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

Newsletter 4 Autumn 2022

Celebrations in School.

Here are just a few of the things that have been happening in school recently. Please do keep an eye on our website and twitter feed for more!

Rugby festivals

We had several children attend the tag rugby festival for Years 1 and 2. Mrs Rathi took the children and was pleased to have the opportunity to see the younger children at a sporting event.

Year 5 and 6 also went to a tag rugby event and got to join with other schools in the sporting activities.

You can read more about it and see some photos on our website here:

<https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/news/sports-competitions/ks1-and-ks2-tag-rugby-event/>

First half term in Reception

It has been a very busy first few weeks in our Reception and it has been lovely to see them all settling in, learning new routines, following new rules and making new friends, as well as learning so much already! To see them settled and learning their phonics and blending words together to spell, as well as their work in number is a real pleasure. It is also lovely to go in and see them playing and learning alongside each other, sharing and taking turns. Their independence and positive attitudes are excellent. There is more information and some photos on our website here:

<https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/year-groups/reception/autumn-1-in-reception-2022/>

Year 2 History Day

On Friday last week Year 2 had their History day. This follows on from them learning about life in the past in Norwich and about castles as part of their History unit. They had a visitor, Janet Marshall, who came in and shared her knowledge of the time along with answering the children's questions based on their prior learning. They also made and ate a treacle tart!

You can see more on our website here:

<https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/special-events/special-events-2022-23/year-2-history-day/>

Music

An update on Music in Juniors in the summer! All of the great learning that has taken place, and a look forward to this term. Ukelele club is in full swing for years 4-6 now. Year 3 are also playing the ocarina which they started to learn at infants, before moving to ukulele.

Federation School Council

Apologies to Harley in RP2 who is on the Federation School Council but was missed from the last newsletter. Congratulations to him for being elected too.

Harvest Afternoon on Friday Years 1-6

Just a reminder we have our open afternoon with a harvest theme on Friday. You can also then have a look at your own child's books ahead of our parent consultations in November.

Please do not bring younger children if possible, we do not have room for pushchairs etc and we would like you to focus on your child and their work and this is difficult if you need to supervise a younger child in a room full of new and exciting things!

We will ask parents/carers to leave as we get the children ready for home time and ALL children will be dismissed at the end of the day as usual and no one can leave early.

If you have more than one child you can drop in on each of them in the afternoon. Please come to the school offices for all children and we will direct you once in the building.

Please note mobile phones should **NOT** be used during your visit as part of our safeguarding measures.

We do look forward to seeing you on Friday afternoon and sharing with you the children's achievements.

MSAs

A reminder that we have some MSA vacancies and to contact the office for further details. The hours are 12-1.15 daily. You need to be able to provide two references and a full enhanced DBS check will be undertaken also. Please do pass the details on to anyone you think may be interested.

Illness

This half term we have had high levels of staff absence and it has been a challenge to keep the schools open for the children. We have also had several children off. At one point last week we had five classes where the teacher was not well enough to be in work. The staff team worked together to see what we could do, with teachers teaching classes remotely by teams in addition to their own classes and also some of our part time staff coming in and working extra days. Thankyou to all of the staff, and to Miss Gold and Mrs Ponder who gave up some of their days off to come in and teach. Thank you also to all the staff who were flexible and put the needs of the children first to ensure they did not miss out. Can we please ask that you play your part in ensuring your child is well enough for school. If they have COVID symptoms, we would appreciate if you could test them before sending them to school. We have had some cases in and although guidance now tells us there is no statutory testing, we all need to ensure we consider others too. If they have a positive they need to be off for at least three days, and can then return if they are well enough and have no temperature. As we have several pregnant staff we are also aware of how we all need to especially look after them too.

We continue to have measures in place such as weekly fogging, at least, in all classes and ventilation (windows opened) also as recommended, alongside regular hand washing in class and sanitising of touch points etc.

We are doing all we can to keep the schools open for our children and families, so appreciate your support, as always.

Supporting your child with speech and language

We work very hard to support children with speech and language, with Mrs Litwin and Miss Brown working directly with children. What would also benefit them is to be supported at home and both Mrs Litwin and Miss Brown can advise on how to do this.

There are many different ways to support your child and there are some great ideas on these websites to help you and support you and your child:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people>

<https://speechandlanguage.org.uk/>

Applications for Junior School

We have had a few enquiries about when you can apply for Juniors. You have to apply online, and you should get information on this from the local Authority. Last year this was on the 9th November so is likely to be around this time, although this has not been confirmed to us yet. The online admissions will then open for you to apply for your place.

If you are not sure how to do this or would like some help. Please just pop in and ask.

Financial Help

You may not be aware but many shops and cafes are now connected to the 'Too good to go' app.

You use the app to search for unwanted food near you and it will show you what is available. You then 'buy' it and collect. Sometimes they specify what it is and sometimes they have a 'magic bag' full of food that is close to a best before date but still fresh enough to eat. You then go and collect it and save money but also save food waste. Various shops and restaurants and cafes in the area are part of this including the M and S garage, Flour and Bean and Tesco.

You can find out more by clicking here <https://toogoodtogo.co.uk/en-gb/>

Domestic Abuse

Anyone can be a victim of domestic abuse, sometimes they may not see the behaviour of a partner as domestic abuse for quite some time.

Please do reach out if you would like some support or advice and are in, or have been in, or think you may be in an abusive relationship.

The abuse could be physical, emotional, sexual, financial or coercive control. There are people to help. Mrs Feeke can be contacted at Juniors and she is our designated 'Domestic Abuse Champion.'

You can also get help, support and advice from these organisations:

<https://www.daisyprogramme.org.uk/>

<https://www.leewaysupport.org/>

We also sign up to **Operation Encompass**, which means if there is a report of any form of domestic abuse to the police or police attend a home where a child is present, the school is alerted of the incident that has taken place. We would then contact you to see if we can offer support or if there is anything else we should know of. This is part of our commitment to keeping our children and families safe and is recorded with our safeguarding information. If we do call you after an incident, it is a supportive phone call so we can work together for the benefit of your children and your family.

You can find out more about operation encompass here <https://www.operationencompass.org/>

You can find out more about it in our school on our website here

<https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/safeguarding-and-child-protection/operation-encompass/>

Miss Briggs/FB4

We are pleased to be able to share that Mrs Suzy Pawley will be teaching Miss Briggs' class from January when Miss Briggs leaves to have her baby until the end of the school year in July. Mrs Pawley has been working with us for many years as a supply teacher and knows our school and the children well.

She will also be coming in for one day each week to be in the class and team teach with Miss Briggs so she can see the routines and expectations of the class and be well informed before January. We look forward to working with her.

Reception Harvest Activity Morning

It was so lovely to welcome around 60 parents/carers and friends to our Reception Harvest Activity morning today.

The children and the adults all enjoyed a range of Harvest related activities, including making a conker bird, clay hedgehogs, autumn wreaths, fork print hedgehogs and much more. We were so pleased to see the children confidently showing their adults around the rooms and the activities. We hope those that came enjoyed the session. Thank you all for coming, it is a privilege to invite you into our school to share that time with the children.

Children In Need

Just a heads up that we will be having a spotty outfit or accessory day for Children in need on **Friday 18th November**.

Children can wear a spotty outfit or wear a spotty accessory if they wish to. Pudsey face paint or spotty face paint could also be worn on this day if they would like to. We would suggest a donation of £1 if you are able to support the charity, sent in in a named envelope marked Children in Need donation.

Parking

Please do be considerate with your parking and dropping off. We did put a reminder on the last newsletter but a very small number of parents/carers are still stopping on the zig zags at drop off. Please consider the safety of all our children and families and do not park or drop off on the zig zags.

Poppies

We will be selling poppies in school and some poppy merchandise after half term also. Poppies are available for a donation of your choice and we would suggest the following for the other merchandise as a guide. Although you could donate more you are able or wish to:

Slap bands and wrist bands 50p (top two items in the photo)

Button tags and reflective poppies 20p (bottom two items)

We only have a limited number of items so it will be on a first come, first served basis.

Please send your child in with their money in a named envelope, and especially for younger children write how much there is and what it is for.



Half Term

Please remember that we finish at the end of the day on Friday for half term and re open to all children on Monday 31st October. We wish you all a peaceful break and thank you for your support this half term.

Best wishes

Joanna Pedlow

Community Events



Easton Tennis Centre is running a weekend of FREE tennis.

Easton are hosting a Men's Professional Tennis Tournament starting on Monday 31st October and running through until Sunday 6th November 2022. It is the biggest prize money tennis event in Norfolk History and we are expecting some incredible play.

On Saturday 5th November as part of the finals weekend they are hosting an open day, which is open to everyone to come along and have a go. There will be two sessions running and activities will be delivered by their fantastic LTA accredited coaching team.

- Session one is 9.30-11am
- Session two is 1.30-3pm


They recommend you book to attend one of the free sessions, and the first 100 who do will receive FREE tickets to the finals day on Sunday 6th November, with play starting from 9am.

[Tennis Centre Open Day | Easton College](#)


During the open day there will be offers running, and for any 8&unders who sign up to a coaching course with us, they will receive a free tennis racket.



DESA SOCCER SCHOOLS



DEREHAM TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB



A DAY PACKED FULL OF FUN
FOOTBALL ACTIVITIES &
GAMES FOR ALL!

OCTOBER HALF TERM CAMP @ DEREHAM TOWN FC

TUESDAY 25TH	10am-3pm
OCTOBER	£30 FOR 2
WEDNESDAY 26TH	DAYS
OCTOBER	

TO BOOK YOUR PLACE, PLEASE FOLLOW THE LINK ON [ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES](#)

Community Firework Display.

In aid of 1st Beetley Scout Group

Saturday 5th November

5.30pm start

Brisley

follow signs in Village

BBQ, Refreshments & Novelties

Available to buy

£25 per family in advance

1 ticket per car

To order tickets please email
gemma.bidewell@1stbeetleyscouts.co.uk

Holiday Fun and Activities for children on means tested Free School Meals

If your child receives means tested free school meals (not the infant free school meals every infant child has) then the activities below are available to your child. Please contact the provider directly for further information.



Where:

Little Footsteps
Dereham or Mattishall.

When:

19th-23 Dec & 28th-30th Dec, 9am-3pm.

What:

Holiday fun club 5 sessions free of charge that including craft, cooking, games, activities. Hot lunch and snacks included.

Booking is essential:

Dereham: 01362 693937

Mattishall: 01362 288220

Eligibility criteria applies—means tested FREE school.