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Toftwood Infant and Junior School Federation
Executive Headteacher - Mrs Joanna Pedlow

Welcome Back!

A huge welcome back for all of our families and children and a very warm welcome to all of our new families. We look forward to getting to know you all.

The children in Years 1-6 have come back in and settled quickly. It is great to have had the reassurance that most of those children have had a week transitions before the summer holidays so they know where to go and what to do.

We have also been delighted to see our new Reception children joining us and have been so impressed with how they have come in so confidently and are picking up all the new routines. It is a pleasure to have them in school.

We also welcome all of our new staff to our Federation family and look forward to working with them all.

This week, being a full week, means the children will be getting tired towards the end of the week. Please do keep to your bedtime routines at home to ensure they get here on time and are as fresh as possible.

HM Queen Elizabeth II

We were deeply saddened to hear of the death of the Queen. Our children spent a great deal of time learning about her and her reign for the Platinum Jubilee so it is possible they may feel saddened too by this event. We will approach the subject with sensitivity and understanding with the children.

We have sent separate information via email already, but just a reminder that all schools are closed on Monday 19th September for the funeral.

Coming to/Leaving School

Just a reminder that all Infant children come through the Infant gate in the morning. There are always staff members there to greet them. Junior children can also walk through the Infant gates and across to their classroom doors in the mornings.

Junior children who wish to go straight through Junior gates have a separate gate for each year group to ensure we all get in calmly in the mornings.

As the Infant children finish before Juniors, we close the gates for security once all children from the Infant School have left. Therefore all Junior children need to leave by their own gates/exits.

Parents/carers cannot walk across to Juniors from Infants for safety and security reasons. Lessons continue at Juniors until 3.25 pm and we have doors open for ventilation. Children could also be changing for PE in those classrooms at that time. Please use the pavements and walk round to collect your Junior child if you have to collect at Infants first.

Please pass this message on to family or friends who may collect them.

If a Year 5 or 6 child has permission to walk, we will release them with the walking group every day. If you make an alternative arrangement with them please make sure they are aware of this. This permission will be removed if there are any issues with their behaviour on the way home so please ensure you talk to your child about safe and responsible behaviour, including not walking home looking at their phones.

Please remember only Years 5 or 6 who walk home alone are allowed to bring in a mobile phone which must be turned off before they enter the school grounds and placed in the class box when they arrive in class. We cannot accept responsibility for any loss or damage to phones or other belongings whilst on school premises.

Thank you to all of those parents/carers who are parking responsibly to keep our children safe. Please remember you cannot park on the zig zags or double yellow lines. Please share this with those who may drop off or collect your children.

Useful Information regarding financial support

We understand that the cost of living rises may cause concern for many families. Find out what support you might be able to get to help with your living costs by using this link <https://helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs/>. You can get benefits and other financial support if you're eligible. There just might be something useful you can access.

We can also refer you to the foodbank for support if required or other avenues of financial support..

Please do get in touch with the school if you need any kind of help or support. There is usually somewhere we can signpost to help you. Mrs Bates, our family support worker is the first contact for you. Her email is

familysupport@toftwoodfederation.co.uk or you can ring and leave a message for her. Her working days are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. She is there if you have a worry within your family that may affect you. This could be illness, financial concerns, housing or anything that impacts you.

The **Norfolk Family Information Service** team has recently produced three short films about choosing childcare, and childcare funding and eligibility. They were created to enable more parents/carers to have the confidence in and knowledge for accessing childcare.

One of these films looks to support parents of children with SEND in accessing childcare. We hope that this is a helpful and reassuring aid for parents/carers in exploring childcare options for their children. The other two films promote the take up of two year old funding which again we hope will give parents more support in the options open to them.

The films involve three Norfolk early years provisions as well as parents ... and of course some amazing children.

All three films are available on the **Norfolk FIS Facebook page (@NorfolkFIS)**, on their Videos tab. The film supporting parents in accessing childcare is currently pinned at the top of the page.

Please also do follow @NorfolkFIS if you don't already as there is always lots of information shared.

Free School Meals

If you do not already claim Free School Meals (FSM) but think you may be entitled to, then please do check if you are eligible. If you claim your child does not have to have a meal every day, but can choose when they want them. Claiming FSM entitles you also to other financial support, including food vouchers, so even if your child does not want a meal in school, your family could benefit. **The link to check is <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>**

It will give you an instant answer as to if you qualify. Please note, all meals up until we get official notification have to be paid for by parents/carers.

Please note, all children in the Infant School get a Universal Infant Free School Meal (UIFSM) automatically, but if you are eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) please do claim so you can access other financial support and vouchers.

If your child has just started Reception and may be reluctant to try a school meal, try these tips:

Tip 1: Talk your children through the menu, so together you can identify dishes they know and like as well as new dishes they could try.

Tip 2: Show your child the picture menus featured on the Norse Catering website.

Tip 3: Try some of the Norse Catering recipes at home - these are also featured on the website. The whole family can enjoy the tasty recipes.

Tip 4: Play pretend having a school lunch at home - see if your child can carry their own plate or tray to the table and pour a cup of water from a jug.

Any questions, please ask the office. We can also support you to use the link if you don't have access to a computer/internet, so just contact us if you would like some confidential support to do so.

Junior Lunches

If your child is not entitled to Free School Meals and is at the Junior School, please ensure you pay for all lunches in advance for the week. If they have not been paid for you need to send in a packed lunch.

The roll over of information for Year 3 should now be completed (we have to wait for the systems to synchronise) so Year 3 families are now able to pay for any lunches from last week and pay ahead for the current week. We know a few people have found they are unable to get onto the system so please ring us if you can't find your child and we can take a card payment over the phone.

Uniform

Thank you so much to all our families who have ensured the children have come back to school with the correct uniform. It ensures we all feel a part of our Federation family and prepares children for the future, with High School and professional working dress codes.

Just a couple of things we would like to remind you of:

Shoes should be Plain black only. You can buy plain black trainers for your child, but no white or coloured logos, writing or trims/soles please. They should also be flat (no heels) and suitable for a day in school.

Only one pair of flat stud earrings can be worn. These must be removed for PE and physical activity.

Small school bags only please. There is just not enough room in the cloakrooms for large rucksacks.

Please remember also we have a range of good quality pre loved uniform in school available for a small cost. If you would like to buy some, please contact Mrs Knox in the Junior office via phone or email of

fedadmin@toftwoodfederation.co.uk

She can see what is available and arrange a bundle and take payment.

If you have any unwanted good quality uniform you would be willing to donate to us to help others, please leave it at the Junior office. Your support is much appreciated. Alternatively, if you have some and would like to see if you could exchange it for a bigger size, we can support you with that also.

Please also remember you are **NOT** required to buy items with logos or from any given suppliers. All the main supermarkets, as well as shops such as Matalan, Marks and Spencer, Poundland and Peacocks, offer items in the required colours at reasonable prices.

Please do, however, remember to name clearly all uniform before your child wears it. All lost property uniform at the end of each half term will be added to our pre loved uniform for sale.

Tapestry and Dojo

We use tapestry and dojo as a direct means of communication between teachers and parents/carers. If you have not yet signed up to tapestry (Reception children) or Dojo (Years 1-6) please do so. This should only be used for non-urgent messages as staff are in class all day and not able to check easily during the working day. All messages that are urgent or related to absences should go to the school offices please.

Please send messages directly to the office or on dojo or tapestry relating to who may be collecting your child etc. We can answer questions on the gates but will not be able to remember a number of messages to pass on.

Hoots Breakfast and After School Clubs

Little Owls Nursery run breakfast and after school clubs in both our schools. These are open to any children in the schools, and not just for childcare for those who work. They have a variety of activities on offer every day and are run one in each school. These are chargeable and you can find out further information by contacting them on 01362 699700. They welcome visits by appointment if you would like to look before you book any places. Further information will follow.

MSAs

We currently have vacancies for some Midday Supervisors in our Federation. The hours of work are 12-1.15 daily. All applicants need to be able to provide two work references on request, no testimonials are accepted. Additionally, you have to complete a full application form with a full employment/employment breaks history. We also have to do a full enhanced DBS check (disclosure and barring) which will look and show if there have been any convictions. We take our commitment to safeguarding our children very seriously, and follow all given guidance.

If you think this is a role you are interested in, please do contact the infant office for an application form, job specification and person specification. If you would like to ask about what the role entails, please do ask a member of the senior leadership team.

Dates

We will be sharing some dates for events for the coming term soon. We will be inviting parents/carers in this term for some events.

Norse

Fresh Ideas Feeding Minds



There is such a thing as a

FREE LUNCH!

Your child may be eligible for a free school meal which could save you over £400 a year and gain additional funding for your school. To see if you qualify, visit www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals

Don't forget school meals are still free for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 regardless of circumstances!



NorseCatering norsecatering.co.uk

MYTH BUSTING SCHOOL MEALS

norse
CATERING

"My child is a fussy eater"

Our menu offer variety and choice to suit all tastes. In our experience, children are more likely to try new foods when they have regular school meals in a social setting.

"I cook a meal in the evening"

We fully understand that some families eat a hot meal together in an evening so we have developed our own cold lunch options and jacket potatoes menu to help support this.

"I love my school lunches!"

"I like the different flavours and how tasty it looks on the plate!"

School Council Feedback

"They're not healthy"

Our menu consist of well-balanced dishes that adhere to the school food standards. Real fruit is used in over 50% of our dessert recipes; **we have reduced sugar content by 25%** and wholemeal flour is used in all of our bread and pastry recipes!

"My child has a food allergy"

We have developed 'allergen aware' menus for children with medically-defined food allergies. Registration forms can be found on our website.

Did you know, **on average less than 2% of packed lunches** from home meet all of the school food standards?

Source: The Independent School Food Plan



@NorseCatering
norsecatering.co.uk

