



Freshwater & Yarmouth Church of England Primary School

Together for a Brighter Future

7th September 2026

Dear Parents

It has been wonderful to welcome the children to their new class and to begin to get to know them. We hope this letter will answer questions that you may. Please remember Dojo is there as a communication tool to ask questions and share concerns with us, particularly as it is difficult to talk at the gate at morning drop off due to our priority needing to be with welcoming and settling the children.

Class Name and staffing

This year Reception Class will continue to be called Beach Class to link with the locality theme that across all year groups. The teaching staff will consist of Mrs Haisell (Class Teacher Monday to Friday), although on alternating Mondays, Miss Sampson (HLTA) will lead the class to allow for teacher Planning, Preparation and Assessment time. Also supporting the class, we are pleased that Mrs Bird remains with the class. We are also pleased to welcome Miss James (Tuesdays) and Miss Sayer (Wednesday and Thursday mornings) to our class team. Miss Sayer is also a key member of the lunch time team in the hall, so will be an additional familiar face each lunchtime.

An important plea to save things getting lost

Can you please ensure that **all items of clothing**, including shoes and **all personal items** including water bottles, lunch boxes/bags are named so that if they get misplaced or forgotten they can quickly be located with their owner. If you find it tricky to name shoes, use some old paint or chalk pen to give a mark on the sole that children can identify them. Please check items periodically as names and marks do wear off.

Class Dojo

Thank you for signing up to dojo so efficiently as this is our main communication tool with parents during the school day. Class stories will be posted each Thursday to give you an insight into the children's learning that week. You will also see what dojo awards your child has been awarded each day – when children reach 25 dojos they will be able to choose a prize from our dip box before the counter is reset to 0 to begin again. Dojo monsters are randomly selected for children but they can be personalised at home with you via the app/website. Please remember to check admin dojo too as these are important updates from the office.

In line with our Conscious Community, please be mindful of the tone of messages that are sent via dojo as aggressive messages are upsetting and may be passed to our Senior Lead Team for response. Please know we are here to help you and do our very best for the children but we understand sometimes things can happen which parents want to query or seek clarification for. We aim to respond to messages as quickly as possible. Please be aware our School policy outlines that messages will be responded to within 24 hours – in working hours.

Headteacher: Mrs Elizabeth Grainger BEd English (Hons)
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A member school of the Federation of the Church Schools of Shalfleet and Freshwater & Yarmouth whose purpose is to educate children in an atmosphere of Christian love where all achieve the very best they can, now and throughout their lives.



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Book Bags

We actively encourage all children to have a book bag which they bring to school each day as these fit in the children's trays and space in class for personal belongings is very limited. Book Bags houses children's reading books and reading record and allows children to become independent with taking home letters and work to share with you. With all book bags looking identical, we also encourage children to choose a small key ring or distinguishing feature (sometimes children replace the strap) to help them identify their book bag more easily. Please do not transport water bottles and wet items in book bags as this can damage the paperwork and books within.

Change Bags

This year we are making change bags optional for parents as we will be keeping a small selection of spare clothes in class which children can use if they need a change of clothes during the day. We do ask parents to return spare uniform as soon as they can so that it can be put back in the cupboard for its next use. If you think your child will benefit from their own spare pants / socks etc in class, these can be brought in a named bag and stored in your child's tray in class.

PE Kits / Days

Beach Class will have 2 PE sessions a week Thursday and Friday. On these days children should come to school dressed in their PE kits and they will spend the whole day in PE kits. Please consider the weather and have a tracksuit for colder days as many PE lessons will be held outside. Shorts and a T-shirt are better for warmer days. Trainers are the most universal footwear which will be best for most PE activities. PE t-shirts can be purchased via Pendle (please ask at the office for more information) but we do recommend a non branded navy blue PE shirt with black shorts.

Forest School Day

We are delighted to let you know that children will receive fortnightly Forest School sessions with Mr McCarthy. Our Forest School Day will be a Monday, commencing Monday 15th September. To ensure Forest School is an enjoyable activity for children they will need a set of waterproofs in school because rain or shine, wind or sunshine, children will make the most of the school garden for this session. All in one suits or 2 piece outfits are fine for this – we recommend looking in the charity shops for these as children usually outgrow waterproofs before they wear out.

Forest School Kit should be in a named bag and are retained in school. At the end of a half term they will be sent home for a wash and a size check.

Wellies and coats

Due to the muddy nature of parts of our outdoor classroom and for participating in Forest School, children will require a named pair of wellies in class which will be retained on our welly rack. Children will also require a coat each day as we all know how changeable our weather can be!

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Snack time

Children can access our fruit station in class which is open every morning. Children can help themselves to a piece of fruit alongside a glass of milk (milk is free until a child's 5th Birthday – you will receive information regarding the Cool Milk Scheme). However, children are also invited to bring their own piece of fruit or healthy snack each day. Suitable items include fresh fruit, bread sticks, flaked fruit, dried fruit. Unfortunately biscuits, crisps, sugary snacks will need to be eaten at lunch time and not during our snack time. We ask that snacks are clearly named if brought in a pot – children will be helped to pop these in their trays when they arrive in class of a morning.

In line with our Healthy Schools initiative and to promote good oral health, we actively encourage children to bring water in their class water bottle – juice can be part of a child's lunch drink. The current EYFS curriculum has a huge push on teaching children about how to keep their teeth as healthy as possible. **We do have children and staff around the school who have nut allergies and carry Epi-Pens. Please be reminded that we are an ALLERGY AWARE school and ask that nut products are not brought into school. Thank you for your help with keeping our children and staff safe.**

Reading books

All children will be given their first reading book and reading diary before the end of the first full week back at school. Please look out for leaflets and handouts which will support you in developing your child's reading at home, alongside the work we will be doing in class. We cannot emphasize what a difference it makes to a child's progress when children read with family at home as well as school staff. We hope you will use information we send home to make reading at home a positive, nurturing time with your child and something that becomes a time of the day to look forward to.

Baseline Assessment

School Lunches

Within the next week, you will receive your log on details for our online payment and ordering system. This will allow you to order your child's school dinners and let us know if you would like them to have a cooked dinner, baguette or jacket potato. In the meantime, we will ask the children each morning if they are having a packed lunch or school lunch. Please take time to look at the menu (and look out for menu changes which are announced on admin dojo) and these should help you work out with your child which dinners they will enjoy and which they are unlikely to enjoy. We will always let you know if a dinner hasn't gone down well but we also encourage children to try new things. Children

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can switch between school dinners and packed lunch but please order dinners online once accounts are up and running.

Class Music

A helping plea

We hope that this letter answers some of your questions. We will be sending out half termly overviews and key dates for your diary very soon too. We look forward to working with our new families over the next year.

Tuesday 8th September 3:00 – 3:20 we will be hosting an Open Classroom session. If you want to come along to ask any questions or pop inside the classroom you are most welcome.

Our very best wishes
The Beach Class Team.

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