

Ormesby Village Infant & Junior Schools Federation

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HEADTEACHER'S TERMLY NEWSLETTER – SPRING TERM 2022

Happy New Year!

I hope that you have all had a great Christmas and New Year. Thank you so much to all of the children and families that gave me gifts and cards – they were all very well received. Welcome back and I hope you, like us, are all looking forward to what successes and achievements 2022 can bring. Once again, I hope that the items in this termly newsletter will act as a good source of information for the term to come, particularly as we all forge ahead in the face of the pandemic.

Preparation for Inspection

Just before Christmas, the Infant school had arranged for a visit from a former HMI inspector, who spent the day appraising many aspects of our practice. They were very pleased with much of our provision and the suggested action points for improvement were minor additions, which we will implement. This has made us all extremely happy and has given us confidence to face a real inspection when the time comes. The children seen and spoken to by the visitor made us all very proud.

Great Phonics News

It gives me great pleasure to tell you that our Year 2 children completed their Phonics Screening Check in December, which was delayed from last year due to the pandemic, and they all did really well. We are all so proud of them. To continue our improvements with Phonics our Infant school will be implementing a new and approved scheme called Little Wandle. Once staff are trained on this new approach, we will share minor changes to how our Phonics and Reading will be organised and support you to continue to support your children at home.

Singing Prowess

We hope you enjoyed the different Christmas pieces that were sent out to families from the Infant and Junior classes. The Key Stage Two Carol Concert and Musical Ensemble showed off the fabulous singing and instrumental talents of our pupils. We hope this can continue with our planned entry into the Norfolk County Music Festival in March. Mrs. White-Joubert will be working hard this term rehearsing songs with the Infant and Junior school pupils. We also have written a Federation song, have put a tune to it and are simply waiting for pupils to begin to sing it. I am sure the pupils will make us all proud.

Vision Captions and Values

Last term, we spent time coming up with a new Federation vision and a new vision caption for the Junior School, as only the Infant School had one, which is **Learning to Grow: Growing to Learn**. We are pleased to share with you all that the Junior School vision caption is **Aspire – Acquire – Achieve** (The Three As). The vision of Ormesby Village Infant & Junior Schools Federation is for every member of the school community to feel valued and respected, and for all people to be treated fairly. We are a caring community, whose values are built on ethical and moral teaching and this leads us to build a caring family. Our Federation aims to promote an environment where all feel happy, safe and secure. At our Infant school, all stakeholders are always **learning to grow: growing to learn** as they develop how they interact, learn and play together. 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. From the survey that went out last term, the Federation has chosen the following core values to base our ethos on: **Respect, Honesty, Family, Aspiration, Nurturing, Friendship, Togetherness and Resilience**. Thank you all for your suggestions.

Knowledge Organisers

Teachers will 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 ability to retain their learning. These will also be available on our website.

School Improvement and Development Plan

A parents' version of our new school improvement and development plan is available highlighting the key things we will be working on. There is a child-friendly version for our pupils as well. We also have a "We Are Ormesby!" leaflet for you to read, which shows our strengths and all that is good about Ormesby. All documents can be found on our websites under the "School Improvement" tabs or in our school foyers.

Parent and Teacher Meetings

After half-term, we will have another round of parent-teacher meetings. These worked really well last term alongside our interim report cards. The schools are dedicating another week to arranging ten-minute meetings with parents either over the telephone or via Google Meet virtually. Where it is more helpful to the pupil, teachers will arrange face-to-face meetings in a safe manner. Again, these meetings will take place at agreed times beginning on Monday 21st March 2022. More information regarding appointments will be released nearer the time.

COVID-19

Recently, we have shared on our social media Facebook account some helpful links to the latest Government guidance for parents regarding the pandemic. We also have dedicated pages on our websites for further COVID-19 information. Please be reassured that our Federation follows all guidance and ensures it has many key measures in place to keep everyone safe and further measures, should these be required, can be implemented due to any increase in cases.

Attendance and Illness

The Government has stated children being in school for education is a priority after having so much disruption to their education already. As a Federation of Schools, we will continue to do what we can to ensure we are all safe and can remain open to provide this. Whilst we fully understand the different concerns parents have regarding COVID-19, if children are not unwell, they must be in school each day and on time. If your child is late, you must bring them to the school office, please do not send them directly to the classroom. Our school attendance team has increased their responsibilities in addressing pupils with low attendance and we have gentle reminder letters that will be sent out reminding families of the importance of good attendance. We are sure this will be sufficient in ensuring attendance figures improve. If your child is ill, please notify the school office giving a specific reason for their absence. If a pupil's absence is due to repeated illness, the school may ask for evidence from a medical professional. More information about illnesses and their quarantine periods can be found on our websites.

Pastoral Support

Please be reminded that we have very supportive staff who are happy to assist all our pupils and their families pastorally. We can offer support with behaviour, parental separation, bereavement, financial worries and many more. Help is there, you simply need to ask. We also have access to many external agencies who specialise in specific areas. Our Junior School N.E.S.T. facility offers children a calm and nurturing space to work with staff.

Easter Events

I am pleased to say that, COVID-permitting, there will be some Easter events nearer the end of this term. There is a separate Spring term events' timetable being sent out to parents with our plans on. We are looking forward to an Easter bonnet parade at the Infants and an Egg Decoration competition (hard-boiled) at the Juniors. Not to mention the Easter Egg raffle we will hold in both schools using your chocolate egg donations from our non-uniform day nearer the time.

Extra-Curricular School Clubs

We hope to be able to continue to offer extra-curricular clubs at lunchtimes and after-school. Mr. Young's Years 5&6 Boy's Football club will begin next week on Thursday 13th January and will end at 4:15pm due to the failing light. Premier Sports will continue with Girls' Football at the Junior school and will now be running a Multi-Sports/Athletics Club at the Infant school. We will inform you of the clubs being run by Mr. Pamplin this term as soon as we can. At the Junior school, we are fortunate to have Mrs. White-Joubert, who can provide peripatetic music sessions for those budding musicians. If your child is interested in learning a new instrument, please inform the school office. We are also hoping to finalise a new drumming teacher at the Junior school, so please declare your interest at the school office.

After-School Club

Our After-School Club continues to offer child-care and is open to pupils from 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. Places are limited to a maximum of 20 for safety reasons. 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. Our after-school club is now sport-orientated and is free of charge as a result. We hope this will provide more opportunities to get your children active. 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 well in advance of the period in question and return it to the school offices with full payment. Full payment is required to confirm the booking. The cost of after-school club is £6.00 per week.

P.T.A - Ormesby Needs You!

The P.T.A. or Friends of Ormesby Village Schools Federation is a vital committee to help raise much-needed funds for further school improvement. Sadly, our Federation does not have an active one and we are very keen to begin one again to improve areas of the schools. These meetings could be conducted virtually now to make them even more convenient to attend. If you are interested, please let the school offices know.

Love of Reading

To further enhance a love for reading with our pupils, a travelling book fair will be at the Infant school during the week beginning 21st February with it moving to the Junior school the following week.

Disco Fever

On Thursday 10th February, it is hoped there will be a Junior Valentine's disco for all Junior pupils to enjoy.

Spelling Bee

We hope to be able to host an Inter-House Spelling Bee with pupils and will look to try and run things virtually if needs be. It will all be a little bit of fun and a way to see how well our children can spell. A final date is yet to be confirmed.

Generations' Project

It is hoped that the Generations' Project will be a new project for those families in receipt of Pupil Premium. It has the aim of raising the aspirations of our Pupil Premium pupils and enhancing the relationships between home and school with pupils attending a set number of sessions. Further information will be sent home nearer the time. I hope all eligible will participate in an extremely worthwhile project.

Communication and Safeguarding

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 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. 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, Mrs. McMylor, Mr. Robertson (JNR) and Mrs. Vaughan (INF).

Homework and Class Dojo

All classes are continuing their use of Class Dojo, in order to communicate and share news about the pupils and their learning. They also have important information, contain reminders and will be a tool for teachers to set any class homework. There will still be expectations to learn weekly spellings, to read daily and to practise times tables throughout the year as usual.

Visitor Conduct

As always, we are grateful for your continued support and understanding with how our Federation operates. Nevertheless, we expect all stakeholders to conduct themselves appropriately and politely when interacting with our staff/each other either in person, via the telephone or through email. Any rudeness to staff 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.

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 you have already spoken to the current Headteacher as someone with a registered disability). 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.

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.

Websites and Social Media

Please ensure you keep up-to-date with any letters and notices from both the existing Infant and Junior school websites, which have now been updated and improved for the new academic year. We have some fabulous photos on there of the children in action, taken by our very own and very talented Mr. Millings. This has taken some time, so thank you for bearing with us. It is hoped the new and more user-friendly websites are nearing completion and should go live by the end of this month improving things further still. Staff will continue to use texts and emails regularly to inform you about events and celebrate both schools on our social media accounts on Facebook and Twitter. Please ensure you follow us. We hope you have enjoyed our posts and tweets so far. We can be found on both the above platforms: **Ormesby Village Schools Federation '@OrmesbyVSF'**

Governors

We had a very successful Governor Challenge Day last term, where some of our Governors visited to speak to staff and pupils about behaviour and some of the changes since September. We are looking forward to inviting them in again this term to look at another area of school improvement. 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.

I hope you all have a great term.

Bradley Young
Headteacher

