

Ad Meliora Academy Trust – Parent and Carer Newsletter Spring term 2025



2024-2025 academic year

Happy New Year! We hope this newsletter finds you all well. A new term is always exciting, with new Trust projects. Much has happened since the last Trust newsletter in October.

Our first cohort of pupils have started with us at our Astra base. A huge welcome to our new pupils and their families. We look forward to working with you over the next 2 terms.



Learning beyond the classroom

Children love to have the chance to learn away from their classrooms. Learning outside or in unfamiliar places, gives children different opportunities to: -

- Assess risks,
- Experience new things and places,
- See things they have been learning about in the classroom,
- Meet new people from different places,
- Develop their confidence.



Teachers across the Trust provide lots of different opportunities for pupils to learn away from their classrooms.....

The outdoor classroom in the Early Years

In the Nursey and Reception years, children use the outside area for their learning and play throughout the day, whatever the weather. In these early years, children really benefit from spending time outdoors; it helps them to make good progress, particularly in their personal, social, emotional and physical development.



Forest School

Forest schools is the name given to an outdoor learning and play approach that takes place in a woodland or natural environment. At Forest Schools, pupils have hands-on experiences like building shelters, nature walks and exploring, wildlife observation, plant identification, outdoor craft making and campfire cooking. All of these activities help pupils with their well-being, resilience, confidence and independence.

Local visits

Teachers use the area around our academies to take their classes on local visits. This helps pupils in lots of ways – it gives them hands-on experiences linked to the learning they are doing in their classroom and it gives them ideas of places they could visit with their families at the weekend.



Visitors in school

To help bring the curriculum alive, teachers arrange for experts to come into our academies to talk to the children and provide them with experiences that are different to what we would normally do at school.



Having 'experts' in the classroom inspires pupils to find out more and helps to really bring their learning alive.

Enrichment trips

Enrichment trips are usually away from our academies and are ones where we get there on a bus or sometimes on the train.

Enrichment trips are an incredible way to support learning across all subjects: -

- Children learn in different ways
- They bring subjects to life
- They can apply things they have learnt in the classroom
- They get the chance to be responsible outside of their classroom (for example manage their belongings)
- Trying new activities, exploring unfamiliar places, and overcoming challenges.



School trips are often the things that children love most about their time at school. Many adults fondly remember their favourite school trip, whether it was visiting a museum, exploring a zoo, or travelling to a new city. These memories not only hold sentimental value but also a reminder of how exciting learning can be.



Nursery

Across the Trust we have a Nursery at Greenpark and one at Reffley. At Blenheim Park, we have a close relationship with Happy Faces Pre-School which is based at Blenheim Park and run separately from the academy.

Why should children go to nursery? Many parents send their child to Nursery so they can return to work knowing their child is safe and well cared for.

There are huge benefits for children who attend nursery including socialising, learning new skills, boosting their independence and confidence as well as getting them ready for school. If you have a child who is of Nursery age and not already in Nursery, you can find out more from our academy office teams:

Greenpark – 01553 772018 office@greenpark.norfolk.sch.uk

Reffley – 01553 671045 office@reffley.norfolk.sch.uk



How does the Trust manage money?

Each year, the government allocates money to the Trust using a formula that ensures funding is fair and reflects the needs of the pupils in each academy. This formula takes a number of factors into account such as the number of pupils who are on roll and the location of the school or academy.

The Trust decides how to use this funding. Most of the money is spent on paying staff, but it is also used for other costs such as classroom resources, energy and maintaining our buildings.



Premises Projects



Blenheim Park – Our main projects at Blenheim this year will be in the hall. We will be refurbishing the toilets and re-staining the floor over the next few months. Our hall at Blenheim is such a great space, we are keen to improve the facilities there.



Greenpark – the installation of the log cabin has taken much longer than we planned but we are nearly there with getting all the required utilities in place. We are expecting everything to be finished by the time we come back after February half term (fingers crossed!).

We are further along in the process of applying for planning permission to build another playground at Greenpark. The playground will be built between the academy and the nursery buildings. We are still on track for this to be built in the Summer holidays (July and August 2025).



Reffley – We have 1 main project at Reffley this year. We will be refurbishing the hall over February half term and during the Easter holidays. We are also looking into installing acoustic panels to try to improve how sound travels (and amplifies) in the hall.

Attendance

There is much in the news about school attendance and the importance of children being at school every day.

Why is school attendance so important?

Good school attendance is not just about statistics. It really makes a difference to how well children do at school and how much they learn. It also helps them with their friendships and confidence.



Lots happens each day at school, we don't want anyone to miss out!

We know that some pupils find it harder than others to attend school and therefore at all stages of improving attendance, we work with families to find ways to enable pupils to come to school every day.

We have Family Support Advisers in each academy, they are skilled at supporting parents and carers and helping to find solutions to getting children to school each day. Their contact details are below: -



Ms Di Parkinson, Family Support Adviser

Blenheim Park Academy

01485 528368

office@blenheimpark.norfolk.sch.uk

Greenpark Academy

01553 772018

office@greenpark.norfolk.sch.uk



Ms Claire Hodgson, Family Support Adviser

Reffley Academy

01553 671045

office@reffley.norfolk.sch.uk

Our Trust and Academy websites

<https://www.admelioratrust.org.uk/>

<https://www.blenheimpark.norfolk.sch.uk/>

<https://www.greenpark.norfolk.sch.uk/>

<https://www.reffley.norfolk.sch.uk/>

