

OLD FLETTON PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

July 2019

Here we are again... celebrating the end of another year, whilst also recognising it really is just the opportunity for a new beginning. All of our classes have moved up and begun learning with their new teachers and our Year 6 pupils are ready to begin their secondary school journey. I wish them well and hope that our values of CARE have 'stuck' and enable them to have a fulfilled secondary school experience. I can't wait to hear and celebrate their successes in the future. Good luck!

This year we have spent a lot of time reviewing our curriculum and I am pleased to say that, although this process needs to continue into next year as we are being so thorough, we will be able to share this directly with you and on the website as it develops.

Following the survey carried out by the Governors; knowing about the curriculum was an issue that was rightly highlighted, as was communication. I will continue with the weekly updates as they appear to be positively received and the longer more detailed newsletters, however as I mentioned in my last newsletter we will research (and hopefully implement) an App based method of communication regarding letters, notices etc. Thank you to the parent who suggested a 'hub' so there was one main place to check for all information.

Priorities for next year:

- Read Write Inc and Phonics teaching
- Pupil Premium project linked to outcomes
- Communication
- Teaching - refining Direct Instruction
- Curriculum development

Patience & Understanding

I have never known a year like this one for so much teacher absence and it has caused huge amounts of disturbance. I would like to particularly thank Reception, Year 1 and Year 4 who have been affected the most. I have done all I can to keep disruption to a minimum, but your patience and understanding have been greatly appreciated.

There is little I can do when staff are ill for long periods - punctuated by short intervals when they return. Fingers crossed for a healthier 2019 /20.

Staffing update

Joining us as class teachers are: Miss Forster (Year 5), Miss Cross (Year 4), Mrs Lane (Year 3) and Miss Downie who started after May half term teaching in Year 4.

Mrs Mortell is returning for 3 days a week after maternity leave and will be teaching alongside Mrs Gunn.

We are saying goodbye and thank you to several staff: Mrs Drabwell, Mrs Swann, Miss O'Neill and Mrs Toyloy and also wish Mrs Dakin all the best in her retirement.

Baby news - congratulations to Mrs Thomas and Mrs Buchan who will both be starting maternity leave in the Autumn, hence them not taking a class responsibility.

Children return to school on Wednesday 4th September

Attendance - Year To Date

National: 95.8%

Raising attendance is still a priority in school and we do appreciate your help in working with us to achieve this. You can see from the figures below that several classes are at or above the national average and a few more are very close to achieving this. We need to continue to work together to keep these figures as high as possible.

RCH	93.6%
RSK	93.6%
1AC	96.1%
1HM	95.9%
2LM	96.9%
2MF	96.2%
3BM	97.1%
3CP	96.1%
4LD	96.4%
4HV	95.1%
5JP	94.9%
5SM	96.5%
6RT	96.1%
6SB	96.4%

Diary dates

4th Sept - First day of term

10th Sept - Reception phonics, reading session & profile meeting

26th Sept - European Day of Language Celebration

4th Oct - Reception Elmer Day

15th & 16th Oct - Parents' Consultation evenings

18th Oct - Nursery stay & play session

18th Oct - Harvest Festival

More dates can be found on the school website

Funding and Trips

As part of the curriculum review we have planned for trips, visitors and experience days to enhance and support the learning. I appreciate that for many families the costs associated with these activities can be a significant pressure.

Governors have agreed to subsidise all trips to some extent (depending on what it is) rather than funding 1 free trip in full. We will make this clear in letters home, so you can see where we are continuing to support: including the use of money from the Christmas and Summer Fetes.

Alongside this, in the longer term we will provide a cost for the whole year to enable a regular payment plan option.



French lessons

Years 4, 5 and 6 will be having regular French lessons with Mrs Pignatiello. The principle behind this change is that it is better to have little and often rather than a large chunk that is then forgotten.

Class Representatives

Class representatives were tasked with seeking the views of all the children about how they preferred to learn: base class or PPP. Overwhelmingly, they wished for more base class time and as a result we have changed our timetables to reflect this wish. PPP only for Phonics/Spelling and Maths, base class for everything else.

Pop Mime

Thank you to Ormiston Bushfield again for the use of their theatre. A truly wonderful night of music and dance was had by all. It is certainly a calendar highlight of the year. A big congratulations to winners: Ruby Dawes and Darcey Foreman. In school, children will be able to see all of the year group video recordings of the songs.

