Headteacher: Mr Chris Edwards





Reedham Primary and Nursery School

School Hill, Reedham, Norwich NR13 3TJ.

Telephone Number: 01493 700271

Fax Number: 01493 701860

E-mail: office@reedham.norfolk.sch.uk.

Newsletter

Wednesday 21st October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Well, we have made it to the end of half-term. Thankfully, all is well so far and I would like to say a huge thank you to everybody who has played their part in keeping our school and wider community as safe as possible. However, I am sure you are aware of the rising number of cases throughout the country and in Norfolk so it goes without saying that now more than ever we need to stay alert to the dangers that CoronaVirus can bring. Only by maintaining our good hygiene practices and ensuring we are socially distancing will we be able to keep the virus at bay.

The children have played their part and accepted the ‘new normal’ of extra handwashing, hand sanitising and keeping to their bubbles. They have been brilliant up to this point. I really hope they can enjoy their half-term but please be mindful of their responsibilities when out in public places to avoid unnecessary risk.

A positive case can have a huge impact on the person affected, their family and the school. In the event of a positive case, we have made provisional plans for a group isolation or local lockdown. We will aim to provide a hard copy (a pack) of work to complete at home. This would cover at least a week or much longer if necessary.

To ensure that this work is completed as intended, any class or bubble that is sent home to self-isolate, would receive a daily Zoom meeting from their class teacher. If more than one class was sent home or the entire school was closed, we would ensure that Zoom meetings were staggered so all siblings could access their teacher who would go through their work. We would expect the children to complete as much of this work as possible at home.

We would also provide additional resources to support their learning. This would mostly be via Google Classroom but we may also share ideas and links through our School Facebook page and through messages via our management information system, Pupil Asset. We would also provide some reading material for the children to use.

Like the last lockdown, staff would be available to contact if there were any queries about the work sent home or other issues arising. Messages can be sent to us via Google Classroom or to our school emails. There is every likelihood that some members of staff would still be working from school so we may even be available to talk to on the phone. We always aim to get back to you to address your concerns as quickly as possible as we pride ourselves on our home school relationships.

You may have seen an announcement on the school’s Facebook page about a parent governor vacancy. If you are interested in becoming a governor read the information below and complete the paperwork by the Tuesday 3rd November deadline.

**Forthcoming Election of Parent Governor(s) at Reedham Primary School**

I am writing to inform you that a vacancy exists on our governing board for a parent governor and we are seeking nominations of parents interested in taking up this role. Being a governor can be very enjoyable and worthwhile.

Parent governors are elected by the parents or guardians of children attending the school.

All parents or guardians of children attending the school are entitled to propose or second candidates and vote. Nomination papers for this purpose can be obtained by contacting the school office, where Mrs Saunders will send or print off a nomination paper for you.

The completed nomination papers must be returned to school by:

## **Tuesday 3rd November 2020**

If the number of nominations received are equal to, or less than, the number of vacancies there will be no need to hold a ballot. If a ballot is necessary, it will be by "email" ballot and you will need to register your vote by sending it to the head@reedham.norfolk.sch.uk email account for the school. One ballot ‘vote’ per parent or guardian is allowed, irrespective of how many of your children attend the school. Ballot papers must be returned to the school no later than:

## **Friday 13th November 2020**

which will be the "date of the election".

**More information is given in the notes overleaf and you are advised to read them carefully before taking part in the election.**

Thank you for your interest, and involvement in this important process. If you have any queries regarding this election, please contact me at the school.

**NOTES FOR PARENTS TAKING PART IN PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTIONS**

There will be no need to hold an election (i.e. no ballot will be needed) if the number of nominations received are equal to, or less than, the number of vacancies.

The composition of the governing body detailing the number of parent governors is set out in the Instrument of Government of the school.

After reconstitution a parent governor will have a term of office of four years unless the Instrument of Government states otherwise.

Under the 2012 School Governance Regulations, a person is disqualified from election or appointment as a parent governor of a school if they are an elected member of the LA (a County Councillor) or if they work at the school for more than 500 hours (i.e. for more than one-third of the hours of a full-time equivalent) in a school year (at the time of election or appointment).

Any governor may resign at any time during their period of office.

A parent governor does not have to resign when his/her child leaves the school, but is able to complete his/her term of office.

Parents standing as candidates in the election may not propose or second themselves.

Each parent/guardian shall be entitled to return one ballot paper irrespective of the number of children in the family attending the school.

Each parent/guardian shall be entitled to vote for as many candidates as there are vacancies in the election. No arrangement shall be made for proxy voting.

Each ballot ‘vote’ must be returned by the date and time fixed by the Headteacher, by email (due to COVID restrictions), addressed to the Headteacher of the school, indicating it is a ballot vote and bearing no other mark. The ballot votes will remain unopened in and placed into a secure area of the email account until the count commences.

All candidates or their representatives will be invited to attend the counting of the ballot votes via Mr Edwards email account.

A notice of the result of the election will be posted on the school notice board for a period of 14 days from the "date of the election". During this period any candidate, proposer or seconder of a candidate, or any ten parents may object to the result of the election.

Thank you for the overwhelming support of our parent meetings. Some of the meetings went smoother than others! It was good to be able to touch base with our parents to share key information about your child’s well-being, academic performance and progress.

Since returning back to school, we have found that a large number of children are behind with their learning. This has huge implications. To address this issue you can help by doing the following:

* Make full use of MathsWhizz. A child making four progressions a week on MathsWhizz in general makes eighteen months progress in a year – that is a significant amount of progress!

* Learn their times tables. Knowing multiplication facts is a huge advantage, especially when applying this knowledge in Key Stage 2. Get your child to write out a times table and practise the facts, fire times table questions at your child continually during car journeys or at the dinner table and make use of online programs like Hit The Button.
* Hear you child read as often as possible. Reading underpins the whole curriculum and daily support of this key skill is crucial to enable the children to make the best possible progress. Even when a child is more independent with their reading, we know that those parents who are on hand to help with unknown words or ask questions of what the children have read show better understanding than those who are left to work things out for themselves.
* Learn spellings / phonics each week. If the children are able to practise their spellings as often as possible it can help with all aspects of the written work.
* Encourage imaginative play. For all children, but particularly those in the early years, it is crucial to have opportunities to explore the world around them in fun and engaging ways. If possible, record exciting activities you have engaged in on Tapestry.
* Ensure good attendance. We have been heartened by the fact that the school has had such good attendance since starting back. Please make sure your child doesn’t have unnecessary odd days off here and there as these can lead to significant gaps in their learning.

Obviously, we must be mindful with COVID and we appreciate your help with trying to identify times when children will need to be kept off as a precaution. If you are unsure when these times might be, please refer to the flowchart on the following page. It gives guidance on what to do for a range of situations you may find yourself in.



Finally, I am pleased to report that the health and safety inspection went extremely well this morning. The inspector commented about our wealth of knowledge in putting in procedures to minimise the effects of COVID.

I highlighted how well I felt the whole school community has reacted to ensuring everybody’s ongoing safety. However, as I pointed out at the start of the newsletter, there are bound to be some challenging times ahead as the weather turns colder and cases keep rising. Make sure you are taking every precaution you can to keep yourselves safe and everybody at school safe too.

Please take care and see you after half-term.

Best wishes,

Mr Edwards.