



COLBY PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Colby

Norwich

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Website: www.colby.norfolk.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Christine Mead

Joint Chair of Governors:

Mrs Jill Aquarone and Mr Nick Bendy

Colby School News Issue 28: Friday 25th April 2025
The Week Ahead



Monday 28 th April 2025	Breakfast Club from 8am. £5. Selected Emerald children taking part in Orienteering and Problem Solving event at Gresham Village School this morning. Please send your child with a booster seat, if required. NEW Rounders Club with Mrs Snelling 3 – 4pm (After School Club available until 5pm). £5. After School Club until 5pm. £5.
Tuesday 29 th April 2025	Breakfast Club from 8am. £5. After School Club until 5pm. £5.
Wednesday 30 th April 2025	Breakfast Club from 8am. £5. Dance Club for Reception and Year 1 (including Sapphire Year 1) in Amber Class from 8.30am led by Miss Covell. Handball for Key Stage 2 on the playground from 8.30am led by Ben. After School Club until 5pm. £5.
Thursday 1 st May 2025	Breakfast Club from 8am. £5. Girls' Football Club with Hannah 3 – 4.15pm £5 (After School Club available after until 5pm). KS2 Boys' Football Club with Ben 3 – 4.15pm £5 (After School Club available after until 5pm). After School Club until 5pm. £5.
Friday 2 nd May 2025	Breakfast Club from 8am. £5. Fairies and Elves After School Club Special 3 – 4.30pm (led by our very own Heads of Little People). Games, art activities, tattoos and party food included. £5. After School Club until 5pm. £5. Family Friday on the playing field after school – you are very welcome to hang out after school.





Monday 5th May 2025: School closed for Bank Holiday.

Monday 12th May – Thurs 15th May 2025: Year 6 National Test Week. NO BREAKFAST CLUB AVAILABLE MONDAY – THURSDAY THIS WEEK DUE TO YEAR 6 NATIONAL TESTS.

Friday 16th May 2025: FOCS Fundraiser for Colby Kitchen at Aylsham Town Hall from 7pm.

Friday 23rd May 2025: School closes at 3pm for Summer half term. No After School Club today.

Monday 26th – Friday 30th May: School closed for Summer half term.

Monday 2nd June 2025: School reopens from 8.30am. No Breakfast Club today.

Friday 6th June 2025: School photographs (class, siblings and individual) from 9am.

Wednesday 18th June – Friday 20th June 2025: Year 6 Crazy Sleepover.

Monday 23rd June 2025: Aylsham High School Induction Evening for Parents.

Wednesday 25th June – Friday 27th June 2025: Induction days for Year 6 pupils going to Aylsham High School.

Friday 4th July 2025: Key Stage 2 Crazy Sleepover from 6pm! £10 per child.

Tuesday 22nd July 2025: School closes at 3pm for Summer holidays. No After School Club today.



Headteacher Awards

Annie (Emerald) for awesome spelling

Noah and Scarlett (Emerald) for stunning subtraction

Charlie D (Amber) for amazing adding in 10s and 100s

Milo and Remy (Emerald) for great knowledge of countries in the world

Hugo, Noah, Milo and Maia (Emerald) for thought provoking simile writing

Noah and Annie (Emerald) for brilliant maths

Milo and Hugo (Emerald) for excellent learning behaviour

Charlotte (Emerald) for earning a handwriting pen

JP, Sebastian, Lucas and Charlotte (Emerald) for Wall of Wonder work

Reuben, Jacob B, Harris, Bertie, William, Isabelle, Barney, Harrison, Harry,

Amber and Albert (Ruby) for fantastic science conclusions

Mia (Sapphire) for amazing reading!

Stanley W (Sapphire) for fantastic work at home

Olivia (Sapphire) for awesome fractions homework

Olivia and Evie (Sapphire) for superb independent Easter holiday writing

Louis (Sapphire) for making fabulous progress in reading

All Sapphire children

for being FABULOUS during our church visit and making Mrs Frost REALLY proud of you

Sapphire parents for being so kind with their time to transport us on our church visit

Brooke (Sapphire) for beautiful manners

Giles (Sapphire) for helping other children with their straw and pipe cleaner playground models

Oscar (Sapphire) for describing his bittern experience so eloquently

Arthur C (Amber) for amazing independent writing during the Easter holidays

Charlie (Amber) for fantastic independent multiplication skills

Ellie (Amber) for brilliant question writing in English

Arthur C, Arthur F, Bo, George (Amber) and Etta (Sapphire)

for great reading during the Easter holiday



FOCS Colby Kitchen Fundraiser

On Friday 16th May 2025, we will be holding our Colby Kitchen fundraiser. We will have live music, a quiz, a bar, and yummy buffet food prepared by Twist and Sprout (Herbie and Orin's Mum). This fun-filled evening is a good opportunity for the Colby community to come together and raise funds for such a fantastic project, The Colby Kitchen Refurb. Team numbers for the quiz will be 2 - 6.

Tickets for this event are limited and are selling fast. Ticket cost is £20pp and includes food. They can be obtained by contacting FOCS or Lorna (Herbie and Orin's Mum).

If you feel you can help with this event in anyway, whether on the day or in the preparation, please do not hesitate to contact us.



Colby Kitchen Summer term menu

Monday 19 th May	Cheese and ham pasta bake in white sauce, served with garlic bread, peas / sweetcorn. Yoghurt and fruit.
Tuesday 6 th May and 20 th May	Mince and vegetable bolognese served in a jacket potato with cheese, carrots and green beans. Fruit.
Wednesday 7 th May and 21 st May	Sweet and sour chicken, served with rice and prawn crackers. Yoghurt and fruit.
Thursday 8 th May and 22 nd May	Meatballs in tomato sauce, served in a sub roll with salad. Yoghurt and fruit.
Friday 9 th May and 23 rd May	Omega 3 fish fingers in a roll served with salad sticks (carrots, peppers, cucumber) and humus. Yoghurt and fruit.
Monday 28 th April and 12 th May	Cheese and tuna bake in a tomato and vegetable sauce, served with garlic bread, peas and sweetcorn. Fruit.
Tuesday 29 th April and 13 th May	Mince and vegetable chilli served in a jacket potato with cheese, carrots and beans. Fruit.
Wednesday 30 th April and 14 th May	BBQ chicken in a wholemeal wrap, served with vegetable cous-cous. Yoghurt and fruit.
Thursday 1 st May and 15 th May	Sausage in a roll served with salad. Fruit and cheese and crackers.
Friday 2 nd May and 16 th May	Pizza – cheese and pepperoni, served with salad sticks (carrots, peppers, cucumber) and humus. Fruit.



Introducing the Governors

Every school has a Governing Board. The roles of the Governors are many and varied but essentially they are responsible for setting the long term strategic direction of the school, ensuring money is well spent, monitoring educational outcomes for children and ensuring that the school is providing a safe and nurturing environment for all its pupils.

Colby has a Governing Board with a broad range of knowledge and skills from across the public and private sector, as well as Governors who have significant experience of working in primary school education. Some of us on the board have children currently at Colby, and some Governors sent their children here in the past, but one thing we all have in common is that we all live in the local community and care deeply about the school and welfare of the children.

As a Governing Board we meet once every 6 weeks to review everything from budgets, safeguarding, SEND, curriculums, attendance ... there is very little that takes place in the school that we don't check up on. In addition to our Board meetings we all regularly attend the school, watching lessons being taught, carrying out reviews of health and safety, and meeting with teachers to discuss curriculums. Each Governor has areas of policy that they are responsible for monitoring and that they report on back to the board.

All Governors are volunteers, but it is something that all of us on the Colby Board are very happy to do. In fact, I'd say it is a privilege.

We all know what a magical school Colby is, but being a Governor enables us a back stage pass to see what a really kind and inclusive school Colby is on every level, and how its ethos of 'everyone learns, everyone leads, everyone matters' runs through the heart of all that the school does.

It's really important that as a Board we listen to the views of everyone, that includes engaging with senior leaders, teaching and backroom staff, pupils, local residents, and of course parents.

If you don't know who we are, a full list of Governors can be found on the Colby school website – and if you have any feedback for us, or want to ask us a question, please come and talk to us at the school gate, at one of the upcoming FOCS events, or send us a message via Mrs Mead and the school office.

Colby School Governing Board



Amber Class Summer 1 Curriculum

Hello everyone!

This half term Amber class will be working on the topic of 'The sky' where we will explore lots of things about the sky. We will look at vehicles which fly in the sky, birds, space, the weather and much more. We have already asked the children things that they would like to learn from this topic and they came up with some amazing questions including "Why can't you stand on clouds?" and "Where does the sun go at night time?". We can't wait to have fun exploring this topic.

In English, Reception children have been doing amazing work practising reading and writing simple words. This term we will be writing short sentences all about the sky and things which interest us. We will continue to practise correct letter formation while writing our fantastic sentences. Reception children are getting more confident in speaking and listening but we will continue to encourage this through speaking in small groups and in front of the class. Year 1 pupils will create their own poems and write their own story about an adventure in the sky. They will continue to practise their independent writing while writing facts and lists around the classroom.

Reception children will be learning about different areas of maths through practical and fun activities. There will be lots of opportunities to count, read, recognise and order numbers to 20 both in the classroom and outside. We will think about simple addition and subtraction number sentences. Year 1 children will be continuing to explore place value up to 50 before beginning to think about multiplication and division as well as fractions. We do this through lots of practical methods and give the children lots of time to explore their new skills within the class.

In PE, we will all be learning about Cricket and Handball. Our PE days are a **Thursday** and a **Friday**. We ask children to come to school in their PE kit on PE days and they will stay in their kit all day.

We will be learning about the following topics in our foundation subjects:

- Science: Materials
- DT: Biscuit in a box
- Geography: Town or country
- Life Skills: Five targets from respectful relationships
- RE: What do my senses tell me about the world of religion and belief? Hindu/Jewish/Christian

As you can see we are going to be packing in lots of fun learning experiences this half term. If you have any questions feel free to ask any of the Amber Class adults or to send us a message via email or on Tapestry. Please remember to read the newsletter every week as that is the best way to keep up-to-date with events and important diary dates.

We can't wait to have lots of fun as we continue to learn and have fun.

Many thanks,
The Amber Class Team

Sapphire Class Summer 1 Curriculum

Welcome to the Summer Term in Sapphire Class! We look forward to being very busy, working hard and having plenty of fun!

English – Lots of our English work will focus on Colby School pets! We will begin by writing simple instructions on how to clean out our mice tank. We will write non-fiction reports on stick insects (we have 9 babies in Sapphire!) We will also be enjoying a super book, 'Christopher Nibbles' by Charlotte Middleton and sharing it with Nibbles, Astrid and Pickle, our school guinea pigs.



We look forward to sharing a lovely story and meeting a magical character, 'The Bog Baby' by Jeanne Willis. We will be writing character and setting descriptions for him. Year 2 children will be working hard to edit their own work for punctuation and spellings and Year 1 children will be checking that they have written in grammatically correct sentences. Spellings will still happen every Friday and will be posted on our Google Classroom.

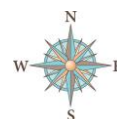
We have been SO pleased with the progress that some of Sapphire children have recently made with their independent reading! They have been reading EVERY day at home and the difference is obvious! Please make time to hear even just a couple of pages of their reading books with your child daily to help them to reach their reading potential. Asking questions about the text is also important and I have listed a few ideas to help. There are more ideas on Google Classroom under the READING topic. Of course, children who have had their record book signed by an adult more than three times in a week will earn an extra playtime too!

Maths - We will all be starting work on position and direction with Miss Everett on Fridays. Year 2s will be practising SATs style questions in preparation for May.

Yr2s will also be looking at telling the time and we would appreciate your help with this at home. Please help your child to learn to tell the time to the nearest 5 minutes. Children do not need to tell digital time until Year 3. To help us with time we have been counting in 5 lots at school and once again practising counting in 5s to 60 and back whenever you have a spare 5 minutes would be very helpful.

Yr1s will be starting simple multiplication and division. You can support them with this by practising counting forwards and backwards in 2s (to 30) in 5s (to 100) and in 10s (to 100). Year 2s will be practising SATs style questions in preparation for May.

Geography - We start this term with our 'Magical Mapping' unit of work which will see us use simple directions to move around simple routes, as well as looking at features on maps from aerial views. We will use compass directions and create our own sketch maps. The children will be planning a route around our school for the Bog Baby as well as creating a large version on our classroom wall!



Science – We will be learning about animal life cycles, including human. We will look at the different stages and growth of several creatures, including our Colby class pets!



Life Skills – marriage and long-term relationships. What it means and what different marriages and partnerships look like (including same sex marriages).

Design Technology – In our unit of work, ‘Let’s Play’ we will be designing prototypes of playground equipment. We will be trying our hand at using small hacksaws to cut small pieces of wood and then sand paper to smooth our work.

Computing – With Liz we will be practising our word processing.

PE – On Tuesdays and Fridays with Ben, the children will be practising cricket-based skills and handball. Teamwork and leadership skills will be on analysis. As always, we expect long hair to be tied up and no jewellery be worn on these days. Bringing a **named refillable water bottle** to school for PE days is essential for all children. PLEASE make sure that ALL clothing is clearly labelled.

Year 2 SATs - Year 2 children will be sitting their formal SATs assessments in the week beginning Monday May 19th. We approach our ‘special work’ in a relaxed manner and the children always enjoy exploring the brightly coloured booklets. Our children have had plenty of preparation for these assessments in school.

Helping your child at home:

- Practise using the computer keyboard to write a simple sentence.
- Play this game online to reinforce letter locality on a keyboard.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/games/interactive/activity-dance-mat-typing?exitGameUrl/http%3A%2F%2Fwww.bbc.co.uk%2Fguides%2Fz3c6tfr>

- With an adult, practise using a small hacksaw.
- Visit a local play area and look closely at the different equipment. What materials is it made from? Why? How is it joined?

As always, if you have any questions you know where I am!
Sarah Frost



Welcome to our new Secretaries

We are delighted to welcome our new Secretaries to the Colby staff team from next week. **Holly Smith** (Albie’s Mum), **Tara Emerson** (Poppy’s Mum) and **Amanda Fuller** (Ralph and Erin’s Mum) will share the Secretary role and join the team this half term to have some handover time with Mrs Smith.

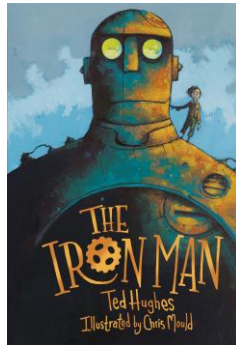
Mrs Smith will be with us until the end of this half term, Friday 23rd May 2025. We will enjoy every last minute with her before we say goodbye.



Easter Reading Challenge

Well done to the following children who completed the Easter Reading Challenge and received certificates and Headteacher Awards in assembly today (prizes will follow next week):

Arthur C, Arthur F, Bo and George (Amber) and **Etta** (Sapphire)



Emerald Class Summer 1 Curriculum

Welcome back! I hope you all enjoyed a lovely Easter break. It was nice to spend time in the sunshine! Thank you to everyone who offered support and kindness to me last term, the children were all so sweet and caring and it meant a lot.

This term is going to be jam packed with fun and exciting things for us to learn about. We have selected children going to an Orienteering challenge event as well as a church walk, running club and cooking to focus on and plenty more.

In maths we are going to be working on our fluency as well as written methods, measuring, money and fractions. We are going to have a times tables focus as well.

In English we are going to be reading *The Iron Man* by Ted Hughes. We have already written some beautiful similes about him and the children have enjoyed the first chapter. We are going to write some diary extracts and some stories.

In PE we are playing Handball and Cricket on Mondays and Wednesdays. These are two interesting sports and give us a chance to be creative and active. Our Colby Value is 'Analysis' this term so the children will be trying to break down the reason why something is going well or going badly and how to adapt. We have Running Club on a Thursday and we will be getting out for the Daily Mile as much as possible.

In Science we are going to be spending time in the garden, looking at plants and how they grow. We will learn about photosynthesis and design some interesting investigations to look into this.

In Geography we are going to learn all about Italy, where it is, what it is like there and how it is different from the UK. We are going to then spend some time looking at famous artists and architecture before learning about Pompeii. Our work on Italy will then lead into our Romans topic after half term.

Alice will continue with her Life Skills focusing on internet safety and Mrs Moulton will continue Computing on Thursdays.

Mrs Towers will be learning a fun, rhythmic song about football-playing animals in the style of a football chant. It will provide inspiration for recognising, playing from, and composing with crotchets, quavers, and minims. In art this term we will have a double session of Mosaics and Clay Sculpting! It's a great unit!

As always, it's really important to keep up with reading at home as well as some spelling and times tables. If you have time for Italian or Roman research then I am sure your children would be keen to learn at home as well.

If you have any questions then please get in touch.

Speak soon

Mr B



Ruby Class Summer 1 Curriculum

Welcome back.

I hope you all had a lovely Easter break. This half term is a very busy but short half term. This half term will have a focus on Ancient Greece. We will be learning all about what life was like in Ancient Greece in history, making Greek vases in art and the book we will be looking at in English is Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief.

Within English, we will be writing formal and informal letters. After that we will be looking at Roald Dahl's Revolting Rhymes and writing our own poetry. We will also be having a push on handwriting and punctuation this term. As always, the children will continue to get a weekly spelling list for them to learn. Please encourage them to learn these as well as encouraging them to read for at least 10 minutes a day and also to fill in their reading records.

In Maths, we will focus on measurements including converting between different measurements. This includes converting units of time and converting between the 12 and 24 hour clock. We will then finish the half term learning about negative numbers. We will also be looking at calculations and continuing to learn the times tables up to 12 x 12.

Our Science topic this term is about living things and we will be focusing on the process of reproduction and the life cycles of plants, mammals, amphibians, insects and birds. The children will explore reproduction in different plants, including different methods of pollination and asexual reproduction. The children will have the opportunity to take cuttings from plants, creating clones of the parent plant. They will learn about different types of mammals and their different life cycles. They will explore metamorphosis in insects and amphibians, comparing their life cycles. Finally, the children will explore the life cycles of birds.

This term we are lucky enough to have a teacher from Norfolk Music Hub coming in to teach the ukulele to the children. She will bring in her own ukuleles but if your child has their own then they are welcome to bring them in to use.

In Computing, we have been able to borrow some Crumbles from the Computing Hub and we will be using these to further improve our programming skills. These allow us to use our programming skills to make an object physically do something e.g. programme traffic lights.

In Life Skills this half term we will be looking at recognising differences and similarities between people and learning that they arise from a number of factors including family and personal identity. We will also learn about the correct terms associated with gender identity and sexual orientation and the unacceptability of homophobic and transphobic bullying.

In PE, they will be improving their handball and cricket skills and the Colby values we will be learning is analysis.

With Mr Mead in RE, they will be learning about Hindu beliefs and how they express their religion and in French they will be learning how to talk about hobbies, picnics and holidays.

As always if there are queries please contact me on wtowers3nr3@nsix.org.uk
Mrs Wendy Towers



Amethyst Class Summer 1 Curriculum

Hi, I hope you all had a great Easter! This is such a short half-term that some units of work will need to continue after the week off, but largely it will be based around getting the best scores possible in the upcoming tests.

Maths: In the last few school days before the tests, the main thing the children need to practise now is accuracy and reading the question carefully. We have just a few days to practise mixed questions and applying what the children have learned. Mr Mead and I will continue to work hard with the children to maximise their chances of doing their best.

English: In our last few weeks before writing assessment, we are full-steam ahead with creating a six-piece portfolio of our absolute best work. This is assessed in May/June. We have three great pieces already and I aiming for three more pieces. This half term, our key text is still 'The Thousand Year Old Boy' and we are going to use that to create a balanced argument. After that, we will move onto 'Rose Blanche' and create eyewitness reports. Spelling homework is simple this half-term. I would just like the children to complete 20 games a week on the whole KS2 spelling lists they will see on their homepage.

Science: We will be making a start on exploring the circulatory system in the human body.

Geography: We are starting off our learning about mapping which builds on previous work in Ruby Class.

P.E: (Wednesday/Friday): We are practising our Cricket skills on a Wednesday and handball on a Friday. The theme of this half term's work will be children analysing their own performance.

R.E: We aim to explore how and why religion brings peace and conflict.

Art: We are looking into the work of Antonio Gaudi and using his building as a source of inspiration for collage work.

Computing: Liz will teach 3D modelling followed by sensing.

Life Skills: We will be looking at legal and illegal/harmful substances.

As always, if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mr Frost



Budget news

With so much media coverage about cuts and challenges with school budgets, I thought I should share the good news that Colby School showed a surplus budget at our budget setting meeting with the local authority last term. This means we currently have enough funds to maintain staffing levels and necessary expenditure over the next 3 years. This is great news - thank you to the whole Colby School community (including children, staff, parents / families, FOCS and governors) for helping us to achieve this. Our budget remains tight but we are delighted we are not in deficit, like many schools across the country.



September 2025 Reception

It was lovely to receive the list for new Reception children for September 2025. Thank you to everyone who has chosen Colby School for their children to begin school life.

I will be contacting parents next week (if you haven't already heard from me) but thought it would be useful to let you know the following dates. We will be holding an Induction Meeting on Tuesday 24th June 2025 from 9.15am. This Induction Meeting is for parents / carers only and is an opportunity for you to meet Reception staff and learn more about Colby School. You will also be able to purchase school uniform.

Your child will be invited to join us for an Induction Morning on either Wednesday 25th June 2025 or Thursday 26th June 2025 or Friday 27th June 2025 from 9.15am to 11.45am. I am sure children will enjoy beginning to get to know their new class-mates and the adults who will look after them. More information about the Induction Morning will follow at the meeting on Tuesday 24th June 2025.

If you have any questions before then, please do not hesitate to contact me on

head@colby.norfolk.sch.uk

I am sorry to the disappointed families who were not allocated a place at Colby School - we were over-subscribed this year. Wishing you every happiness at the school you have been allocated.



Keeping safe on the Colby School lay-by

Parents have commented to me that a few of you are driving very fast onto the car park. We'd rather your child was a bit late than have an accident! Please drive safely.

I've also been told that cars, particularly 4x4s, that drop their children off in the first entrance and wait for them to go in gate are obstructing the vehicles going in and out. Please be mindful of where you wait and check you are not blocking the view of the road.

Thank you for your help in keeping us all safe.

Christine Mead