

Ormesby Village Infant & Junior Schools Federation

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HEADTEACHER'S TERMLY NEWSLETTER – AUTUMN TERM 2023

Welcome Back!

I hope you and your children have all had a relaxing and restful Summer break 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 our 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. We are also pleased to announce that our Federation has moved over to using a secure, online system (CPOMS) to manage our safeguarding concerns, which will increase our efficient management of safeguarding even further.

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. To maintain our high standards, please ensure that ALL uniform is named, shirts are tucked in and that our uniform code is adhered to. We want our entire Federation community to be proud of its uniform. If any family needs assistance with uniform, please speak to the relevant school office as both of our schools have some stock of pre-loved uniform in our school second-hand shop, which we are making available whenever required in our Junior school. We simply ask for a small donation for any items taken. If there is an issue with a pupils' uniform, teachers will speak to parents in the first instance to ensure it is rectified.

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. We believe our curriculums immerse our pupils into longer periods of learning enabling them to



retain more knowledge and experience more enjoyment. We are very much looking forward to seeing what the pupils can achieve. To assist with pupil learning our websites house Knowledge Organisers about different subject areas covered in class, which contain key vocabulary, important dates, significant people and other useful facts. As always, we will endeavour to embellish our curriculums with trips out or by having specialist visitors in, however if these are desired we need the financial support of families to pay for them, because sadly the school budgets cannot subsidise them for all to participate meaning they will be reduced or unable to take place at all.

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 (five times a week), 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 in school.

Our Special Visitors

Both of our schools continue to be prepared for special visits from external specialists, the Local Authority and/or Ofsted to support and to inspect how we are educating our pupils. We were extremely pleased with the Ofsted visit and successful outcome at our Infant School in December 2022 and we await an inspection at our Junior School. Once we are informed of any Ofsted inspection, of course, we will share this with you, and seek your support during this time. 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 Pupil Admission Number

As a reminder, please be aware that the Pupil Admission Number for our Reception and Year 3 classes are set at 30 pupils each year, which means the classes are full at this amount. This information is also on our websites.

Our Outdoor Nature Spaces

Over the course of this academic year, we are hoping to ensure our outdoor/nature areas are used effectively by our pupils to support many different areas of learning. Pupils will be involved safely in their upkeep and we are also going to be supported by a local conservation group to improve these spaces further in order to keep them engaging and attractive.

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 excellent, 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 and at our Infant school we have our wonderful H.I.D.E. provision, which many of our children have benefitted from over the course of the last academic year. 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. At the start of each day, we also offer sensory circuits to selected pupils, who we feel may benefit from such support in order to set them up more successfully for the school day.

Our Christmas Events and Performances

Last year, we all thoroughly enjoyed seeing the live performances at both schools and looking ahead to this Christmas,



we hope we will be able to share another wonderful Nativity at the Infant School and a Carol Concert at the Juniors. We would also like to continue our Family Carol Service in combination with Reverend Jo and St. Margaret's Church, not to mention our Senior Citizen Christmas Lunch for our new Year 3 pupils to experience.

Our Ormesby University

Just prior to the Summer break, we distributed some booklets for any pupils interested at the Junior school to begin to collect signatures from any extra-curricular clubs they attend. Our hope is that later in the Summer term 2024, those pupils who have partaken in such activities and filled their booklets will be able to experience a University graduation of their very own with mortar boards and gowns at the Church.

Our Immersive Learning Classroom and Building Renovations

Over the course of the Summer holidays, we have had some re-decoration works completed, with further improvements planned for the near future. Contractors have also been inside the Junior school creating an exciting, new space to house an immersive learning environment. This has been a lengthy process and we are happily nearing its completion. We will ensure an official unveiling is arranged when all is ready, which we hope will be this term and once a name for the space has been chosen by the pupils. This will be a fantastic, state-of-the-art tool to enhance our curriculums and fully immerse our pupils into many different areas of learning. If you would like to see the technology we will be using, please use this link www.immersive.co.uk. In time and once trained, we will embed this provision ensuring all pupils from across the Federation access it, not to mention letting this unique facility out with our educational neighbours for them to experience. Exciting times ahead!

Our Expectations for Attendance

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. The Government's desired threshold is above 96%, our expectation is higher. Our efforts to incentivise stronger attendance will continue this year with our annual Attendance Award trip later in the Summer term using the eligibility criteria already established:

- *If a child has had more than one bout of a contagious illness requiring quarantine in accordance with the PHE Exclusion Table OR more than three days of absence through other illness(es) since 6th September 2023 (this does not include agreed medical absences for appointments and or evidenced surgical procedures);*
- *If a child has had or is going to have any unauthorised holidays for any length of time during term time;*
- *If a child has any unauthorised absences for any duration.*
- *If a child is persistently late, regularly arriving after 8:45am.*

We will also be using some other ideas to recognise and reward children with the very strongest attendance.

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. If you are taking your child on holiday during term time, please ensure you complete and return the leave of absence request form. 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 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 musical instrument, please inform the Junior 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 3:30pm-5:00pm and on a Wednesday 3:15pm-4:45pm (Gymnastics session with Michelle Bailey). Mondays and Wednesdays are at the Infant school and Tuesdays 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 the online booking form (Google Form) that is always sent out in advance of the period in question.

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, in person where teachers feel the child would benefit from a meeting of this sort. These meetings will take place at agreed times during the week beginning Monday 16th October 2023. More information on how to book an appointment with staff will be released nearer the time, but it will follow a similar and convenient format to last year. This was via a Google Form at the Junior School and manual sign-up sheets at the Infant School. Once again, we will also be inviting parents in to share in their children's learning journeys at our termly Curriculum Celebration Events, where you can review books more at length.

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. We will be advertising for some vacant parent Governor positions in the near future, so should you feel you could provide the Federation with vital support, please respond to the information when it is distributed.

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 through organised events. 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, in order to alleviate this additional, organisational pressure from school staff. Without a successful P.T.F.A. being established, popular events, such as discos and fayres may not be organised. Please show your interest in joining and helping by contacting the school office and/or Headteacher.

Our Baseline and Statutory Assessments

Over the next few weeks, pupils will be subtly undertaking assessments to inform staff as to their starting points for the year, particularly after a significant 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 multiplication tables check in Year 4 and the KS2 SATs in Year 6. The KS1 SATs in Year 2 have now been removed.

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 parents. 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 classes, but also please remember to message staff via the system at appropriate times, unless there is an emergency.

Our Websites, Class Blogs and Social Media

Using our websites regularly will also help to keep abreast of letters and notices that have been emailed directly to you 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 Dojo messages, 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 educational 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

