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18th June 2021 Newsletter

Class Structure

You will be pleased to know that as our numbers have held strong across the school, this allows us to maintain the current class structure for the forthcoming year. This means we will have our Squirrels Nursery running as usual, Mrs Bethell in charge of Heron's class, Mr Edwards and Miss Waters job sharing Owl's class and Miss Spaul leading Otter's class. This is great news as it means we can keep three full classes in the main school.

It is also brilliant that we can officially make Miss Waters part of our staff. You may not realise this but Miss Waters' original role was to temporarily plug a gap until we could recruit a long-term teacher to work alongside myself. Thankfully for us, Miss Waters has done a brilliant job under incredibly difficult circumstances. She started with us against a backdrop of Covid and took on board the online learning and support we built in for the children to enable a smooth transition from working at school to working at home. We have definitely complimented each other with our curriculum coverage in Owl's class and very importantly, Miss Waters has really enjoyed working in our school with our children and parents and the atmosphere that we have created. I am delighted that we have been able to keep Miss Waters on board and wish to pass on my thanks to her for all her hard work.

Likewise, we have been really blessed to employ Josie Smyth in Squirrels Nursery. Josie is covering Ruth's maternity leave and has been a wonderful addition. It is lovely to see such a caring and nurturing environment that the nursery team have developed and Josie has added to this since her arrival.

It seems only fair than rather than singling out individuals, that I also place on record my heartfelt thanks to all of the staff at Reedham Primary and Nursery School. We often joke that we are Team Reedham but it is true – the sum is greater than all its parts because of the way we support each other for the benefit of each and every child. You do not need me to tell you it has been an incredibly challenging year and the measures we have had to implement to keep everybody as safe as possible has put an incredible strain on all the staff. My thanks to everybody for an amazing effort – parents included, with your understanding and support of the measures we have had to put in place too.

Swimming

What a great start to the half-term it was with the weather. With the sunshine and high temperatures, we were able to get all the primary aged children into the swimming pool most days. Unfortunately, as many of you are already aware, we have had to empty and clean the pool due to an accident (something we have never had happen before). Apart from the sweltering Wednesday, thankfully it doesn't look like we will miss out too much due to the drop in temperature and the rain that is forecast.

The pool should be ready to use again quite soon. This is because we had a new solar panel heating element exchange fitted and some new parts on the pump so we know it was working extremely efficiently before we had to close it. It should get up to temperature really quickly – last week the pool temperature was regularly reaching 30°C.



Hot Weather

It goes without saying that if we see a return of the hot weather, please make sure you apply sun cream to your child before school. It is also important for them to bring in a sun hat to shade them from the effects of the sun during any outdoor learning or at playtimes. Also, do not forget to bring a water bottle – with water inside, not juice or something fizzy!

Term Time Holidays

Many of you may also be organising a staycation or, if you are brave enough, a holiday abroad. I would like to reiterate that Norfolk County Council has ensured that all schools follow the same system - which is that holiday requests during term time will be 'unauthorised' which could result in the local authority issuing a fine.

However, we do have to consider exceptional circumstances. Holidays related to the COVID pandemic do not at present come under the exceptional circumstances category, particularly when we know that children have not been in school for large chunks of the year.

Unfortunately, we are bound by the local authority which carefully scrutinise all of our attendance information. If you have a holiday planned in term time, do not expect a favourable outcome. Please come and speak to me about your situation if you think this may affect you.

Forest Schools

You might have been hearing about the children's adventures outside of the school grounds? This is because Miss Spaul is feeding through some really positive Forest Schools learning approaches to each class. We are always looking to broaden the way in which we can make the learning hands-on, fun and exciting and this is yet another initiative which we want to make the most of to enable this to happen.

End of Term Arrangements

Boris's announcement to delay the full reopening of the economy has impacted on many of the activities we were hoping to put on towards the end of term. I have tried to wait as long as possible before making final decisions about events like Sports Day but I am sad to inform you that no parents will be allowed to attend our sports day this year. The Leavers BBQ has also had to be scaled back. We now intend to hold our leaver's assembly outside and a BBQ in school time on the last day so the children do not miss out – sorry parents... no burgers or music for you! ☹️ See the next page for a full list of end of term dates

Term Dates

Monday 21st June - Y6 Transition to Acle Academy + in-school transition all day

Tuesday 22nd June - afternoon in-school transition

Friday 25th June am - Photographer in for individual and class photos

Monday 28th June 1:30pm - Music Concert for Whole school on playground by Acle Academy

Tuesday 29th June - All day Sports Day - no parents allowed

Friday 2nd July - Reports go out

Friday 9th July pm - Y6 Pool Party? (weather permitting)

Wednesday 21st July 2021 - Leavers Assembly, In School BBQ & Last day of summer term

Monday 6th September - Children start back after the Summer Holiday

Monday 25th October - Friday 29th October - Autumn Half Term

Friday 17th December - Last day of Autumn Term

Wednesday 5th January 2022 - Children start back after Christmas holiday

Monday 14th February - Friday 18th February 2022 - Spring Half Term

Friday 1st April 2022 - Last day of Spring Term

Wednesday 20th April 2022 - Children start back after Easter holiday

Monday 2nd May 2022 - No school due to bank holiday

Chris Edwards

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Headteacher

Reedham Primary and Nursery School

Acle Primary and Secondary Headteachers' (APASH) Cluster Chair