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Newsletter
Wednesday 18th December 2019

Christmas Play

Thank you to everyone who came and supported the children during their performances of Silent Night. The children pulled out all the stops this year. I particularly enjoyed the mixture of solo, traditional, German and singing in a round. Add in the beautiful dancing, instrumentals and acting and the whole performance knitted the story together wonderfully. Best of all, the children thoroughly enjoyed every moment of it, revelling in the limelight. I haven't heard from Chris Bradbury yet but hopefully he will be able to deliver some copies of the play on DVD for after Christmas.



Thanks to James Bass for the pictures.

Music Performance

Well done to our small band of musicians who performed last Friday morning. Mrs Ann Smith led the Christmas performance which was well received by those in attendance. Playing an instrument is a great way to develop children's learning and if your child is interested in learning to play, please speak to Mrs Saunders in the office. It would be really great to see more musicians emerge from Year 2 onwards to join Freyja, Sarah, Tommy and Freya. Well done musicians.

Carol Service

The children put on another excellent performance at Reedham Church, just a week after the School play. Well done to Freya for her beautiful clarinet playing and the readers who performed brilliantly in the Carol Service. Rev Martin Greenland was very impressed about how smoothly the service ran and how enthusiastic the children were with their singing. I always think it sounds better in the church. Thank you to everybody who was able to make the service and I hope you enjoyed it - it certainly made me feel like Christmas was just around the corner!

Christmas Panto

The children (and staff) thoroughly enjoyed the Beauty and the Beast pantomime at St George's Theatre in Great Yarmouth yesterday. It was a great way to end another very busy term. Thank you to the PFA for supporting the trip that gives the children a great treat to say well done for all their hard work this term, especially in all their performances in the last couple of weeks.

As with all the events recently, the children were impeccably behaved throughout too. Well done.



Holiday Homework - You Decide

Speaking as a parent myself, I know how frustrating homework can be when your child is not in the mood to apply themselves. However, I am also well aware of the need to support children and reinforce their learning by practising skills at home as well as at school. The setting of holiday homework is always optional at Reedham Primary School for Herons and Owls Classes. It is there if your child says that they are bored or have nothing to do. At that point you can remind them that there are some things from school that they can do if they wish to. However, Otters class know the reasons for completing holiday homework.

There will be some children who actively love completing work set from school. These children will be lapping up as much work as possible, whether it is set in their homework book, reading, MathWhizz, spelling and times table practise or using online resources like Espresso and Topmarks to play educational games. Any learning they complete over the holiday will have enormous benefits for the start of next term!

KS2 Residential School Trip to How Hill (Owls and Otters Classes)

As promised, here is some information about our residential trip to How Hill that has been booked for Monday 16th March to Wednesday 18th March 2020.

The trip is offered as part of our rolling programme of trips away from home which alternate between adventurous outdoor activities (such as Horstead) and environmental studies (like the trip in March to How Hill). Both types of trip aim to broaden the children's skills and learning across the curriculum.

The cost of the trip is £130. This includes all food, at least twelve activities and two nights staying at the activity centre. It has always been run incredibly well and I know this is excellent value for money for what the children will get out of it.

I can appreciate that this is still a lot of money for parents to find, especially relatively soon after Christmas. We are more than happy to set up a payment scheme so that the cost of the trip can be paid off in instalments, if this helps. If you would like to do this, please speak to Mrs Saunders in the School Office after the holiday, who can set up a payment card with suggested dates to remind you to pay each instalment by.

When we return after Christmas, we would like to know exact numbers of children who will be going so will send out another letter asking for an initial deposit of £20.

If your child is currently receiving pupil premium, the school is prepared to pay half the cost of the trip. This is because we feel it is such a great opportunity for the children, we do not want anybody to miss out.



PFA Still Rocking It

Thanks, as always, must go to our fantastic team of parents and friends of the school who have given so much this term. They have been beavering away like mad at a range of events to raise money for the school, which we are most appreciative of. Please keep supporting them through the year as every penny makes a huge difference to the educational offer we can give to your children.

Walk to and from School

When speaking to some parents, they asked me to remind everybody driving to and from school to be exceptionally careful and considerate to those walking. One parent told of how they got drenched by passing cars on a rainy day as they sped past.

It is also worth noting that a few of our older children walk to school and back home on their own. Their parents obviously consider these older children sensible and safe enough to do so. However, if you are driving to school, it is better to be mindful of them and the toddlers that accompany parents to drop off and pick up. Surely it is better to lower your speed around the village just in case somebody accidentally ends up in the road where they shouldn't be.

If you find yourself late for school - and there are a few families I regularly see coming into school late - try leaving for school five or ten minutes earlier! Better to have a safe calm approach to school than one where you are rushing. This also helps your child to settle when they get here, rather than starting the day in a tiz.



Playground Resurfacing



Thank you to everybody for your patience whilst the playground has been resurfaced. We are so pleased with the results and it is a million times better than the patchwork quilt of uneven and cracked surfaces we had before. Before the resurfacing work took place, I made sure that all the drainage underground was sorted out first. This meant lots of flushing through of pipework, repairs and replacement works. Hopefully, this will leave the school in a great position for many years to come.

After Christmas, I will be speaking to the school council to discuss the plans they have put forward for line markings and designs to go on the new surface. Unfortunately, we have to wait eight weeks before the markings can go down. This is to do with the oily resin and chemicals taking time to settle.

We have already decided to move things around a little in the playground too. This is to try to maximise the space available for the children to use. The tyres now have a new home and we will look to replace the planters that had stood for such a long time. When Mr Pells tried to move them, he found that they were rotten through. I am also trying to source a new modern bike shelter, which I want to put near the front gates, making better use of that first space on entry to the playground.

I really hope you can see how hard we are working to invest in the immediate and longer term education of the children by giving them great resources to use in school.

Term Dates

Monday 6th January 2020 - Pupils return to school for Spring Term

Monday 13th January - Y6 SATs Parent Meeting 3:30 p.m.

Monday 3rd February - Parent Meetings

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

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

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

Wednesday 5th February - Parent Meetings

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

Monday 17th - Friday 21st February 2020 - Spring half-term holiday

Thursday 27th February 2020 - YR/KS1 Cluster Multi-skills Event at Acle Academy

Wednesday 11th March - 4 from KS2 to take part in Great Egg Race at Freethorpe School

Friday 13th March - Sport Relief

Monday 16th March - Wednesday 18th March 2020 - How Hill Residential Trip for all KS2

Monday 23rd March 2020 - Cluster KS1 Football Skills Challenge

Wednesday 25th March - SATs Parent Meeting Easter Packs given out

Thursday 2nd April - Friday 17th April 2020 - Easter Holiday

Monday 20th April 2020 - Pupils return to school for Summer Term

Tuesday 5th May - Afternoon service at Reedham Church to celebrate 400 years of the Berney Baronetcy. Children to showcase music, singing and school work.

Friday 8th May - Bank Holiday

Week beginning Monday 11th May - KS2 SATs week

Monday 18th May - KS2 Cluster Football Tournament 1:00pm at Lingwood School

Monday 25th May - Friday 29th May - Summer Half-Term Holiday

Thursday 11th June - Open Song and Dance Performance doors 6:30 for 7:00 start

Merry Christmas

It just leaves me to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We look forwards to seeing you all back on Monday 6th January 2020.

Mr Edwards