

Ormesby Village Infant & Junior Schools Federation

Headteacher: Mr. Bradley Young



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HEADTEACHER'S TERMLY NEWSLETTER – SUMMER TERM 2022

Welcome Back!

I hope that you have all had a relaxing Easter break and I hope you, like us, are all looking forward to what successes and achievements the final term in this academic year can bring. Our Summer Events' calendar is now available on our website and we are all hoping we can return to some measure of normality where parents and carers can come and share in more events at the school. Nevertheless, COVID-19 has not disappeared and whilst we all learn to live with it, many events will have to remain subject to change in order for us to keep everyone safe should any alterations be necessary.

COVID-19 Update

As Government guidance continues to change for us all, please see the latest advice and guidance letter regarding COVID-19 on our websites under Letters Home.

Governors

We had another successful Governor Challenge Day last term, where some of our Governors visited to speak to staff and pupils about reading and how it is promoted in both schools. If they can be of any help to you, as parents, please inform the office, who will advise you on how best to contact the Chair of Governors, Mr. Clive Sillitoe.

School Websites

Our websites are going to be used more and more for information sharing, so please ensure you familiarise yourselves with them. If you have children at each school, you can easily switch between the two. We also use Twitter and Facebook accounts to broaden the reach Ormesby has with the wider community. A new feature of our websites are our class and Headteacher blogs, which are a fantastic way to see what pupils have been doing that week, and yet another way to communicate information to you, so please ensure you access them regularly. Pupils may also be given the opportunity to write them themselves. They can be found under the Parents' Information tab and then moving to the Class Blogs page.

KS1 and KS2 SATs

After two years, the Government is expecting schools to undertake all statutory assessments. There will be the SATS this year in Years 2 and 6. Children in Year 4 will be sitting their multiplication check and pupils in Year 1 will be completing their Phonics Screening Check, along with those pupils from Year 2 who were unable to achieve the necessary threshold from their previous school year. As a result, we will be ensuring the pupils work as hard as they can to improve their understanding and reduce any gaps in their learning. This is still a fantastic opportunity to showcase what the pupils know and will certainly give us areas to work on further with them. We have spent key moments of our year preparing them for these tests and I have every faith each child will do their very best when the time comes. Willing Year 6 pupils will have access to a reassuring and confidence-building SATS boosting club after

school on Tuesdays 26th April and 3rd May 2022. A letter about this has already gone out.

Year 6 SATS Breakfasts

I am thrilled to be able to offer the Year 6 pupils the opportunity to have free SATS breakfasts each day during their SATS week. This is something we have never offered previously, but it is a fantastic way to not only calm the nerves, but to also generate that sense of team spirit and camaraderie. Our Federation PTFA members will also be lending a hand in preparing the food each day. A letter and tasty menu will be sent home to take a look through and we hope pupils will look forward to taking part. We are sure there is something available which will tantalise their taste buds. If your child is a vegetarian or has a specific dietary requirement this is not a problem, as an alternative will be available. Please inform Year 6 staff, if this is the case. This offer is by no means compulsory, but it would be amazing to see everyone there alongside each other; relaxed and ready to start each day in the right frame of mind.

Residentials

This term, our Years 5 & 6 pupils will be attending Whitwell Hall for their residential during the week 16th May – 20th May. This will be enjoyed by all attending and will also be a fitting celebration for our Year 6 pupils who are entering their final term in primary education. A briefing after school will be taking place soon for those parents and pupils attending on Wednesday 4th May at 3:30pm in the Junior Hall. Our Year 2 pupils will also be attending How Hill in the final week of the Summer Term Monday 18th-Wednesday 20th July. Again, there will be a parents' information briefing on Wednesday 24th May at 3:30pm in the Infant Hall.

Sports' Premium

Last term, lots of our sports' premium funding was spent on new sporting equipment for the children to use in lessons, in clubs and at break times. This is fabulous, but I must stress the importance of encouraging the pupils to treat all school equipment with the respect it deserves so that the items are durable enough to have the intended impact on our sporting abilities and skill development. Our After-School Club remains sports' orientated with the sole aim of enhancing our pupils' skills further and making them more active outside, particularly now that the weather is likely to be brighter and drier.

Curriculum

We are regularly reviewing and enhancing our curriculum to ensure all our pupils continue to get access to stimulating and balanced learning. This term we can look forward to a Science Week, to Sports' Days and to celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. At the Junior school, we are planning for a revised and more bespoke approach to how our curriculum is delivered and it is hoped that immersing pupils into blocked subjects will deepen their understanding and further improve how pupils retain the information they are taught.

Norfolk County Music Festival

Last term, we took a hundred pupils from across both schools to take part in the Norfolk County Music Festival to demonstrate how much we love singing. The children behaved and performed superbly and were recognised for their efforts and application. We were all very proud of them.

PTFA

Our new Parent-Teacher-Friends Association will be promoting new and varied events over this term and further ones into the future, such as the Picnic on the Field for the Queen's Jubilee and Summer Fayre. They are also kindly supporting our sporting fixtures at home by providing refreshments for any spectators. If you would like to help with any events, please speak to Mrs. Alisson Newman our PTFA Chair or contact the school office.

Enrichment

We are hoping Premier Sports will be able to provide further sporting enrichment this term in the more obscure sports. On the last day of the Spring Term, Infants enjoyed Fencing, whilst the Juniors enjoyed

Ultimate Frisbee. Children love getting the chance to experience an unfamiliar sport using an array of different skills.

Attendance and Punctuality

We have always taken into consideration that attendance has been unavoidably affected by COVID-related issues, but our attendance expectations remain high and we desire a figure above the National Expectation (96%). This term, we wish to see everybody at school, and on time, every day. Our pupils have missed enough time from school. Please remember, if your child is ill, you must ring the school to inform us. If the absence is going to be longer than the appropriate quarantine period for the more contagious illnesses (a list can be found on our websites under Sickness Absence Information), you will need to phone in again to inform us. If we do not hear from you, our office staff will give you a courtesy call to find out where your child is. Lengthier and frequent absences through illness will require medical evidence in writing. Once again this term, letters regarding low attendance or persistent lateness will be sent home as a reminder to families about the importance of ensuring their child is in school. We have a duty to pass information to the Local Authority on all persistent absences, which could lead to further action from them. It is hoped that towards the end of the Summer Term an Attendance Reward Trip will be able to go ahead to celebrate those pupils who have shown consistently strong attendance this academic year.

National Tutoring Programme

Both the Infant and Junior schools have been engaged in the National Tutoring Programme since January and this has enabled dedicated funding to be spent assisting eligible pupils to improve in Literacy and Numeracy. It has been great to see so many pupils access this additional support provided by familiar staff faces.

Assemblies & Collective Worships

From the start of the Summer Term, we will be returning to whole-school assemblies in both our school Halls respectively. We are looking forward to this a great deal, as virtual assemblies had been in place since part way through last term, due to an increase in cases in school. However, assemblies in person provide a more rewarding spirit of togetherness than that offered virtually. We will keep virtual assemblies on stand-by should we need them again. We are also delighted to be welcoming back the Open the Book team to both schools where they will be providing Christian stories through narration, drama and pupil participation. It has been sometime since they visited the schools.

The Year 2 and Year 6 Leavers' Assemblies will be held on the final day of term on **Thursday 21st July** at each school in turn. The Junior assembly will be held in the morning at 10:00AM and the Infant assembly will be held in the afternoon at 2:00PM. Further details will be released nearer the time.

Reading and Times Tables

Recently, we have spent a lot of our funding in acquiring new books for pupils at both schools to enjoy with our new Little Wandle Phonics package at the Infants and with fresh reading material for our Junior library. Of course, we want our pupils to continue to immerse themselves in our reading for pleasure culture at Ormesby and a key element of this is ensuring all our pupils read to an adult (verified by their signed reading diaries) or they read to themselves (age appropriate) on a daily basis. As a minimum, we want them to read five times a week. Please do your best with this, as we know working parents have lots to juggle with. Statistically, spending just ten minutes per day reading with and to your child can improve their reading age progress by a whole year. In order to motivate pupils to read more at the Junior school, we will be awarding pupils each week, who meet the school's reading expectations of five reads, with a coloured paper chain link. Class chains will be shared in good work assembly with everybody each week to see which class have read the most. Our hope is that classes will read so much that their coloured chains can be combined to reach around the whole school building. At the Infant school, pupils are rewarded for reading five times with Dojo points and with VIP treatment on treat days at the end of each half-term.

Do not forget, we still want our pupils to improve their recall speed levels in multiplication so keep practising on Times Tables Rock Star and Hit the Button.

Parking, Cycling and Scooting

We know that it gets very busy on the roads outside the schools, but please show consideration towards others. Please do not park on the zig-zag lines, mount kerbs at any point nor block the driveways of houses near the school. Alternatively, you could consider going green and select another method of getting to school other than a car, or simply walk. Please note if you are cycling/scooting to school and wish to leave your bike/scooter in the bike shed, please dismount and push them to the shed to avoid any unnecessary accidents.

Pupil Leadership Teams

As the weather is improving, we will be enabling our Infant Leaders to finalise their campaign to raise awareness of the dangers of plastic pollution in the oceans and helping our local seal population. Likewise, our Junior Leaders, after helping the Ukrainians, will be carrying out their campaign to help those in Afghanistan, particularly the children.

Cashless Payment System

We have been listening to those of you who have requested that our schools become cashless and use a system for online payments making things much more efficient. Over the course of this term, we will be looking into the most beneficial and cost effective system in readiness for the new academic year. We will keep you posted.

Concerns and Issues

May I remind you that if you have any concerns or issues within any area of the school, we cannot help if we do not know about them, so please communicate with us. We will not always get it right, but my staff and I do our very best to ensure we do. I will endeavour to the best of my ability to alleviate any concerns you may have promptly. If I am ever unavailable, please also feel free to share concerns with other senior leaders in the schools. As a final note if you have any safeguarding issues, please contact the school to speak to a Designated Safeguarding Lead. These are: Mr. Young, Miss. McMylor, Mr. Robertson (JNR) and Mrs. Vaughan (INF).

I hope you all have a good term,

Bradley Young – **Headteacher**