

Carrdyke Federation Newsletter



April 2nd 2026

End of An Era

Twelve years of producing our own meals came to an end today. Back in 2012 we had our hot meals supplied by a local company, then during the summer holiday we were notified they were no longer able to supply us. At the time there were no other suppliers to fall back on, in the end we sourced meals from the Girls High School in Sleaford, the food was brought to school by taxi at huge expense.

The Lincolnshire Food in Schools Team helped secure a grant to build our own kitchen and in 2014 our kitchen pod was delivered. The pod was built by the same company which supplied the London 2012 Olympics.

We opened the kitchen with Chef Gav taking the lead supported by Mrs Wright, some years later Chef Bev took over and refreshed the menu with a particular expertise in delicious deserts.

When Chef Bev left, Mrs Wright took over the running of the kitchen. In recent years, with rising fuel and food prices it has become harder to cover costs. By the time we returned following Covid, the kitchen was losing money that was the equivalent of a teaching assistant every year, so we set out to reduce costs wherever possible. In the last two years we have made significant

Mr Humphries and Ms Davies Walcott Lunchtime Assistant receiving the last delivery.

savings but with looming costs associated with the replacement of aging equipment and increasing repair costs the Governors decided that we needed to close the kitchen if an outside supplier was able to provide meals to both schools. So, it is with real sadness we have come to the end of the line with the kitchen. All our chefs have worked so hard to produce home made food from scratch wherever possible, and they have done this on a very tight budget. Not many school kitchens cook so much from scratch, this has been a massive achievement.

One of the unsung heroes of the kitchen has been Mr Humphries who has provided the food 'taxi' service. From the outset Chris has offered a hugely competitive service and never missed a day. He has picked up and dropped off the Walcott meals like clockwork. We could not have continued as long as we have without his help. Always cheerful and never a grumble we would like to wish him a happy retirement. On behalf of the Governing Body and children, past and present I would like to thank everyone who has been involved in our hot meals service and for making it the success it has been.

We are now looking forward to working with Good Lookin Cookin; if the tasting session was anything to go by we can look forward to delicious meals. The big difference is the hard deadline for orders, you will not be able to put in last minute orders as you have with our kitchen. Please make sure you have registered and ordered on line in time: <https://www.goodlookincookin.co.uk>

Menus are now available for those who have already registered.



| Mrs Mary King's dates | Walcott dates |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Term 5 Tuesday 21st April -Friday 22nd May • Term 6 Monday 1st June - Wednesday 22nd July <p>Monday 11th May SATS week Wednesday 20th May Farm Festival Thursday 21st May Class Four Metheringham Airfield Museum trip Tuesday 2nd June Sunita Patel the Indian Experience</p> <p>Monday 8th June Phonics Testing Week Friday 12th June Aylmerton Residential Weekend Wednesday 17th June Sports Day Wednesday 24th June Class Three Creswell Craggs visit Monday 20th July Federation Picnic Wednesday 22nd July Leavers' Service 2.00pm</p> <p><i>As you can see, we have a very busy and fun packed summer term with a lot of enrichment activities...</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Term 5 Tuesday 21st April -Friday 22nd May • Term 6 Monday 1st June - Wednesday 22nd July <p>Monday 11th May SATS week Wednesday 20th May Farm Festival Tuesday 2nd June Class Four Metheringham Airfield Museum trip.</p> <p>Monday 8th June Phonics Testing Week Monday 8th June Sunita Patel the Indian Experience Friday 12th June Aylmerton Residential Weekend Wednesday 24th June Creswell Craggs visit Monday 29th June Sports Day Monday 20th July Federation Picnic Wednesday 22nd July Leavers' Assembly 10.30am</p>  |

Staff Update

Mrs Beckingham (Class Three Mrs Mary King's) is currently off school until at least the end of April. Whilst she is off Mrs Osborne will be teaching four days a week and Mr Sewell will take the class most Monday's.

School Mission Statement and Governor Vision

The Governing Body are reviewing our mission statement which describes our aims, they are also drawing up a four-year plan called the vision statement. We are going to be sending you a link to a parent survey in the next couple of weeks where you have the chance to tell us what you feel the aims should be from a parent's perspective. Examples of the kind of things we may be considering in the plan are:

- Ensuring our small schools retain good intakes to make them sustainable
- Deciding on whether to remain local authority schools or seeking to be part of an academy trust.
- Giving all children increasing access to outdoor education through Forest School
- Improving KS2 SATS results to meet the government target of 90% achieving expected standard.
- Improving or sustaining KS1 phonics test results.
- Providing a wider range of free clubs.
- Ensuring all vulnerable children receive the support they require.
- Improving children's oracy skills
- Improving children's thinking skills and ability to cope in a world of fake news and AI generated material.

Look out for the survey and have your say, you will have chance to make your own suggestions too. In the end we will need a list of about six key priorities. The children have already been giving their ideas and needless to say outdoor education and a wider range of clubs are high on their priority list.

Early Help and TAF

When families are finding something tough, there is help available. We have a team of staff who are trained safeguarding leads and able to carry out Early Help assessments. The current team is Mr Sewell (designated safeguarding lead) Mrs Wheatley, Ms Edwards, Mr Churchward and Mrs Miller. These staff are DSL's or DDSL's.

What is Early Help?

Early Help is an assessment that can be made by the safeguarding staff and is normally done through a conversation where families have the chance to explain what they are finding difficult. The DSL's will put together a document that describes their worries and the family worries and identifies the help that they want. If school staff and families need more help and Early Help worker can be requested. They will work with the family, often helping them to make links with other organisations. An EH assessment can only be made with the families permission.

What is TAF

TAF means 'Team Around the Family'. This is the work that happens after an Early Help assessment has been made. There is normally a TAF meeting every six weeks where the family meets with the DSL and other professionals to review support targets that have been agreed. When a family and professionals feel that things have improved enough the TAF comes to an end.

Who can request an Early Help Assessment?

Anyone who is struggling can request help. Early Help is the first step in getting help for a very wide range of issues, people are often concerned that it is a referral to social services- it isn't. The kind of things Early Help is used for:

- Support for childhood medical conditions that impact family life
- Support when children's behaviour at home is causing difficulties.
- Families with parents who feel isolated and unsupported by family.
- Families where adults health issues impact on family life.
- Access to Young Carers support



Early Help is aimed at helping families to find their own solutions by:

- Accessing help from external organisations.
- Planning changes to routines and ways they do things in the home.
- Building stronger family and friends networks.
- Planning to access medical help and advice.
- Having space to analyse and think about the issue they are experiencing and finding solutions.
- Making plans to keep themselves and their family safe.

Church School



Thank you to all the staff and 'Friend of the School's' for arranging the Easter services and Easter egg hunts, it's been a lovely end to term.

Particular thanks to Mel and her team for arranging the 'stations of the cross walk' as part of our Easter service at Mrs Mary King's and all the parents who joined the event. I hope this was a memorable experience and will have helped the children to understand the story of Easter a little better.

Summer Events

As you can see from the diary we have a really packed summer of enrichment activities for the children. There are visits to some places you may not know much about:

Class Three Creswell Crags



Creswell Crags is a deep limestone valley in Nottinghamshire where there are caves that were inhabited by prehistoric man. They are the only place in Britain where cave painting have been found. The children get the chance to enter one of the caves to learn about our prehistoric ancestors. There is a large museum and visitors centre where the children take part in

activities such as sorting archeological finds like animal bones, making shelters and throwing spears... Find out more at: www.creswell-crags.org.uk

Class Four Metheringham Airfield Museum



Class Four's summer history topic is the the local area during the Second World War. The classes will spend a day learning about what life was like in our part of Lincolnshire when Metheringham Airfield was operating. They will learn about the aircraft and aircrew and how our part of Lincolnshire was on the frontline of the air war against Germany. Find out more at: www.metheringhamairfield.co.uk

Sunita Patel and the Indian Experience



Sunita Patel joins both schools again for a day of interactive workshops learning about Hinduism which is one of the world faithes taught about in the curriculum.

Children will learn about customs and traditions, take part in Indian dancing and dressing up in traditional Indian dress. Older children will take part in work that challenges stereotypes about India. Always a hugely fun day for all year groups. Find out more at: theindianexperience.org

Aylmerton Residential Class Four



A residential weekend in North Norfolk. Coastal walks, orienteering in the woods at Felbrigg Hall, team buiding and driving boats on the Norfolk Broads. A weekend of great adventures in spectacular locations, a very memorable experience for our older children. Briefing sessions will be held at the start of next term. Find out more at: www.aylmertonoc.co.uk

Improving Spaces



Now we have moved the library books into individual classrooms, the old library area at Mrs Mary King's is free to be used in other ways. Mr Leggett has stripped out the shelving and started to re decorate the space. The large plain wall is going to have a photo mural voted for by the children. Once finished the room will be set up for small group teaching with new tables and chairs to fit the space.

At Walcott we have a similar space that has proved to be really useful, it is also being re decorated and freshened up.

Picture News

TAKEHOME 30th March - 5th April

Bank of England 20 Euro

What should represent a country?

Twenty

£10

and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

In the news this week

The Bank of England, that designs and makes the UK's banknotes, has said that future notes will include British wildlife, such as animals or plants, instead of historical figures. At the moment, UK banknotes feature the British monarch on the front and well-known people from history on the back. However, some believe the back of banknotes should instead celebrate nature, showing animals, birds, or plants that live in the UK.

Things to talk about at home ...

- > Look at a coin or banknote you have at home. What pictures or symbols can you see on it? Why might they have been chosen?
- > Different countries show different things on their money, such as leaders, buildings, or wildlife. What do you feel money should say about a country?
- > Imagine you could design your own coin or banknote. What picture would you include and why? Ask someone at home about what they would choose.

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Picture News is a new assembly collective worship resource we have invested in and will use at both schools.

Each week there is a newspaper for the children to use in classroom and an assembly linked to events in the news that week.

This is an activity from the current weeks pack, if you are looking for something to do this holiday why not have a go....

Why not design your own Carrdyke Federation bank note? Share it in assembly next term or on the Facebook post that goes with this newsletter..



Working Together