

Ormesby Village Infant & Junior Schools Federation

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HEADTEACHER'S TERMLY NEWSLETTER – AUTUMN TERM 2022

Welcome Back!

I hope you and your children have all had a relaxing and restful Summer break in the extreme heat and have returned excited and enthusiastic about the new academic year ahead. Please let me welcome any new families who are joining us this term. I hope that the items in this termly newsletter will act as a good source of information for the term to come alongside the termly calendar of events, but there will also be letters and/or messages sent out ahead of key events across the year just in case a reminder is needed.

Our Safeguarding Team

If you have any safeguarding issues, please contact the school to speak to a Designated Safeguarding Lead. These are: **Mr. Young, Miss. McMylor, Mrs. Holt (JNR) and Mrs. Vaughan (INF)**. However, all staff are trained in safeguarding and are happy to listen to any concerns you have.

Our Uniform and Appearance

A reminder about uniform and appearance was shared with you at the end of last year and I must say that all children have come back looking smart. The new ties and shirts in Years 5 and 6 look fabulous and there was an air of confidence and maturity emanating from all those wearing them. To maintain our high standards, please ensure that ALL uniform is named, shirts are tucked in and that our uniform code is adhered to. Please speak to the school office if any family needs assistance with uniform, as both of our schools have some stock of second-hand uniform, which we are making available when required. We simply ask for a donation for any items taken. If there is an issue with a pupils' uniform, teachers will speak to parents in the first instance.

Our Vision

At our Ormesby Village Infant and Junior Schools Federation, we have a clear vision for the future, which is that we want all within our family community to absorb and remember. Our Village Schools Federation is a nurturing environment underpinned by strong British values. We are a beacon of inclusiveness; a family community where each child is treated as an individual, and outstanding teaching helps them to discover and develop their unique talents and abilities. At our Infant school, our entire community is always **learning to grow: growing to learn** as it develops how it interacts, learns and plays. At our Junior school, everyone **aspires** to be the best they can be, everyone **acquires** the knowledge and skills to be a valuable future citizen of the world and everyone **achieves** success from the many opportunities they are provided with no matter what their starting points.

Our Knowledge-Rich, Sequential Curriculums

Across the Federation, we are always reviewing the effectiveness of our curriculum and improving the impact it is going to have. Our aim is to always give pupils a real purpose for their learning with a challenging outcome imparting necessary life skills. More specifically at the Junior school, we have now implemented a blocked curriculum, where we can immerse our pupils into longer periods of learning. We are very much looking forward to seeing what the pupils can achieve. As the year unfolds, teachers will also be creating Knowledge Organisers about different themes covered in class, which contain key vocabulary, important dates, significant people and other useful facts that will aid your child's learning. These will be added to the school websites in due course.

Our United Front – Home and School/School and Home

Pupils learn best when they have strong teaching from school and regular support from within the home. Families

can help their children a great deal by reading daily, working through times tables and the four mathematical operations, learning spellings and practising handwriting/pencil grip (depending on the age of your child). To support areas of learning at home we have some online school subscriptions such as, Spelling Shed, Hit the Button, Times Tables Rock Stars and Spag.com (JNR). All links to online learning to support children can be found on our websites under the Parents' information heading. Pupils will be given their login details for these

Our Special Visitors

Both of our schools continue to prepare for special visitors from external specialists, the Local Authority and/or Ofsted to support and to inspect how we are educating our pupils. Once we are informed of any Ofsted inspection, of course, we will share this with you, and seek your support during the inspection. A united spirit of togetherness is vital in preparing all elements for such a visit, as all linked to the Federation want to do their very best for it and the wider community. We are enthusiastic about having all that is positive about the schools recognised and we are receptive to any areas for improvement that inspectors feel need to be worked upon.

Our Cashless Payment System

As we informed you at the tail end of the last academic year, our schools are now using a cashless payment system called ParentMail. All parents will have received an email link to register themselves on. If you are a new parent and did not receive this or have had difficulties, please speak to the school office staff. All payments for school dinners, trips and club attendance can be made on this system much more conveniently and effectively than before, but like any new system, there will be a period of time where all users are familiarising themselves with it, so please allow for any teething problems.

Our Growth Mindset and Our "5Rs" of Effective Learning

To instil in all our pupils the need to adopt a growth mindset in life, as opposed to a fixed mindset, we have implemented the "5Rs" of Effective Learning. These are: **Readiness, Resilience, Responsibility, Resourcefulness and Reflectiveness**. Each school week will be dedicated to one of the above characteristics and one child per class will be recognised for displaying positive examples of that characteristic by receiving a certificate in Good Work Assembly. As a Federation, we wish for all our pupils to embrace challenge, to have an open-mind to learning new things, to be positive in outlook and to be willing to achieve as an independent learner.

Our Pastoral Support

Within our schools, we have super, supportive staff who are happy to assist all our pupils and their families pastorally. We can offer support with behaviour, emotional and mental health, parental separation, bereavement, financial worries and many more. At the Junior school we have our lovely N.E.S.T. facility, which many of our children have benefitted from and our Infant school equivalent is being implemented this term. We will use a combination of staff and pupils to select an appropriate name for the valuable space. Help is there, you simply need to ask. Our schools also benefit from external specialist support in areas where greater expertise is required, such as the Benjamin Foundation.

Our Christmas Performances

Last year, due to increased cases of COVID-19, we were unable to have live performances to parents at either school, but we are hopefully planning for live Christmas performances to return at the end of term. We are aiming for a Christmas Showcase at the Infant School and a Carol Concert at the Juniors. In the possible event of COVID rearing its head again, we will review the appropriateness of hosting these live performances and, if needs be, revert to recordings of what was going to be offered.

Our Expectations for Attendance and Illness

We continue to take every step possible to ensure your children learn as much as they can, so please ensure your child is in school each day and on time. If your child is late, arriving after 8:55am, you must bring them to the relevant school office, not going directly to the classroom. If your child is ill, please notify the school office giving a specific reason for their absence. As we have children and staff with lower immune systems in the schools, we must know if your child is suffering from a contagious illness so this information can be passed on to the relevant parties. More information about illnesses can be found on our school websites under Parents' Information. It is our duty to know where our pupils are, particularly if they are not in school.

Our Extra-Curricular Clubs

Across last year, I was pleased that we offered many extra-curricular clubs and sporting enrichment sessions. It

was fabulous to see competitive sport return against neighbouring schools for both boys and girls and it was rewarding to see the positive impact those opportunities provided. I am keen to see as many different people represent the school as possible to enhance their school experiences. Once again, this year, a strong extra-curricular programme will be available and we will always be looking to add to provision. Depending on the school, this may include Choir, Football, Dance, Netball, Athletics/Cross-Country, Tag-Rugby, STEM, Bushcraft, Gymnastics, Lego and many more over the course of the year. At the Junior school, we are fortunate to have Mrs. White-Joubert (violin, piano, singing, dance) and Mr. Harris (drumming) who can provide peripatetic sessions for those budding musicians. If your child is interested in learning a new instrument, please inform the school office.

Our After-School Club (Childcare)

Our free, sports-orientated After-School Club is back in operation and is open to both Infant and Junior schools running on a Monday 3:15pm-5:00pm, on a Tuesday 3:15pm-4:45pm and on a Wednesday 3:30pm-5:00pm. Mondays and Tuesdays are at the Infant school and Wednesdays are at the Junior school. A walking bus will be manned by staff to transfer pupils safely from one school to the other. Sports on offer are reviewed and changed regularly by supervising staff. If you wish to book your child into after-school club for the half-term, please fill out a booking form that is normally sent out in advance of the period in question and return it to the school offices.

Our Parent and Teacher Meetings

Again nearer half-term, we will be running our parent and teacher meetings. The schools are dedicating a week to arranging ten-minute meetings with parents either over the telephone, virtually via Google Meet or, where teachers feel the child would benefit from a meeting, in person. These meetings will take place at agreed times during the week beginning Monday 17th October 2022. More information on how to book an appointment with staff will be released nearer the time, but it will follow a similar format to last year.

Our Governors

We are always keen to share the wonderful things happening in and out of our schools with our Governing Body. We are looking forward to inviting them in, once again, over the course of the year to enable them to see for themselves what our pupils learn and enjoy. 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.

Our P.T.F.A

The P.T.F.A. or Friends of Ormesby Village Schools Federation is a vital committee to help raise much-needed funds for further school improvement. With a new year upon us, it is hoped that some parents will be enthusiastic enough about re-energising the P.T.F.A. and coming up with ideas for fundraising. Please show your interest in joining and helping by contacting the school office.

Our Baseline and Statutory Assessments

Over the next couple of weeks, pupils will be subtly undertaking assessments to inform staff as to their starting points for the year, particularly after a period of holiday. These will aid staff in planning appropriate teaching points, establishing suitable support and a great tool to measure progress against at the end of the year. Staff will take all necessary steps over the year to prepare pupils for the Government's statutory assessments in the Summer term, such as the Reception class assessments, the Phonics Screening Check for Year 1 and any Year 2 pupils, the KS1 SATs for Year 2, the multiplication tables check in Year 4 and the KS2 SATs in Year 6.

Our Methods of Communication

Our Federation always endeavours to do its very best, but sometimes we will not always get it right. Please contact the school if you realise an error or oversight has occurred or you are simply unhappy or worried about something. We will always aim to resolve issues as quickly and as supportively as possible. However, we cannot do this if we do not know about it. In the first instance, please contact your class teacher, but if you feel the issue is more serious it may require a more senior leader or myself to resolve the issue.

Our Class Dojo

All classes are continuing their use of Class Dojo, in order to relay important messages or reminders to parent. This system also allows staff to track the awarded House Dojo points, to keep parents abreast of any homework set and to communicate with parents more directly. Please make sure you have downloaded the app and linked to our schools.

Our Websites, Class Blogs and Social Media

Using our websites regularly will also help to keep abreast of letters and notices from both the Infant and Junior schools, as well as photographs from any school events that have taken place under the Photo Gallery. Our Class Blogs also promote what each class has undertaken that week highlighting specific events or achievements. As a Federation, we are continuing to be more environmentally-friendly by reducing the amount of paper we share, not to mention more economically-friendly in order to keep the costs of resources we incur as low as possible. We will use texts and emails regularly to inform you about events and celebrate both schools with our social media accounts on Facebook and Twitter. Please ensure you follow us and watch out for our posts. We can be found on both platforms with the name: **Ormesby Village Schools Federation '@OrmesbyVSF.'**

Our Expectations for Visitor Conduct

We expect all visitors to our school sites to conduct themselves appropriately and politely when interacting with our staff or other visitors either in person, via the telephone or through email. Any rudeness will not be tolerated. Ultimately, we are all working towards the same goal and that is to provide our children with the best possible school experiences and collectively we must all set them the correct example.

Our Expectations for 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 at any point nor block the driveways of houses near the school. Please also remember not to use our car park, unless a prior arrangement has been agreed with 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 accidents.

Our Expectations for Pets and Smoking

Whilst it is lovely to know our children have family pets, particularly dogs, no dogs are allowed on site (except registered guide dogs), as this poses a serious health and safety risk. Anyone bringing a dog on to the site will be asked to remove it. Please do not tie a dog to our railings or stand right outside the school gate with one, because some children at our school have genuine phobias of dogs. Similarly, can I remind you that smoking/vaping on site is also not allowed, as it is something we do not wish to be promoted to children.

Thank you all for taking the time to read this newsletter. I hope you all have a great term.

Bradley Young
Headteacher