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Newsletter  
Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2019

### Welcome Back

I hope you managed to enjoy the Summer holiday sunshine. For the most part we had lovely weather and I for one enjoyed some much needed, relaxing family time on some of Norfolk's beaches. As always though the holiday is over all too soon but we are back and raring to go, spurred on by our excellent Ofsted report from last term recognising all the fantastic things we do to make Reedham Primary a great school.

On our return, one thing you may notice is how busy the playground has become. I worked out that since the start of the year we have gained fourteen new children and six new reception children. I think that is a brilliant reflection of the school as our good name is starting to reach out into the wider community. Lots of new faces arriving brings opportunities to broaden friendships both for children and families.

Our intentions remain clear as we go forwards - to make as much positive impact as possible on the children's learning and social development 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. 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 (no matter what their age). 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.

## School Rules

Each class teacher uses a range of Personal, Social and Health Education (or PSHE for short) activities to promote respect and friendships between the children throughout the year. During the first few days of term there is a heavier emphasis on these activities. This enables us to make a real point of going over our class and school rules. It also allows us to explain to the children the expectations we have of them as learners and members of our school community.



Children in Owls class made a friendship web. This reminded the children that they are all linked and dependent on one another. Working together we could lift and lower the web to allow people to travel across the web. Mr Edwards cut the web at the end of the session so that every child could take a piece of the web with them to think of their friends.

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. This message is reinforced by the children singing the school rules song and followed up in daily assemblies.

### 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.

**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 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), when attendance is recorded.

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 2019); 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.

### School Uniform

New term, new clothing. Please take out a permanent marker and label your children's clothes. You would not believe the issues we have with lost jumpers! It will save us time and yourselves some money.

We do still have a large collection of jumpers, unnamed and not claimed from last year if you need a second hand jumper. I believe it makes sense for them to be used rather than sitting here at school gathering dust.

Speak to Mrs Saunders in the office if you would like to see if there are jumpers that may fit your child.

### Parents Evenings

We have already earmarked two dates for parents evening later this half-term, Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October and Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October.

Not only is it a chance to find out how your children have settled back after the summer holidays but equally importantly to discuss how they are feeling and the progress they are making towards their targets.

Look out for the sign-up sheet going up on the big whiteboard on the playground a couple of weeks in advance of the meetings.

### School Maintenance and Building Works

As always, our fantastic caretaker, Mr Pells has been busy, deep cleaning the school over the summer holiday. He has also been busy sprucing up the outside areas, painting the sheds, benches and fences around the swimming pool which now look lovely and fresh.

On top of this work, I can also announce some exciting developments. Firstly, the school has been successful in attaining a grant to improve Heron's outside area. I have tasked Mrs Bethell to spend the £7200 award in the coming weeks. Watch this space!

Secondly, and after some persistent lobbying, the school has been told we can resurface the playground through our building maintenance programme. This work will be carried out sometime before March 2020. Nearer the time, I will invite our pupils to think about new playground markings to go on the resurfaced area. Exciting times.

### Open Door

I would like to reiterate that my, Mrs Bethell and Miss Spaul's doors are always open if there is anything that you would like to talk to us 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, children will reap the benefits.

## P.F.A.

What a great year the PFA had last year, culminating in the Leavers' BBQ which raised another significant sum of money. The school is extremely appreciative of all the hard work that goes into a range of events from everybody involved. The bottom line is all that hard work pays off as Mrs Wall was able to present the school with a cheque that went a long way to paying for our brand new stock of 20 Chromebooks we now have in school.

Yes that's right... 20 new devices. This means that along with the laptops, stand alone computers and ipads we already own, any class wanting to record their work in a document or have access to the internet can now do so with a device for each class member. It is a great step forward which is based on us setting up a new wi-fi system in school to guarantee that the school is flooded with network coverage. It is a smart system too which allows devices to keep connected even if you are moving from one end of the school to the other via the network points located in the classrooms, library and office areas.



As we have lots of new families who have joined the school in the past few months, it could be a perfect opportunity to join the team of hard-working parents who do so much for our school. Every piece of help you can offer would be valued. Remember, it is a fantastic opportunity for fresh blood to come and join the PFA; fresh blood with fresh ideas too.

If you would like to join or rejoin the team, please get in touch with Mrs Ann Wall, Joyce's mum and Chair of the PFA, Mrs Sam Bass, Isobel's mum and treasurer or any other of the numerous members of the PFA. 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 14<sup>th</sup> September - PFA Meeting Open To All 3:15pm At School

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September - SCITT student starting with Heron's Class

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September - Y6 Transition to Acle Academy (Humanities focus)

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September - RSPB Roadshow in school activities for KS2

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September - Macmillan Cake Sale/Afternoon teas 2:15 - 3:15

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October - RSPB visit to Strumpshaw for KS2

Wed 2<sup>nd</sup> October - Maths session for parents to find out about how maths is taught

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October - Parents Evenings

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October - Wear Yellow for Mental Health Awareness Day

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October - Cluster Cross Country at Fairhaven School 1:00 p.m.

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October - Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October - Autumn half-term holiday

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October - Flu Vaccines for whole school

Wed 6<sup>th</sup> November - Y5/Y6 Cluster Netball & Basketball Comps. Acle Academy 1:00 p.m.

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November - Remembrance Service at the War Memorial 11:00 a.m.

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November - Individual and sibling photographs

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November - Children in Need Day

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November - Height and Weight Measure for YR and Y6

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Play at the Village Hall T.B.C.

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December - Carol Service at Reedham Church T.B.C.

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Holiday Starts

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020 - Pupils return to school for Spring Term

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January - Y6 SATs Parent Evening Meeting 3:30 p.m.

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2020 - YR/Y1/Y2 Cluster Poetry Festival at Southwood Hall a.m.

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2020 - Y3/Y4 Cluster Poetry Festival at Southwood Hall p.m.

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2020 - Y5/Y6 Cluster Poetry Festival at Southwood Hall a.m.

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2020 - KS2 (Y3/Y4 and Y5/Y6) Cluster Rugby Competitions

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> - Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2020 - Spring half-term holiday

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April - Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2020 - Easter Holiday

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020 - Pupils return to school for Summer Term