

Ormesby Village Infant & Junior Schools Federation

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HEADTEACHER'S TERMLY NEWSLETTER – SUMMER TERM 2024

Welcome Back!

We hope that you have all had a relaxing Easter break and we hope you, like us, are all looking forward to what successes and achievements the final term in this academic year can bring. Our Summer Events' calendar has been sent home and is available on our websites, so that you can see what opportunities we have coming up. We are sure you will agree that there are lots of exciting things to enjoy.

Staffing Update

Across the Federation, we continue to be without Ms. Newman for Year 6 whilst she recovers from her illness. We will now also be without Mrs. Allen, from the Reception class, due to a period of medical absence. Mrs. Taylor and Miss. Roscoe will be jointly covering this class. We wish both Ms. Newman and Mrs. Allen speedy recoveries. Furthermore, Mrs. McNulty will be beginning her maternity leave towards the end of June and unfortunately as previously arranged, Miss. Cuthill will not now be able to cover her again due to a successful permanent appointment elsewhere. Despite this, we are pleased to announce that Mrs. Bird has agreed to cover the final month of term full-time to ensure continuity and consistency for the Bumble Bee class.

Governors

We will be undertaking another Governor Challenge Day this half-term, where some of our Governors visit to observe and to speak to staff and pupils about varying themes linked to our Federation and Development Plan. The focus this term will be behaviour and how children conduct themselves throughout lessons, breaks and assemblies. They will also be observing how positive behaviour is promoted, how children are supported pastorally and how behaviour that falls short of expectations is dealt with. We will be looking for a new parent Governor soon, who can add to our already effective team, so if you are interested, please keep an eye out for the letter regarding this. If they can be of any help to you, as parents, please inform the office, who will advise you on how best to contact the Chair of Governors, Mr. Clive Sillitoe.

Online Safety

In modern society, keeping children safe online is just as important as keeping them safe in person. We give the children instruction on how to stay safe online, we have conducted whole school assemblies on elements of online safety and we have shared safety guidance to parents from www.nationalonlinesafety.com. We want to encourage all parents to ensure they are monitoring their children's online activity more closely and to ensure their children's communications with others on their mobile devices and/or social media platforms are appropriate and respectful. This reminder has come about due to a roaming WhatsApp group that we recently informed you all about that was including young children.

Statutory Assessments

As is the norm at this time of year, the SATS will be taking place for Year 6. Children in Year 4 will be sitting their multiplication check and pupils in Year 1 will be completing their Phonics Screening Check, along with those pupils from Year 2 who were unable to achieve the necessary threshold from their previous school year. As a result, we will be ensuring the pupils work as hard as they can to improve their understanding and reduce any gaps in their learning. This is still a fantastic opportunity to showcase what the pupils know and will certainly give us areas to work on further with them before they move on in their educational journey. We have spent key moments of our year preparing them for these tests and we have every faith each child will do their very best when the time comes. We have every faith that our Boosting sessions for Year 6 pupils that began at the beginning of the Spring term will reassure and build confidence.

Year 6 SATS Breakfasts

We are thrilled to be able to offer the Year 6 pupils the opportunity to have free SATS breakfasts each day during their SATS week, once again this year. It is a fantastic way to not only calm the nerves, but to also generate that sense of team spirit and camaraderie. A letter and tasty menu will be sent home to take a look through and we hope pupils will look forward to taking part. We are sure there is something available, which will tantalise their taste buds. If your child is a vegetarian or has a specific dietary requirement this is not a problem, as an alternative will be available. Please inform Year 6 staff, if this is the case. This offer is by no means compulsory, but it would be amazing to see everyone there alongside each other; relaxed and ready to start each day in the right frame of mind.

Residential and Trips

This term, our Year 5 pupils will be attending Whitwell Hall for their residential during the week 13th May – 17th May. This will be enjoyed by all attending and it will be a fitting experience for our pupils before they join Year 6. A briefing after school will be taking place soon for those parents and pupils attending on Tuesday 30th April at 3:30pm in the Junior Hall. As has been throughout the year, class teachers continue to organise trips to enhance the learning opportunities open to the children. Keep your eyes peeled for letters regarding future trips.

Ormesby University Graduation

After launching Ormesby University in the Autumn Term, We are hoping children have been busily collecting their signatures for attending different extra-curricular activities and clubs. On Wednesday 10th July, we will be conducting a graduation ceremony for all those pupils who have completed their University booklets in St. Margaret's Church. Final day to collect signatures on will be Friday 14th June and no further will be accepted after this date. This will give the school sufficient time to understand the pupil numbers involved for the ceremony and order the correct number of robes. We are looking forward to seeing all those who graduate.

Curriculum Learning

We are regularly reviewing and enhancing our curriculums to ensure all our pupils continue to get access to stimulating, fresh and balanced learning. We are extremely keen to continue the development of our outdoor learning provisions in both schools and will be undertaking staff training from LOTC (Learning Outside the Classroom) across this term. Our infant team have re-written the curriculum turning it into a single-year cycle taking out all the most popular learning from the previous three-year cycle. Our Immersive Classroom at the Junior school continues to provide awe and wonder for all pupils and recently we had a visit from the Chief Executive of Norfolk Children's Services, Sara Tough, who enjoyed the experience of the space immensely. I hope the positive reach of our Federation will continue to spread.

History Quality Mark

This year, our Junior History Subject Leader has been working extremely hard to achieve a Quality Mark in History, which would provide external validation of the strength of the subject and how successfully it

is organised and taught to the children in our school. Across the Federation, our subject leaders work collaboratively to ensure practice is consistent and both settings benefit from training and guidance from external specialists. We are also looking forward to seeing what the cross-phase projects will be across the Federation this term because we love seeing the older and younger children working together.

Summer Fayre

We are hoping to host another Summer Fayre on Friday 12th July 2024 on our Junior playing field. Last year was a true success, despite the rain forcing us to move indoors, and we hope this year will be the same. If you wish to run a stall at the event, please contact our PTFA at ormesbyvillageschoolspta@gmail.com If you are a business owner or work for a company that could help us, we would like to request donations of larger, more valuable prizes that can be entered into our raffle draw to increase the desire to enter. Smaller prize donations for tombola would also be appreciated.

Norfolk County Music Festival Success

During the Spring Term again this year, we took approximately a hundred pupils from across the Federation of schools to take part in the Norfolk County Music Festival at the King's Centre in Norwich to demonstrate how much we love singing. The children performed superbly and they were recognised for their efforts coming away with the grade of Commended. We were all very proud of them. Thank you to the families, who were able to spectate and cheer us on. A huge thank you must also go to Mrs. White-Joubert for all her efforts with rehearsal and organisation.

Summer Ensemble of Music

Once more, we will be hosting an evening of musical talent on Wednesday 10th July beginning at 5:30pm in our Junior Hall. Here children can showcase their musical skill and courage in performing in front of a live audience. Last year's event was a brilliant spectacle.

Sporting Enrichment

We are hoping Premier Sports will be able to provide further sporting enrichment this term. This half-term we can look forward to Lacrosse at the Junior school and Dodgeball at the Infant school on the last day of this half-term, Friday 24th May. Children love getting the chance to experience an unfamiliar sport using an array of different skills. This year, we will also be holding our Junior Sports' Day on a single afternoon. We hope the weather holds out for us.

Attendance and Punctuality

Attendance has been much better this year, so far, but our attendance expectations remain high and we desire a figure above the National Expectation (96%). This term, we again wish to see everybody at school, and on time, every day. Please remember, if your child is ill, you must ring the school to inform us. If the absence is going to be longer than the appropriate quarantine period for the more contagious illnesses (a list can be found on our websites under Sickness Absence Information), you will need to phone in again to inform us. If we do not hear from you, our office staff will give you a courtesy call to find out where your child is. Lengthier and frequent absences through illness will require medical evidence in writing. Once again this term, letters regarding low attendance or persistent lateness will be sent home as a reminder to families about the importance of ensuring their child is in school. We have a duty to pass information to the Local Authority on all persistent absences, which could lead to further action from them. Towards the end of the Summer Term on Thursday 11th July there will be an Attendance Reward Trip to recognise and celebrate those pupils who have shown consistently strong attendance throughout this academic year. Eligibility criteria for this trip was shared at the beginning of the academic year.

National Tutoring Programme

Both the Infant and Junior schools have been engaged in the National Tutoring Programme since the

Autumn Term and this has enabled dedicated funding to be spent assisting eligible pupils to improve in Literacy and Numeracy. It has been great to see so many pupils access this additional support provided by familiar staff faces and doing so well.

Leavers' Assemblies

The Year 2 and Year 6 Leavers' Assemblies will be held on the final day of term on **Friday 19th July** for each school in turn. The Junior assembly will be held in the morning at 10:00AM at St. Margaret's Church, Ormesby and the Infant assembly will be held in the afternoon at 2:00PM in the Infant school hall. Further details will be released nearer the time. There will also be other Leavers' events, such as BBQs towards the end of the term, where we can all join together to celebrate the children's contributions to the respective schools over their time with us.

Regular Reading and Times Tables

Of course, we want our pupils to continue to immerse themselves in our reading for pleasure culture at Ormesby and a key element of this is ensuring all our pupils read to an adult (verified by their signed reading diaries) or they read to themselves (age appropriate) on a daily basis. As a minimum, we want them to read five times a week. Please do your best with this, as we know working parents have lots to juggle. Statistically, spending just ten minutes per day reading with and to your child can improve their reading age progress by a whole year.

Do not forget, we still want our pupils to improve their recall speed levels in multiplication so keep practising on Times Tables Rock Star and Hit the Button. The speed of some of the children on these online games is remarkable. I hope they keep this up.

Parking, Cycling and Scooting

We know that it gets very busy on the roads outside the schools, but please show consideration towards others. Please do not park on the zig-zag lines, mount kerbs at any point nor block the driveways of houses near the school. Alternatively, you could consider going green and select another method of getting to school other than a car, or simply walk. Please note if you are cycling/scooting to school and wish to leave your bike/scooter in the bike shed, please dismount and push them to the shed to avoid any unnecessary accidents.

Concerns and Issues

May we remind you that if you have any concerns or issues within any area of the school, we cannot help if we do not know about them, so please communicate with us. We will not always get it right, but we do our very best to ensure we do. We will endeavour to the best of our ability to alleviate any concerns you may have promptly. If I am ever unavailable, please also feel free to share concerns with other senior leaders in the schools. As a final note if you have any safeguarding issues, please contact the school to speak to a Designated Safeguarding Lead. These are: Mr. Young, Miss. McMyllor, Mrs. Holt (JNR) and Mrs. Vaughan (INF).

We hope you all have a good final term,

Bradley Young – **Headteacher**