



Mousehold Infant and Nursery School    Mousehold Avenue    Norwich    NR3 4RS  
01603 427012    officemousehold@istnorfolk.co.uk    www.mouseholdinfants.com

26<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a lovely week at Mousehold with lots of Autumn leaves to have fun with, particularly in the Secret Garden. We are making good use of our outdoor learning environments whatever the weather, so please ensure your children come to school wrapped up warm during the winter months.

We have really noticed an improvement with traffic outside school at the start of each day, since opening the classroom doors a little earlier. Congestion has been eased. This has also helped the children when entering school as there is more space in the cloakrooms and it feels like a really calm start to the day. I know it has also helped parents who need to get to work or take children to other schools. Remember that we don't expect you to change your morning routine and the doors are open for 15 minutes at the start of the day, so no rush to get there for 8.40am.

There are still some occasions when there are dangerous manoeuvres in the middle of the road directly outside school, but on the whole most parents are showing a lot of respect and considering the safety of children and adults. Thank you for your cooperation.

#### **Children in Need fundraising**

Thank you for your generous donations last Friday. We raised **£285.17** for the charity.

#### **Non- Uniform day Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December to support our Christmas Raffle**

We will be holding a **non- uniform day on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December** in return for raffle prizes for the Christmas Raffle our Friends of School are running soon. All children can come to school in non-uniform even if you aren't in the position to be able to donate a raffle prize. Please don't worry about that. Raffle prizes can be chocolate bars, sweets, toiletries, cuddly toys or anything else you would like to receive as a prize.

Headteacher: Mrs Rebecca Westall    Deputy Headteacher: Mr Ian Tolson  
Designated safeguarding leads: Mrs Westall, Mr Tolson, Miss Wood. Miss Balachandre



## Partnership news

Mrs Derer our Parent Support Advisor works at Mousehold and George White Junior. If you would like support then please contact the school office at either school and we will arrange for Mrs Derer to meet with you. We understand that at different points we all need a bit of help and guidance.

## A message from our Mental Health Champions

### How Can we Nurture Family Life at Home?

Last Friday we celebrated Children in Need day and thought about the work of the charity. As many of you will know this organisation provides funding for so many charities that help many of us through different aspects of family life. You may have been on the receiving end of this and there is no doubt they do an amazing job. It's great receiving support, but are there things that we can all do to nurture a healthy family home life?

There is no doubt parenting is probably one of the hardest jobs that any of us have ever done. There are highs and there are lows, there are times where we feel broken and other times where we want to celebrate. A few words of advice taken from the 60 minute Parent by Rob Parsons combined with some practical ideas from us.

- Take time for yourself - you can't give out on empty. Some of us get up earlier to squeeze in some 'Me' time, others of us go to bed a little later, some of us if we are not working outside of the home might carve out a bit of time when our children are at school. We are all better if we get that time. It doesn't have to be complicated, time to read a chapter of a book, sit in a bubble bath, get some exercise, have a conversation with a friend or watch a favourite tv programme with your favourite bar of chocolate
- Most of us know that our children can become more challenging at home when we perhaps haven't spent much quality time with them. Although there are so many things that do need to get done as a parent, try giving your children little slots of time where they do have your undivided attention. The children may then be happy to play again on their own for a short time and the peace may well return.
- Using kind words and giving compliments. Life is busy, it is tough to always use kind words, many of us can do it with others but often find it harder with those we live with. Giving compliments to each other can happen naturally for some of us as we go through the week but for others of us just getting through each day can be challenging. A simple idea: You could have a jam jar with each family members name on it and everyone writes a compliment for others. Then enjoy reading them together.

Many of us remind our children that all they have to do is try their best, it's the same for us as Parents, we won't always get it right, but the fact we are 'trying our best' completely counts. Sometimes we are too hard on ourselves and we need people around us to encourage us on that journey. Who can you encourage this week?

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## Community News

Please see the attached flyers for events happening in our community.

## Safeguarding

### Our Safety Outside School Campaign

We have secured a sponsor for high vis jackets for all children. Smurfit Kappa and our School Council are working hard on the campaign to keep our children safe outside school. We are very grateful to Smurfit Kappa.

<https://www.mouseholdinfants.com/safeguarding/>

#### **Designated Safeguarding Leads**

**Mrs Westall, Mr Tolson, Miss Wood, Miss Balachandre**

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 8020.**

## Christmas Performances

Last year the children all performed for a video, that was shared securely on our school Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) for parents and carers to enjoy. This looked different in each year group and included songs, some dressing up, poems etc. Each class will do the same this year. We don’t feel it would be sensible to invite lots of parents into our school hall at this time and it will be far too cold for outside performances. We are hoping as the academic year progresses we can invite parents in again for Learning Cafes and as the weather improves we can think about outdoor performances and celebrations.

## Diary Dates

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December – Non-uniform day for raffle prizes.

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021 - Last day of term

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022 - First day back to school in Spring Term.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Rebecca Westall

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**Mousehold Hub**

**Free fun for Primary School  
aged children and their families!**

Book a free place at [www.norwichcentral.org](http://www.norwichcentral.org)

t: 01603 760497

Mousehold Hub, 22 Mousehold Ave NR3 4RS



**Sat 11th Dec**

**4-6pm**

Crafts, games, singing,  
yummy Christmas dinner,

Bible story,

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2021 AT 11 AM – 1 PM

## Pockthorpe Community Clean Up

Ketts Cave Park



### PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Last year a group of volunteers came together to try and improve the Council owned land at Kett's Cave and Sandy Park and run community events to help more people to enjoy these open spaces. Our group is called the Pockthorpe Community Group – we've used the old name for our part of the City. Over the last year, volunteers have removed a huge amount of, often dangerous, rubbish from both sites. We want to go further and work with the Council to continue to improve the sites – to promote biodiversity, to encourage more people to use them, and to make them a space that all of us can take pride in.

We've sketched out a possible plan of action (see over the page) and we would love to hear from you as to what you think about the plan and any suggestions you might have. We are holding a public consultation between 1 and 4 pm on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December, in the Scouts Hut on Mousehold Avenue.

Don't worry if you can't make it on the 4<sup>th</sup>. You can email your comments to us at [info@pockthorpecommunity.org](mailto:info@pockthorpecommunity.org) or phone us on 07757 418385. For more details of what we've been doing and how to get involved – go to <https://pockthorpecommunity.org/> or join our Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/httpspockthorpecommunity.org>



### POSSIBLE ACTION PLAN



#### Main Features

- open up nature paths at Sandy Park (1)
- build a set of steps to create a green corridor linking Sandy Park and Kett's Cave (2)
- create a wildflower meadow opposite the playground at Kett's Cave (3)
- restore the orchard to the north of the cottage at Kett's cave - adding raised beds for flowers/produce (4)

We have consulted with environmental experts as to the proposals – they've concluded that the changes would have a positive impact on the biodiversity of the area.

Please us know what you think!