Executive Headteachers' Bulletin
Summer A 2026



The CARE Federation

Welcome to the Summer term and a bumper issue of my bulletin!

Over the Easter break the much loved, but now condemned, pirate ship at Sparhawk was dismantled. The school and their Friends are working on an exciting new project for this area. The allotment at Woodland View has also been progressed with a gravel path and fence created to make this area more accessible and safer.

The Summer term in school is always a mixture of being in the present and looking to the future. There is lots of learning and fun still to be had: we will be reading, writing, calculating, sharing and socialising, with more opportunities for outdoor learning, trips, fayres, sports days and so much more. There are also assessments for some year groups to prepare for and transitions to new year groups to plan for. Not only this, read on to find out about several other important projects that we will also be working towards before September!

Ms Jordan



Governing Board

Hannah Collison-Smith – Local Authority Governor



Hannah, originally a Sparhawk Governor, has been part of The CARE Federation Governing Board since September 2024. Hannah brings extensive experience to the board, most notably through her work with Norfolk Children in Care. As well as bringing an awareness of the LA viewpoint and priorities to the board, Hannah also has responsibility for the EYFS curriculum.

Individual Schools, Together
Sparhawk ARC

Learning from each other and sharing successes is a strength of federation.

From September 2026, Sparhawk will be running their own before and after school care, called The Sparhawk ARC. We thank Premier for their service over many years but look forward to our new adventure. There is lots to do over the coming term including resourcing our new offer, ensuring all relevant policies are in place, gaining environmental health approval to provide food and appointing staff. Our very successful model at Spixworth and Woodland View means we are very confident in what we need to do and how we can make this offer as successful as possible. We look forward to sharing more information with you about our offer including how to book! We want our offer to meet your needs, so please look out for a quick survey coming soon which will inform our final decisions.

Attendance



The end of the Spring term saw many certificates of congratulations awarded to classes and individuals for great attendance. Our schools all have an attendance target of 96%. This accepts occasional illness may happen but prioritises maximum learning time in school.
To read more about our attendance procedures go to:
Attendance Policy

Parent Feedback

Thank you to everyone who responded to our 10 questions over the past two terms. All feedback is hugely helpful – here is a quick summary…

Question 1: The main reason you chose our schools for your children was due to how you felt on initial visits – we love this! We are a family and will continue to do all we can to make everyone feel welcome and heard in our schools.
Question 2: Your feedback on communication has already seen us change our email approach. We will continue to use your feedback to inform our communications moving forward.
Question 3: Most children are reading 3-5 times per week at home. Our English leaders found this information very helpful in planning improvements for our reading curriculum.
Question 4: Most parents had a strong understanding of attendance and how this links to safeguarding as well as pupil outcomes.
Question 5: You have said your children know about our approach to behaviour (rewards and consequences) – the children have said the same in school!
Question 6: Most children have good wellbeing most of the time, but special occasion days can cause some distress. This is really important information and is being reflected on carefully.
Question 7: Keeping up to date with online safety is important to you – we will continue to share latest advice in multiple ways.
Question 8: You feel positively about our schools being Rights Respecting, but some of you would like to know more – we will make sure that happens!
Question 9: There was a mix of responses related to the Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS). This is still quite new, so we will continue to share.
Question 10: The vast majority of those who responded would be happy to continue with this style of feedback in future. Thank you.

Safeguarding

Last half term, we took a sample of pupil voice to check how confident children were in ways to keep their bodies safe.
I'm pleased to share that every infant child asked, knew what to do if someone forgot the PANTS rule (Say 'No/Stop' and tell a trusted adult) and every junior child knew a safe response to being sent, or being asked to send, an explicit photo (don't keep it a secret, tell a trusted adult, understand consent).
To support from home, go to:
Let's talk PANTS with Pantosaurus! | NSPCC
Keeping children safe online | NSPCC

Staffing Update

Mr Boyd, ARC Play Assistant, is taking the next step in his career and moving on. We wish him every luck and success and thank him for his care and dedication over the past two and a half years.

Miss Judd, Clerical Assistant and MSA at Woodland View has made the decision to resign these posts. We thank her for her contributions to the team but we will not be saying farewell... Miss Judd is joining us as After School Play Assistant in the ARC!

Finally, congratulations to Mrs Beaumont, Sparhawk Teacher, who is expecting her first child in the new academic year! We are all so excited for her!

Policies

Where appropriate, our policies are for all schools. Key points from key policies:

Safe Touch policy

We have a Federation Restrictive Intervention and Safe Touch policy. Over Easter, this policy has been amended in line with a National update. The main change is the requirement for schools to provide written information to parents/carers if any physical restriction has been necessary. At The CARE Federation, it is rare for any physical restriction to be needed and if this is likely, a plan will always be in place that is created with the family and school together. We have always kept written logs in school and provided verbal feedback to parents/carers if any holding or guiding has been necessary to keep a child safe, but in line with this update, we will now also ensure a written record is shared. Our policy can be found on our website and if you have any questions about this, please speak to your Head of School.

Sparhawk Nursery Project

At the end of last term, it was my pleasure to share with Sparhawk staff and families that a bid made for DfE funding to extend the nursery at Sparhawk was granted in full! A significant building project will take place over Summer to remodel current spaces and provide 21 more places for children from age 6 months. The current, all-year-round nursery will remain open throughout. The extended service, which will be run in partnership with Stepping Stones will further support the community and also help to secure the long-term sustainability of the school. The current staff room will be relocated, the current office reduced in size and photocopier area repurposed to enable the remodelling. This is a fantastic opportunity for the school and the local community and shows exactly how we live our values of CARE: Community, Adventure, Respect and Excellence. We have already received some expressions of interest for places and are accepting these for a start date in early September. Please contact the office or email: sparhawk@steppingstonesdaynursery.org for booking information.

Sparhawk ESP Project



At The CARE Federation, we believe that every child deserves the best school support possible. To meet the needs of some of our children our schools have developed spaces and places beyond the classrooms (Enhanced Specialist Provisions) to meet these needs. I am thrilled to have achieved funding from the Local Authority to improve this provision at Sparhawk. A largely unused space at the back of the current library will be repurposed to provide a bigger, more central area that will be specially resourced and have direct access to accessible facilities. This means more children will be able to use this space for short or longer periods of the day. Ultimately this means every child receives better attention – children who need something additional to or different from the standard classroom can access this, and children who can thrive in the classroom can do this without distraction. Every child matters at Sparhawk.

Spixworth and Woodland View Lunches

The lunchtime catering contract at Spixworth and Woodland View is currently with Edwards and Blake. This contract ends after this term and we are excited to have found a provider whose food we are sure your children will love. Apetito meals (part of Wiltshire Farm Foods) are cooked by professional chefs, fresh frozen and delivered to schools for final preparation. The standard of food quality, including safety related to allergies and intolerances, is exceptional. We will soon be offering tasting sessions for children and parents and will be able to put meals on the menu based on direct feedback from you and your children, chosen from over 200 meal options. We will share dates and updates as soon as we have them. If you would like to see more about Apetito, you can browse their website (and sample menus) here: School Meals Service |School Meals| apetito

Spixworth Flexi-School Project

Flexi-schooling is an approach to education that some parents desire where children attend school for a set number of days and are home-schooled on other days. There is an increasing number of families choosing to home-school their children but who, for a range of reasons, would like some in-school time for their children, too. Recognising this group and wanting to support more families, Governors have agreed for us to explore the possibility of offering a vertically grouped (YR-Y2 in the same class), flexi-school class based at Spixworth Infant School. This offer is not aimed at current families and would not change current options linked to phased entry to Reception class or part-time timetables for children with a specific need for this. The flexi-school class would be a completely different offer to the main school, with a bespoke flexi-compatible curriculum offer. A clear and strict contract would exist between the parent and school that would include reasons to withdraw the flexi option (e.g. safeguarding or attendance concerns). We are currently investigating if there is sufficient appetite for this before we continue with next steps.