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Newsletter
Friday 24th May 2019

Attendance

As the summer term progresses, I generally start to receive more requests for leave of absence. So that you are not disappointed if you request leave and it is not granted, I have included the part of the Attendance Policy below that outlines the circumstances in which leave of absence may be given:

In line with Government expectations **headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances such as:**

- Service personnel returning from / scheduled to embark on a tour of duty abroad.
- Where a period of leave has been recommended as part of a parent's or child's rehabilitation from a medical or emotional issue. Evidence may be requested from qualified professionals, such as a doctor.
- Attendance at the wedding / funeral of a close family member.
- A short break as a family, due to the fact that employer commitments mean that this cannot be taken in **any** school holiday (including Half Terms) – evidence may be requested from an employer

Other times when permission could be given include:

- approved educational activities such as music exams
- religious observance
- or approved higher level sporting competitions (eg County or national representation).

The school **cannot** accept as an exceptional circumstance the fact that a holiday is cheaper during term time, or for birthday treats.

Applications for leave of absence will be looked at on a case by case basis and the school will take into consideration previous attendance records.

Contact Details

Can you please make sure that all the contact details we hold are up to date and correct (we should have at least two contacts on our system) A recent house move or change of sim card in your phone will mean we need to know your new details. That applies to all contacts we hold information on - nannies and grandads or close family friends who regularly pick the children up. Having your current contact details is essential if we are to get hold of you straight away in an emergency.

SATs

Well done to all our Y6 children who tackled the SATs with a great attitude. We all know that SATs do not test the children on how kind they are, how good they are at making things with their hands, whether you can play a musical instrument or compete in sporting activities and so much more. In essence they do not test what makes each and every child unique and special. Our children gave their all in the tests and rose to each and every challenge. We cannot ask any more than that. We are really proud of their efforts and, as long as their behaviour remains good in the next few weeks, a celebratory 'Pool Party' awaits them.

We have actually been testing all of the children from Y2 to Y5 the past couple of weeks as part of our ongoing assessments and all of them have responded brilliantly.

KS2 Cluster Football Tournament

I took two teams of Y3/4 and Y5/6 children to Lingwood on Monday to take part in the cluster football tournament. The children gave their all and were competitive in most matches but the ability of much larger schools to select from a wider pool of talent bore out on both teams. That said, the Y5/6 team secured a win and a draw from their games. The Y3/4s were very unlucky in two of their games, conceding late goals to lose by the odd goal. There were some excellent individual performances on both teams, notably Daniel Hamilton for the Y3/4 team and Jayden Tur for the Y5/6 team. Many thanks to Iain Hamilton for helping with the Y5/6 team and for all the parents who turned up to support the children.

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to help the Y6s complete their on road cycle training. If you are free to help on either or both of the mornings of Thursday 6th and Friday 7th June, please get in touch with Mrs Saunders.

Archant Lego Tokens

Many thanks to everybody who has been collecting Lego tokens in the EDP, Great Yarmouth Mercury and other Archant newspapers. We were delighted when we totalled up the tokens this week. We collected an amazing 5,765 tokens altogether which is a brilliant community effort. We look forward to seeing the benefits in time.



Y6 Crucial Crew Trip

The Year 6s went to Norwich yesterday to take part in a series of modern day experiences of how to stay safe. There were many different scenarios the children found themselves in. Hopefully, they have learned a lot about the dangers that are out there in the real world if they are not switched on and thinking.

Term Dates

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

Monday 3rd June - Pupils return to school

Thursday 6th June - Y6 On Road Cycling am

Friday 7th June - Y6 On Road Cycling am

Sunday 9th June - Reedham Dog Show

Wednesday 12th June - Open Song and Dance Rehearsal (daytime)

Thursday 13th June - Open Song and Dance Event at Norwich doors 6:30 for 7:00pm start

*Change Friday 14th June - Water, Mills and Marshes KS2 Boat Trip leaving school 8:00am

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

*Change Tuesday 18th June - Water, Mills and Marshes Project - KS2 Broads in a Box

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

Monday 24th June - Y6 First Aid course with Freethorpe First Responders all day

Tuesday 25th - Y6 First Aid course with Freethorpe First Aid Responders am only

Friday 28th June - School Sports Day 1:30pm

Saturday 29th June - Water, Mills and Marshes Showcase event TBC

Wednesday 3rd July - KS2 School Trip to Norwich Castle Egypt Themed

Friday 5th July - Cluster Athletics Event at UEA

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

Tuesday 9th July - Information Evening at Acle Academy for Y6 Parents and Children

Wednesday 10th July - KS2 Picnic and Church Yard Clean-Up

Thursday 11th July - Water, Mills and Marshes Showcase Event at Freethorpe School
3:30 - 5:30

Saturday 13th July - Water, Mills and Marshes Polkey Mill Party
(More details after half-term)

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

Monday 2nd and Tuesday 3rd September - Teacher Training Days

Wednesday 4th September - Autumn Term Starts for children

KS1 Cathedral Trip and Owl Visit Enrichment Day

Heron's class have been very busy this term. On Thursday they visited Norwich Cathedral. This was a special outing to see the peregrine falcons who have been nesting on the spire for the past few years. They also took part in a variety of activities and were extremely well behaved throughout.

This followed on from a visit by Mrs Knights from 'Hoot With Me,' who brought in Arthur, a tawny owl, and Johnny, a barn owl. The children loved seeing the birds close up and have learned so much as a result of both activities.

We love giving the children wonderful opportunities across the curriculum. We believe it makes the learning so much more fun and exciting. As a result, the children remember more from these types of lessons. Hopefully they have already told you all about their trip yesterday.



Change of Date - KS2 Boat Trip

Advance warning for parents of children in KS2 who are taking part in the Open Song and Dance event. The original date for the Water Mills and Marshes Project boat trip has had to be changed to the day after the Open Event. This is far from ideal but there isn't anything we can do about it. It means those children who are involved will face a late night at The Open followed by an early start the next day as the bus will be leaving school at 8:00am.

Egyptian Dancing Enrichment Morning

Miss Nicholls took the children for an additional session based on our KS2 topic of Ancient Egypt. The children learned some interesting dance moves and had a great time. Miss Nicholls was also impressed by how much the children could talk about the topic based on the learning that has taken place so far.

Open Door Policy

I just wanted to remind each and every parent that my door is always open. This also applies to any member of staff, here at Reedham Primary School. We pride ourselves on building good relationships with families and want to be there to help in any way we can. By working together we will get the best outcomes for the children.

If you have a concern, please come and tell us about it. If we know there is an issue, we will do our utmost to sort it out. I know some of you do this already, and hopefully you feel that by sharing whatever it is troubling you, the problem is sorted promptly and effectively.

Alternatively, let us know when things are going exceptionally well too. For example, it was great to hear how some of the children had gone home after the owls visited Heron's class and reeled off loads of information about what they had learned. It makes our day knowing the children are buzzing about their learning.

At the moment, most parents have their heads down when I step foot onto the playground in the afternoons! I promise I try to make it a point to say as many nice comments to parents about their children as well as having to pass on not such good news! Ultimately we all want the best for the children so don't be afraid to speak to me or any of the team at School.

Ofsted Ready

Some of you may not be aware that it is almost four years since our last Ofsted Inspection. Our results and stability have meant that it appears we are on course to go right to the end of the four years, as we are not showing any causes for concern. This means it is likely that we will receive the next inspection sometime in the next half-term. Personally, I am hoping they come as soon as possible so we can demonstrate what a lovely little school we are and can get back to what is an incredibly action packed half-term.

As I mentioned above, please speak to us direct if you have any quibbles and please be there to sing our praises if you think we do a great job educating your children. When we get the Ofsted call, parents will be informed that the inspection is taking place the following day and can login to Ofsted's Parent View to give their opinions. We would welcome your support when that time comes.

Swimming

After half-term we hope to be getting in the swimming pool on a regular basis (weather permitting of course).

Can I remind all parents that every child needs to bring their swimming bag to school and leave it here until the contents get wet and need to be washed. This means we can go swimming at the drop of a hat. Speaking of hats, a swimming hat is essential for anybody who swims in the pool. No hat = no swimming.

The children also need their trunks/costume, flip-flops to walk to and from the pool, a dressing gown and a towel. Dressing gowns double up as either sun protectors on very hot days to stop shoulders getting burnt or to keep children warm on windy days when it is nice in the pool but fresh out of it.

One last reminder for new parents to the school - Every child at Reedham has the chance to swim. That includes Reception children right through to Year 6. 😊

Be an Archaeologist Day

Well done to all those children who dressed up and took part in a range of activities based around our Ancient Egypt topic. Miss Spaul and Mrs Kelf had great fun setting some interesting challenges through the day. It looked like the children had enormous fun too.

Children's Safety

You may well gather from the extensive list of activities our children take part in that their safety is of paramount importance to us. Ask any child what Mr Edwards's number one job is in school and they should respond by saying it is 'keeping children safe.'

Over the years at Reedham Primary School, our children cover a comprehensive programme of keeping safe activities. These range from fire safety to first aid, water, rail and road safety, being safe around electricity, internet safety, stranger danger, etc. The list goes on and on.

We also offer cycling proficiency to upper KS2 children, both off road and on road. Our Y6 children will be taking part in On Road cycling after half term but it got me thinking about the wider importance of being safe whilst on your bike. Many of you may or may not be aware that Archie in Y6 had an accident last weekend, falling off his bike and banging his head. He was knocked unconscious temporarily and was rushed to A & E where the doctors monitored him. Thankfully, he was wearing his cycle helmet. The helmet is ruined, smashed on the side as it took the brunt of the impact - Archie's head is intact though. I hate to think what might have happened had he not been wearing his helmet. Please, please, please encourage your child to always wear their cycle helmet when out biking around the village - it may save their life!