a chosen animal. We have had Barracudas to Golden Retrievers! The children have been working hard to include the skills they have been learning such as formal writing, modal verbs and conjunctions.



Seedlings Class

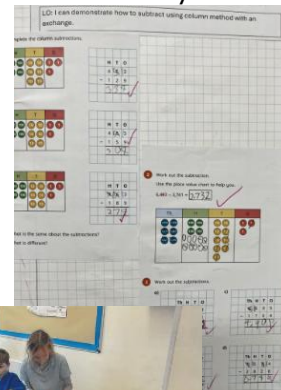
In Seedlings we have been reading the 'The Scarecrows Wedding'. We have discussed the role of the scarecrow and spoken about why they are important. The children then created our own vegetable patch using real vegetables, so we made our own scarecrows to keep the birds away!



Juniper Class

In Art we have been creating sculptures out of cardboard using Keith Haring designs as inspiration. We have had lots of fun, and we are looking forward to Painting them next week!

In maths we have mastered column subtraction! We have used lots of methods to support us with finding the difference and following a process. Well done everyone!



St. Edmunds Primary School News



Email: office.stedmunds@consortiumtrust.org.uk

St Edmunds Primary School

Hoxne

IP21 5AD

Tel: 01379 668283

www.stedmundsprimaryschool.org.uk

Oak Class

Pupils have been using the styles of Picasso and Miro to create characters/portraits in Art recently. This week children made pipe cleaner men before moving on to clay sculpture next week.

We have been learning about adding 3 numbers, using our knowledge of number bonds and doubles to help us, before moving on to developing our understanding of numbers beyond 20 using tens and ones.



Rowan Class

Rowan class have had a busy half term. In literacy they have written some fabulous adventure stories and will soon be writing a non-chronological report about an animal of their own choice. I am encouraging them all to read regularly at home. They receive stickers in class for regular reading. Please support the children by signing their reading diaries.

In maths we have been learning about factors, multiples, square numbers and primes.

In art the children have been creative and produced some amazing sculptures of human figures which they are hoping to paint once they are dry.



Acorn Class

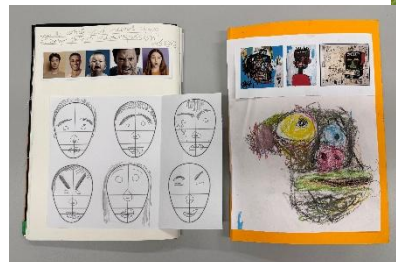
What a busy term we have had already! In Acorn class we had a wonderful time using conkers and autumn coloured paint to explore making marks. Children have been feeling very autumnal and have used lots of natural resources in our play and learning already this term



Beech Class

Beech Class have had a fantastic start to the school year, filled with new and exciting experiences! We've been exploring the human form through sculpture, diving into the fascinating world of the Roman Empire and discovering what life was like as a Roman soldier and honing our tennis skills on the court.

In science, we've been creating classification keys, while in maths, we've been challenging ourselves with column addition and subtraction. Our love of reading continues to grow through engaging library sessions and whole-class reading time. We can't wait to see what adventures the next half term will bring!





Waveney Valley News



A warm welcome and well done to our Reception pupils who have settled well into their classes and classroom routines, we look forward to watching them grow and flourish this year.



Sports

Some Year 3 and 4 pupils had the opportunity to attend a teambuilding afternoon at Hartismere High School. During the event the pupils took part in a variety of activities where they had to work together to cross a space of land without touching the ground, direct each other through a maze, walk on multi person wooden skis and carry a bucket full of ping pong balls with ropes without dropping it!

Well done to everyone who took part and worked together with their teams.



A team of pupils from St Edmunds Primary and Mendham Primary in Year 5 & 6 recently took part in a football tournament at Hartismere High School.

They displayed excellent team work and some impressive football skills and in their first match they scored 5-0 and went on to finish 5th overall from over 20 schools that took part.

We are very proud of them - they were great ambassadors for our schools

House Captains

We are the House Captains for St Edmunds Primary! We encourage people to come together and play as groups. We are an important part of welcoming people into the school by helping them make friends at play time. We are also incredibly competitive and value the role of counting our House Points. Currently Dove (Taliyah) are in the lead but everyone is working incredibly hard to catch them up.

We are looking forward to hosting an assembly for the school where we will explain how the 'Active 15' works for everyone. If your child has any ideas for playtime please tell them to come and talk to us! We would love to know more!



Science Ambassadors

We are the science ambassadors Logan and Teddy at Mendham Primary School, and we are excited to tell everyone about our role in the school.

We will be holding an assembly next week to explain all about our role. Our role will be to promote and engage pupils in physics during lunchtimes by using our lunchtime physics boxes. These boxes contain simple and practical physics activities that the children will be able to participate and engage with through the support and guidance of ourselves. We will explain and show small groups of children the concepts of physics in these practical activities.

We are very enthusiastic about this role and we are looking forward to seeing and hearing what the children learn!

