

Ormesby Village Infant School

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Tuesday January 16th 2018

Dear Parents

Welcome back to the new term and a very happy new year to you all! Let's hope we soon see the signs of Spring and warmer weather! We hope you and the children enjoyed our Christmas events and we are delighted to report that the Christmas Fayre raised £634.18 for School Fund. This is a wonderful amount, so thanks to you all for your support and generosity and to the hard-working PTA who organised the event. We are still waiting to find out what profit was made from the sale of Christmas cards and will inform you as soon as we know. The children thoroughly enjoyed the Peter Pan panto on the first day back - a great start to the new term!

Parking

Please remember that when you park near the schools you need to do so considerately and legally. You should not block residents' driveways or park alongside dropped kerbs. Neither should you park in the entrance or exit to the school, or park on the yellow zig-zag lines. There have been reports of inconsiderate parking, particularly the latter, and the police have been informed and will make regular 'spot checks' at the beginning and end of the school day. These rules are to keep all our children safe and we appreciate you taking note of them.

P.E.

Please ensure your children have a suitable P.E. kit in school **EVERY DAY OF THE WEEK**. All the children are receiving additional sessions during teaching time and at lunch times thanks to the increase in sports funding from the government. They need to be able to change into suitable clothes – and most importantly correct footwear. Thank you for helping us to ensure your children get the most from these health-promoting activities.

School attendance

The school's attendance figures for the academic year 2016-2017 fell below 95%, for both the two and three term calculations used by the Department for Education and Ofsted. This puts the school in the lowest percentile when compared to other schools nationally. The attendance figure for the Autumn term 2017 is even lower at 93.6% which is extremely concerning. The DfE and Ofsted make a strong link between attendance and pupils' achievement. It is crucial that your children attend school every day that they are well enough to do so and that they arrive at school on time. The vast majority of the school's unauthorised absence is due to holidays in term time and we urge you to take a break in school holiday time if at all possible. The school will follow rigorously the requirements for ensuring good school attendance set down by the DfE and the local authority and you can find these details on the school's website.



School improvement

The governors and staff are always striving to ensure that the school's resources are well managed and used appropriately to provide the best education possible for your children. Your children are at the heart of everything that happens at Ormesby Village Infant School and everyone charged with running the school wants to give them the best opportunities to succeed and so be able to make aspirational life choices in the future. This school is relatively small, with a much reduced school roll currently and for the foreseeable future, and this significantly affects the school's budget. Other local schools in our Gt Yarmouth North cluster are either already academies or are seeking to join/form multi-academy trusts. We do not want our school to become isolated and need to explore ways of working collaboratively with other schools to share and learn from good practice elsewhere. Also we need to explore ways to ensure our increasingly limited budget is maximised to offer best value for the services we are required to purchase for the school, including maintaining current staffing levels. Consequently the governing body is considering joining a multi academy trust and is engaging in discussions with the relevant personnel from the local authority and the Department for Education. Governors have approached three trusts, following guidance, all of which have local schools as members of their organisations. As soon as there is any further information to share with you we will do so in a timely manner.

Diary dates

4.1.18 – Pantomime – Peter Pan – for all children – 1.45pm
1.2.18 – Proposed Valentine disco – confirmation/details to follow
9.2.18 – school closes for half term
19.2.18 – school re-opens
8.3.18 – Parents' evening – 3.30-6.30pm
15.3.18 – Parents' evening – 3.30-6.30pm
28.3.18 – Easter egg hunt/Easter bonnet/hat parade – details to follow
28.3.18 – School closes for Easter holiday
16.4.18 – School reopens for summer term

Yours sincerely

Lucy Bates
Headteacher