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Toftwood Infant and Junior School Federation

End of Year Newsletter 2021-2022

The end of a strange year

We finally reach the end of a year that has been challenging for everyone. With lockdowns, isolations, home learning, changes in routines, learning to use Microsoft Teams it has been a steep learning curve for us all!

We would just like to thank all of the parents and carers who have been so supportive, who have embraced the technology and online lessons (even when we were all finding our way around them) and who have understood also the pressures schools were under. To teach over 600 children remotely on line was a challenge

So, thank you, from the bottom of our hearts for your support this year. It has been much appreciated.

Well done to all of the children who have shown that children are adaptable, they manage change and they can learn in school and out of school. For their kindness towards each other in a time that was so uncertain for them. They have been a real credit to their families and the staff in school are so impressed with the way they have approached everything.

It has been a pleasure to see them in their new classes this week. The staff worked hard to ensure the rooms were 'September ready' so everything looks just as it will when they start. Their three days in Years 1-6 have been so useful for them, and they have had many team building exercises and activities, lots of learning and also lots of fun with their new teachers. They planned the three days to enable everyone to reconnect with old friends, make new friends and work as one class all ready for September.

It was also a real privilege to welcome our new Reception children for their visits this week. They were fantastic at saying goodbye at the gate and coming in, welcomed by the staff. They worked well together, played together, shared things together and impressed us with their positive attitudes towards school. Some didn't want to leave.

We look forward to building on the strong start seen from all of our children over the past three days when we return in September.

Thank you for making sure you knew where to collect your child on the playground on the last three days. It went as smoothly as we could hope for! Collection will never be perfect for everyone, especially if you have more than one child, but we have done what we feel is best and seems to be working. Years R and 5, as set out on the website information, will be trialling leaving at 3.10 (reception) and 3.20 (Year 5) to keep things moving. If you have a child at Infants and one in Year 5, we will wait for you to arrive so do not worry!

Thank you also to parents and carers for their kind gifts, cards and emails for the staff. We really appreciate them all. It makes a huge difference to receive a thankyou and we are most grateful for your supportive messages.

Staff updates!

As always at the end of the year, we say goodbye and good luck to some staff and welcome to some others.

A fond farewell and thankyou goes to:

Miss E Brown (TA in Reception) Mrs Coy (Inclusion lead), Mrs Joyner (MSA), Mrs Malone (Year 3 teacher), Miss McTavish (Reception teacher), Mrs Williams (Year 6 teacher)

We say good luck with your new baby, due in August to **Mrs Cudby**

We say hello and welcome to:

Miss Goddard (New Reception teacher), Miss Parfitt (New Year 1 teacher), Mr Small (New Year 3 teacher), Miss Ward (New Year 5 teacher), Mr Williams (New Year 4 teacher)

A huge thankyou to all of our staff for this year, who have had to learn to work in different ways, who have taught their classes remotely, who have supported families, children and each other this year. There are not enough words really to explain all the things they have done that may be unseen by parents, carers and children, but that have made everything that has happened possible. I am truly grateful for their dedication and commitment to the children, families and schools this year.

Year 6

Our Year 6 left us this week to start their High School Journey, the next step in their education. They had an activity day on Friday and it was so lovely to see them enjoying being together and making some memories for the future. The day included a sports' tournament, a visit from the ice cream van and tattoos and nail painting. It seemed to have been enjoyed by all of them.

Year 6 it has been a pleasure knowing you through all of your ups and downs (more ups than downs). It has been a pleasure to support you, watch you grow and mature into confident, happy children, ready for the next stage in your education. We have known some of you since you were born, so seeing and being a part of your journey so far has been a privilege.

So, Year 6, enjoy your High school experience, continue to do your very best to reach you goals in life. Show your High Schools the very best of what you can do, ask for help if you need it, help others, work hard, embrace all of your new experiences, and be happy. But, most of all, be kind!
We look forward to hearing all about your adventures in the future.

Reading millionaires

Our children have been working hard on their reading, and extending their reading choices. We always say 'the more you read, the more you learn.' Reading is such a vital skill, but it can also bring tremendous pleasure as you explore the world of books.

Children in Years 3-6 use accelerated reader, which gives the children a range to read within. They then choose those books and take a quiz on them at the end. This helps assess their understanding too. Accelerated reader also knows how many words are in each book, and children can work through to being reading millionaires and earn certificates for their achievements.

Here are those who have become millionaires or multi millionaires this year. Thank you to Mrs Hughes for the information! These are the 'old classes'.

ZK3: Abigail H
BL4: Phoebe D
LJ4: Wren K (4m +)
AR5: Phoebe H
SJ5: Emily C (6m+), Finn O
GG6: Anastazja W (2m+) Callum G (2m)
KH6: Garwyn E; Felicity Bilverstone
WS6: Isabell Brown (4m+); Jayden Davey, Jasmine Jarvis.

Congratulations to all of those children.

A message was sent to eligible parents/carers telling you about access to the online books through Accelerated Reader over the summer. Mr Monks has adjusted the settings so that children in new Years 4-6 can quiz up until the end of August. Unfortunately we cannot add the new Year 3 to the system until September.

Today, if your child is in new years 3-6 you should have received an email giving you the log in details for the MyOn books on Accelerated Reader so that the children can carry on reading throughout the holiday. The great news is that the children in new years 4,5 and 6 will also be able to take quizzes on these books too until the 31st August and work to reach their personalised targets. Children who reach or exceed their target will receive a certificate in September. Dereham library is continuing with its summer reading challenge and the children may also quiz on the books they read for that too if they are on AR. You can check on the AR bookfinder website: <https://www.renlearn.co.uk/accelerated-reader/ar-bookfinder/>

It is really important that the children keep up their reading skills and enjoyment over the summer and we hope this will encourage them to do this.

Premises updates

We are pleased to say that over the holidays, starting next week, we are having two new playgrounds built, one on each site. This will allow us to promote more physical activity with the children as part of our PE curriculum, even at times when the fields are unsuitable to use. It will also allow us to ensure each child can have an active playtime and lunchtime, by separating them into different year groups on the playgrounds. This will mean they are less crowded as we have seen how positive that has been this year with children playing in zones. Although we will start with zones in September, we will review in the Autumn term and look at the whole year group/groups playing freely together, in line with infection rates and the Government and Local Authority guidance.

Reception and Year 1 will have one playground, Year 2 another, Years 3 and 4 another and Years 5 and 6 the final one.

We have chosen areas to ensure we still have green fields/space for the children and think we have found a good balance with our use of space.

We are also having our lighting upgraded to make the rooms brighter and more up to date, as well as having new gates and fences for additional safety and security.

Governor Updates

Although they have not been able to join us in person this term, our Governors have been working hard to support us and continue in their role.

We say goodbye at the end of this term to **Mrs Alison Thompson**, who has been joint Chair of Governors this year. Mrs Thompson, who has also worked as our PSA previously before starting anew role at Neatherd, has been a Governor for many years. She joined our Governing Board when her son was 4, and he is now 25! Mrs Thompson understandably feels the time has come to leave her role, but we would like to thank her for all she has done for our children, families and staff over her long association with us. Her support and hard work has been much appreciated by all of us.

Mrs Barley, another one of our Governors, has also come to the end of her term of office and cannot commit to another term for personal reasons. She has also been a constant source of support to everyone in our community and been with us for many years. We thank her too for her time and commitment.

A thankyou to all of our Governors, past and present, for the time they give so freely and voluntarily to our schools and our community.

We will have some vacancies in September for Governors and this will be communicated to you in the new term.

Being a Governor is a vital and challenging role to undertake and we would really value those with skills in the following areas:

- Finance/accounting
- Leadership and Management
- Human Resources
- Health and Safety
- Education (Primary and/or Secondary)
- Business leadership

Some vacancies will be for parent Governors and some we will 'co-opt.' If you know of anyone in your workplace or community who could be interested, please do contact us in the new term.

Parent Governor vacancies are nominated and voted for by parents of pupils and other vacancies are decided by the Governing board, based on the skills we need.

We will share more information in the new term with you all.

September Information

All September information is on our website under 'routines for parents and carers. Here is the link: <https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/routines-systems-for-parents-carers/>

Please do check it for information on what will happen in September. As we have previously shared, we will maintain a cautious approach as COVID will still be around. **Masks will still need to be worn when coming on to the premises and dropping children at school.**

The most accurate documents will be on the website, and the document 'Routines for parents September 21' is your go to one for what equipment you need, routines etc.

<https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Routines-for-parents-September-21.pdf>

Please also ensure you have the correct uniform for September. Uniform requirements are also on our website:

<https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/parents/school-uniform/>

School shoes must be plain black. Plain black trainers are allowed if more supportive or comfortable, but they must be entirely plain, with black soles and no coloured/white logos etc on them. Please continue to use a hard plastic lunchbox that can be washed in hot water every night, and to send in sanitiser.

Everything is explained in the website documents and systems continue as they have been this year in September.

New Reception children have had information shared about their starts for September via email as each group has a different arrangement.

For all other children, term starts on Monday 6th September. Gates open for all at 8.40 and will close promptly at 8.55 am. Children will continue to enter their designated gates alone, with staff supervising at each school.

We hope you have a wonderful break with your children. We look forward to seeing the children in September. Good luck to all of those moving on!