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Newsletter
Friday 7th September 2018

Welcome Back

I hope you managed to enjoy the Summer holiday sunshine. It looks like Autumn has greeted our return to school, which speaking as a teacher is a rarity. We usually find the weather is excellent in September after having a pretty cloudy and miserable summer holiday break. Still, it is nice to see everybody back and we are raring to go. The intention as always is to make as much impact as possible on the children's learning in a fun and safe environment.

To ensure that everybody values what we are trying to achieve, please take time to read with your child, sign and hand back your child's home-school agreement (if you haven't done so already). I would like to think that everybody shares the same vision of working together and behaving well for the benefit of every child. Sticking to some simple promises can make school a much happier and easier place to work and play in for the children. As everybody takes responsibility for what they need to do, hopefully your child will fulfil their potential.

We really value aspects of help you can give like reading with your child as often as possible. It has a huge impact on their ability to access every part of the curriculum. Finding a few minutes to sit with them and share a story or practise their times tables or spellings can make an enormous difference. We have lots of exciting topics planned for the term and year and will be sharing these with you in our curriculum newsletters.

Open Door

I would like to reiterate that my door is always open if there is anything that you would like to talk about. We are all here to support you and your families' needs, as well as children's learning. For example, we can sometimes initiate or signpost you to support via a Parent Support Advisor or School Nurse. We are a friendly and supportive school community who want to help. Never be afraid to share any issues you may have. If school and home work together, the children will reap the benefits.

School Rules

Our school rules form the basis of ensuring that our school is a happy, safe and friendly environment for children to learn and play in. We place a very high importance on every member of our school community following our school rules. To help reinforce this message the children sing the school rules song and complete social and emotional aspects of learning in lessons and school assemblies.

We aim to keep our standards high from our last Ofsted inspection which clearly identified the school's behaviour policy and consistency of approach by all staff as a real strength of the school, stating in the Ofsted report:

'Pupils have excellent attitudes to learning and their behaviour is outstanding.'

Our School Rules:

- We keep hands, feet and unwanted comments to ourselves
- We walk around school calmly, safely and sensibly
- We look after each other, our school and the environment
- We listen carefully and do as we are asked first time, every time
- We always try our best in everything we do
- We respect ourselves and each other

The children also know of the consequences when not following the school rules. These range from time out in the classroom, filling in reflection sheets or speaking to the Headteacher. We prefer to work on the positive management of behaviour but use these consequences as and when necessary to ensure that children's learning within a classroom is NEVER compromised.

No school is devoid of unruly or challenging behaviours but it is how these situations are dealt with. The staff at Reedham Primary School are extremely skilled at diffusing problems quickly and effectively and disruptions are always kept to a minimum. By using our positive scripts we ensure challenging behaviour is the exception, not the norm and that children's safety and their learning experiences are always optimised.

Reedham Read-It

Last term our first copies of Reedham Read-It were published. The children worked hard on producing the articles and we valued the work so much we have decided to give the idea a trial publication run. The Newspaper aims to contain a helpful parent page, some insight into school events, a piece from myself and other issues the children feel strongly about.

Going forwards we would love to involve the whole village community in celebrating the children's work. When you receive your next copy in a few weeks, once you have read it, please pass it on to your next door neighbour or a relative so they can see what the school is encouraging and promoting.

Lots of you ask me about attendance and taking time off school for holidays in particular. The following may help to answer some of those questions.

Why should I ensure that my child attends school regularly?

[Research](#) commissioned by the Department for Education shows missing school for even a day can mean a child is less likely to achieve good grades, which can have a damaging effect on their life chances. At Reedham Primary School our aim is to work with parents to ensure that all our pupils receive the most from their education and reach their full potential.

Attendance at school

This information is to remind all parents/carers that the law that requires them to ensure that their child attends school regularly. The Government remains very clear that no child should miss school apart from in exceptional circumstances and schools must continue to take steps to reduce absence to support children's attainment. One school day equates to two sessions (morning and afternoon).

The Local Authority operates a system where any pupil will meet the criteria for legal intervention through the issue of a Fixed Penalty Notice where they have:

1. 10 consecutive sessions of unauthorised absence where some or all of the absence may be attributed to an unauthorised holiday in term-time (for absences from 1 September 2017); or
2. 15% unauthorised absence over a period of 6 school weeks for reasons other than unauthorised term time holiday.

Any pupil at Reedham Primary School who meets either of the criteria, will be referred to the Local Authority for action to be considered.

Legal intervention

If a Fixed Penalty Notice is issued it is a fine of £60 per parent per child which must be paid in one payment within 21 days. If a Notice is unpaid within 21 days, the fine will double to £120 per parent per child if paid within 28 days. If a fixed penalty notice fine is not paid in full within the timescale set out above, the Local Authority is required to start legal proceedings against the parent(s) in the local Magistrates' Court for the offence of failing to ensure their child has attended school regularly.

Family Holidays

Family holidays will not count as being exceptional circumstances, even if your work means having a holiday during term time is the only time off you can take. This applies even more so to families who expect a holiday every year and have already asked for authorisation in the last academic year.

I hope we can count on your support in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Mr Edwards.

Forms, Forms and More Forms!

I apologise in advance about the number of forms to fill in at the start of this term. However, in light of new GDPR laws, it is essential for us as a school to ensure that we share with you what information we keep about yourselves and your children and how this is stored and kept safe. The GDPR policy is live on the website and this gives helpful guidance about the wider impact in school.

Today you should have been given a Privacy notice to read and sign to say that you understand how your information is stored and kept safe. Next week I will pass on an updated consent form detailing how photographs and videos are used in school.

It will also be necessary for existing families to let us know of any change of contact details, like a change of mobile telephone number so our records can be kept fully up to date. It is essential that we have up to date records in case of an emergency and we need to be able to contact you quickly.

Forms you need to return to school by the end of next week if possible include:

- Home School Agreement
- Parent Questionnaire
- Privacy Notice for Pupils and their Families declaration on the back of the form
- Photographs and Videos at School Consent (provided next week)

Other optional forms that will need filling out would be contact detail changes and change of consent for letting us communicate with you via text messaging, email and Facebook. These can be collected and returned to Mrs Saunders in the school office.

If you are not already signed up to our School Facebook Page, please consider this. I know some of you don't like Facebook at all but it can be a fast and effective way of getting messages through and sharing content, as well as forum for parents to celebrate the children's great achievements. Ironically, it is more secure than the school website in terms of who can access the content. Anybody can access the school website but only parents who have been given permission can view the School Facebook page, keeping it an entirely school community based platform. We are hoping to extend the way we use the Facebook page over the coming year too, adding helpful parent support ideas to the existing reminders and children's work.

P.F.A.

- Do you care about your child's school?
- Would you like to be involved in raising money to help your child?
- Do you have a small amount of time you can spare once a half-term at most?

If you answered yes to all three questions, read on.



It sounds like you could be a perfect candidate to join our PFA. We are at a new chapter in the life of the PFA, as some long-standing members left the school at the end of last year. This has left the PFA short-handed at present and we really want to fill the gaps that have opened up. It is a fantastic opportunity for fresh blood to come and join the PFA; fresh blood with fresh ideas too.

We would love to have a large thriving PFA in order to help organise a range of events throughout the year. Ultimately, the bigger the presence of people on the PFA, the better the likelihood of being able to arrange fund-raising events - every penny raised will go to enhancing the experience of the children at Reedham Primary School.

Put this date in your diary: Friday 14th September. This will be the first PFA meeting of the year. Anybody is welcome to come and attend. Don't miss out on becoming a valued member of a group that can make a difference to the way in which school supports your children. Hopefully we will see lots of new faces at school next Friday at 3:15pm.

Don't just take it from me. For further information about our PFA please speak to Ann Wall (Chairperson) or James Bass (PFA Member). Their direct involvement means they will be happy to explain a little bit more of what the PFA get up to on a practical level.

Term Dates

Friday 14th September - PFA Meeting Open To All 3:15pm At School

Monday 17th September - SCITT student starting with Heron's Class

Monday 24th September - KS2 Church Clean-Up

Friday 28th September - Macmillan Cake Sale/Afternoon teas TBC

Friday 28th September - Y6 Transition to Acle Academy (Humanities focus)

Monday 8th October - Y6 Transition to Acle Academy (Design & Technology focus)

Friday 12th October - Cluster Cross Country at Fairhaven School 1:00pm

Thursday 18th October - Friday 26th October - Autumn half-term holiday

Wednesday 31st Oct - Y5/Y6 Cluster Netball & Basketball Competitions at Acle Academy

Wednesday 14th November - Flu Vaccinations for Years R to Y5

Friday 16th November - Children in Need Day

Thursday 6th December - Christmas Play at the Village Hall T.B.C.

Thursday 13th December - Carol Service at Reedham Church T.B.C.

Wednesday 19th December - Teacher Training Day/Christmas Holiday starts for children

Thursday 3rd January 2019 - Pupils return to school for Spring Term

Tuesday 5th February 2019 - YR/Y1/Y2 Cluster Poetry Festival at Southwood Hall a.m.

Tuesday 5th February 2019 - Y3/Y4 Cluster Poetry Festival at Southwood Hall p.m.

Wednesday 6th February 2019 - Y5/Y6 Cluster Poetry Festival at Southwood Hall a.m.

Friday 15th February 2019 - KS2 (Y3/Y4 and Y5/Y6) Cluster Rugby Competitions

Monday 18th - Friday 22nd February 2019- Spring half-term holiday

Thursday 28th March - Cluster YR/KS1 Multi-skills Competition at Acle Recreation Centre

Wednesday 13th March 2019 - Cluster Great Egg Race at Freethorpe School

Thursday 21st March 2019 - Cluster Country Dance Party at Acle Academy

Monday 6th April 2019 - Monday 22nd April 2019 - Easter Holiday

Tuesday 23rd April 2019- Pupils return to school for Summer Term

Monday 6th May 2019 - Bank holiday

Thursday 2nd May 2019 - Y5 Transition Day to Acle Academy (Maths focus)

Monday 13th May - Friday 17th May - Y6 SATs Week

Monday 27th May - Friday 31st May 2019 - Summer Half-Term holiday