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Newsletter
Monday 4th February 2019

Parents Evenings

If you haven't already signed up for Parent's evening, please do so. We want to continue forging those home-school links as it is so helpful to ensuring your child is kept on track with their learning and behaviour. The teachers want to share an in depth assessment of what is going on in school, as it is not always easy to get a true picture when you ask your child. We all know it is like getting blood from a stone sometimes!

Those that do talk probably fall into one of three groups. Firstly, there will be a group of children who will give an honest appraisal of their day. Then there are those children who will paint the rosiest picture of their school day, every day and that may not always be entirely accurate! Finally, there are a few children who may have had one thing go wrong for them that day and leave school focusing on that issue instead of the hundred other brilliant things that have happened.

If you want to find out what group your child falls into or you have questions to ask of us please sign up and come along. The sign-up sheets are on the big whiteboard in the hall. Alternatively, you can book an appointment by giving Mrs Saunders a ring in the office.

Contact Details

Recently, we have made a few phone calls home to family only to find out that the contact number we have at school is out of date. If you have had a change of telephone number or have moved house, please help us to keep up to date records of what information we hold. Goodness forbid there was ever a serious incident at school, but you would want to be informed immediately in such a circumstance - having your current contact details is essential if we are to get hold of you straight away.

Homework and Help at Home

Last year I mentioned in a newsletter that for some children, homework can be the difference maker. It may enable a child to grasp a concept in maths they have been struggling with or learn a tricky spelling or work out a word in their reading book. Like any skill, the more you practise, the better you get. Please find time to support your child with their homework activities and if nothing else, try to hear them read as often as possible.

It was amazing to find out how few children have a bedtime story as part of their bedtime routine - and that some children were going to bed way after 9:00pm. This year a new scourge is giving us a headache at school and that is the almost addictive nature of some children watching Youtube or playing video games. Excessive 'screen time' is getting in the way of other more productive things - homework included.

If a child came up to us and said I wasn't able to do my homework because we were out as a family making a den, going for a walk/run, visiting family we would show some understanding. However, not completing homework because they have been playing video games or watching Youtube for hours on end is infuriating and really unhelpful. Screen time is proving to be problematical to say the least. From personal experience, my own son's behaviour is much worse straight after using technology to the point where he is now limited to fifteen minutes per day on educational games only.

I was also very clear in last year's newsletter that I'm not going to tell anybody how to parent their own children in their own home. However, we have noticed a lot of children yawning their heads off first thing in the morning when they should be alert and ready for action.

Unfortunately, tiredness also contributes to bad behaviour choices and that is something we do not wish to see in school. If you would like some help with setting up routines at home or just some general parenting advice, speak to any of the teachers in school. We are very resourceful and will support any more structured routines you are trying to get started at home. Again, having those close ties between school and home can be very effective in giving your child really positive experiences.

Speaking of technology, well done to all those children regularly going on MathsWhizz. We are finding it is making an enormous difference to the children's confidence when tackling certain topics in maths. Keep this up. Fifteen minutes every other day is more than enough to make huge progress with their learning. It is far more productive than going on it for hours in one go when the child will more than likely forget most of what they have covered! It is also a shame that there are a lot of children with access to MathsWhizz who are not using it and as a result are being left behind by their peers.

Term Dates

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 Feb - 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

Tuesday 26th March 2019 - Class and Whole School Photos

Friday 29th March 2019 - Water, Mills and Marshes Project Roadshow KS2

Monday 8th April 2019 - Monday 22nd April 2019 - Easter Holiday

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

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

Monday 6th May 2019 - Bank holiday

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

Monday 20th May - KS2 Cluster Football Tournament at Lingwood School

Friday 24th May - Water, Mills and Marshes Project Boat Trip KS2

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

Monday 3rd June - Pupils return to school

Thursday 13th June - Open Song and Dance Event at Norwich

Monday 17th June - Y3/Y4 Cricket Tournament at Freethorpe School

Wednesday 19th June - Y5/Y6 Cricket Tournament at Freethorpe School

Monday 24th June - Water, Mills and Marshes Broads in a Box Activity

Friday 5th July - Cluster Athletics Event at UEA

Monday 8th and Tuesday 9th July - Transition Days for Y6 going to Acle Academy

Wednesday 24th July - Leavers Assembly and Last Day of Term

Governor Information

A single nomination for the vacant Parent Governor position was accepted this term. I am pleased to let you know that Mr Calvin Fisher (better known as Ellis and Joel's dad) has been elected onto the Governing Body. He joins Mr Adam Gibbs as one of the two parent governors.

Mr Joe Kilner, chair of governors for the last five years, has decided to resign from the governing body with immediate effect. This is due to ongoing health concerns. I would like to express my sincere thanks to Mr Kilner for the great support he has given me and the school.

He leaves Reedham Primary in a far better position than the one we inherited upon my arrival a few years ago, having worked tirelessly to put together a strong team of governors to provide support and challenge in equal measure. Mr Kilner and myself have also strived to bring about an open culture amongst staff with the result being a close knit, dedicated and skilled team delivering good and outstanding lessons to your children on a daily basis.

Mr Kilner's resignation does mean a further governing body position has opened up and we are actively looking to people in the community who can contribute to the ongoing success of the school. If you know of somebody with a great skills set and a determination to help improve the school please let them know of the situation and encourage them to get in touch.

Valentines Disco

Don't forget the Valentines Disco on Friday 15th February. Flyers have already gone out about this PFA run event happening at School from 5:30 to 7:30. Speak to the PFA for further information. Hopefully, it will be a lot of fun for the children. However, I will probably have to do my best Mr Gilbert out of the Inbetweeners impression on the night to stop any shenanigans occurring! 😊

Payments by Transfer

Mrs Saunders has asked me to remind all parents that you do have the option of paying for school meals by bank transfer. In the days of ever dwindling payment by cash, this option may suit your needs more. If so, please speak to Mrs Saunders in the office to see about setting up the payments.

Music Lessons

Mrs Ann Smith continues to teach music lessons to a few children in school but there is always room to take on more if they wish to start playing an instrument. She offers brass, piano and wind instrument tuition. It would be lovely to see more children learning an instrument again so we could put together a school orchestra like in recent years. Speak to Mrs Saunders in the office if your child is keen to start playing an instrument.

Poetry Festival

On the 5th and 6th February, each class will go to Southwood Hall to take part in the annual Cluster Poetry Festival. Heron's Class will be taking part On Tuesday 5th from 9:30 - 12:00. Owl's Class will be attending on Tuesday afternoon from 1:00 - 3:00. Otter's Class will be performing on Wednesday morning from 9:30 - 12:00. The children will be performing up to four different poems. At least two of the poems will be performed by the class; one will be with movements and gestures and one must be performed using their voices only. The other poems will be for individuals or pairs of pupils. Parents are welcome to attend and lend their support.

PFA Quiz Night

Do you fancy testing your general knowledge? Have you got some expert quizzers in your family? Come along for a night of fun and laughter in support of the school. If you haven't done so already, please sign up for the quiz night at school, this Friday 8th February. It is £5 per person for teams of up to six people. This includes a light supper of jacket potatoes with beans or chilly. Children can come along. Those children not taking part in the quiz can go into Otter's classroom to watch a suitable film under supervision. All money raised will go to the PFA and ultimately improve the school.

New KS2 Toilets and Cloakrooms

Finally, at the start of this term the new KS2 toilets and cloakrooms have been finished off. It became a labour of love but I was determined to secure the best possible finish so that the children had really clean and smart areas to use. They look a million times better than the old toilets and cloakrooms and I know the children are really pleased with them. It is down to them to look after them sensibly now, which I know they will.