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Newsletter
Thursday 19th October 2017

Busy Half-Term

The children have been working extremely hard this half-term and it is really pleasing to see so much of their writing and topic work up on display around the school. There is a packed schedule of things to come in the next half-term so check out the term dates and events section in the newsletter.

Homework continues to be an interesting topic and came up in many of our parent consultations last week. We expect the children to be reading as often as possible. This is still the easiest way you can support your child with their learning. Spending a few minutes each day with your child can make an enormous difference to their life chances.

If your child is on free readers, this does not mean they have to stop reading to you or read at all! On the contrary, they need to be extending their vocabulary and understanding of different types of books and the only way to do that is by immersing themselves in reading. Please ask your child questions about what they are reading as we are finding more and more children can decode the words on the page but are not able to make sense of what they have read – if this happens, reading becomes a pointless exercise.

I have attached a couple of useful parental guides for supporting reading at the end of the newsletter. I wonder how many of them you have used with your children?

Parents Evenings

Thank you to everybody who was able to make it to parents evening. It is really helpful to be able to discuss with you directly your child's positive attributes and areas to work on. Working in partnership ensures your child will make the best progress both emotionally and educationally. If you haven't seen your child's class teacher yet, please arrange an appointment with them.

School Uniform

Thank you to everybody who signed up to our home-school agreement. As part of that commitment, was an acknowledgement of making sure your child is wearing the correct uniform each day. It helps to enhance school pride, unity and community spirit and the focus is kept on their education rather than their clothes. Remember to label your child's clothing, as a record number of jumpers seem to have disappeared already this term!

Cross Country Competition

We took twenty children to Fairhaven School on 13th October to take part in the Cluster Cross Country Competition. We were really proud of all the children who took part as it's no mean feat completing the long distances they ran. It can be especially hard for the children running against peers who are almost two whole years older than them. In some cases that same stiff competition have have been practising for months and months and some have home field advantage!

Despite that there were some noteworthy performances. Sarah Hamilton deserves a special mention as she was our top placed finisher out of all the events, coming in 8th in the girls Y1/Y2 race. Alyse Friend came 9th in the girls Y3/Y4 race (Alyse is a Y3 running against older opposition) and Jack Hamilton secured another top ten finish in the boys Y3/Y4 race.

Most races had between forty and fifty runners. Here is a full list of the finishing positions of the runners from Reedham School:

Y1/Y2 Girls Race

Sarah Hamilton 8th

Isobel Bass 16th

Erin Payne 26th

Eva Harris 35th

Y3/Y4 Girls Race

Alyse Friend 9th

Joyce Powell 14th

Freya Gibbs 25th

Y5/Y6 Girls Race

Grace Powell 12th

Aimee Burgess 31st

Cordelia Shorthose 36th

Talya Ewles-Belton 37th

Jasmine Nixon 38th

Niamh St.George-Self 39th

Y3/Y4 Boys Race

Jack Hamilton 10th

Kazen Benjafield 11th

Kaleb Risby 36th

Y5/Y6 Boys Race

Lucas Thom 14th

Jayden Tur 25th

Archie Holt 29th

Ashton Howe 32nd

Y5/Y6 Upton Church Visit

Miss Spaul and Mrs Kelf took Otters Class to Upton Church on 28th September for a special science morning. The WOOFYT experience (Wooden one-Octave Organ for Young Technicians) helped the children to learn about the historically important organ at Upton and how the science of sound is used to enable such a device to work. The children got to play lots of games and even powered their own scaled-down version of the organ in the Church. They now realise how much technology goes into making sounds!

Y6 Transition Day to Acle Academy

Acle Academy have stepped up their transition arrangements this year and are really keen to work with the feeder schools to ensure the children's transition from Y6 to Y7 is much smoother than in previous years. On 29th September our Y6 children went to Acle Academy for the first of several curriculum based transition days. This one was linked specifically to English and performance arts. The children came back enthused about what they had seen and taken part in. A Design and Technology based day awaits our Y6 children next!

Maths Whizz

According to our chats with some parents at parents evenings, Maths Whizz is another area some children claim to ***not*** have to complete! Completely nonsense and we have told the children this. The facts are, the more time they spend completing the activities, the better their maths age will become.

Only children with maths ages over 3 years greater than their own age have been told about how they are to use Maths Whizz in a different way so as to get the most from it. These children have been spoken to directly but this only affects a handful of children in the whole school. Everybody else should be completing at least 30 minutes each week or achieve at least 3 progressions to ensure progress is being made. The more progressions, the better the learning.

We are noticing a clear trend with Maths Whizz usage. Unsurprisingly, those that are using it the most are making the best progress. All we are asking is for the children to use it little and often each week. Ten minutes each day straight after school before they go off to play. Fifteen minutes three times a week. If this time can be found, it can have a huge positive impact on their confidence and ability in maths.

One of the areas of frustrations for the children is that they will keep getting the same activity again and again until they have passed it. At this point, some give up – we don't want that. Remember, if they get stuck on a particular problem, please ask them to see us. We can help and talk the children through the issue so they can move on to another topic in maths.

Term Dates

Friday 20th to Sunday 29th October – Half Term

Monday 30th October – Flu Vaccinations for Years R to Year 4

Monday 30th October – YR First Class Photograph for Great Yarmouth Mercury

Wednesday 1st November - Cluster Y5/Y6 Netball/Basketball Competition

Monday 13th November – Tempest Photography Individual and Sibling Photos

Tuesday 14th November – CEOPs Training for KS2 with PCSO Bob Hall

Wednesday 15th November – Y6 Height and Weight Checks

Friday 17th November - Children In Need

Tuesday 23rd November – Y6 Transition Day to Acle Academy (D.T. focus)

Friday 1st December – Christmas Play Rehearsal at Reedham Village Hall*

Sunday 3rd December – Christingle Service at Reedham Church

Monday 4th December - Christmas Play Rehearsal at Reedham Village Hall*

Wednesday 6th December - Christmas Play Rehearsal at Reedham Village Hall*

Thursday 7th December - Christmas Play Rehearsal at Reedham Village Hall*

Thursday 7th December – Christmas Play Performance at Reedham Village Hall

December – Carol Service at Reedham Church (TBC)

Wednesday 13th December – Christmas Lunch (TBC)

Friday 15th December – Christmas Jumper Day

Tuesday 19th December – Pantomime and break up for holidays

Wednesday 3rd January 2018 – Staff training day

Thursday 4th January 2018 – Spring term starts for children

(* Events marked with a star indicate that children will need picking up from the Village Hall instead of Reedham Primary School)

Mr Edwards