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

Newsletter November 2022

Harvest afternoon/sharing of books

Thankyou to all of the families that joined us for either our harvest morning in Reception or for the opportunity to visit your child's class in Years 1-6 and look at their books ahead of our parent consultations. We hope you enjoyed spending this time with us and it was lovely to see so many people join us.

Odd sock day

Anti-Bullying Week 2022 takes place this year from November 14th- 18th.

The theme across the country for this week is 'Reach Out'. To mark this important week, we are inviting the children and staff to take part in 'Odd Socks Day' on Monday 14th November.

Odd Socks Day is designed to be fun! It is an opportunity to encourage the children to express themselves and celebrate their individuality and what makes us all unique! All the children have to do to take part is wear odd socks or a pair of brightly coloured/patterned tights to help raise awareness of bullying. We are not asking for donations to come into school for this event but if anyone would like to donate to the Anti Bullying Alliance charity, please see the link below.

During this week the children will also take part in class discussions emphasising the importance of kindness, friendship and celebrating our individual uniqueness.

Thank you

<https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/get-involved-0/donate>

Sugar for Shelters

This Christmas our schools will be collecting sugar to support a local appeal 'Sugar for Shelters'. Every year Norfolk and Suffolk school children donate sugar to help homeless and needy people throughout the county at Christmas. (The total last year was an amazing 6 tonnes!)

Sugar for Shelters works together with a Norfolk farm based Christmas Food Charity (BEFA), founded by Norfolk farmer Mike Buckingham in 1985, to collect sugar from schools. The Buckingham Emergency Food Appeal provides the food for more than 5000 Christmas dinners, of which sugar is an important part.

Over the coming week our children will be learning about why such huge amounts of sugar are needed and how they make a REAL difference in Shelters and Food Kitchens throughout Norfolk and Suffolk in the cold days of winter and particularly over Christmas. Sugar provides a fast energy boost for the homeless, and is an essential ingredient for hot drinks and Christmas foods such as puddings and cakes.

Collecting sugar is simple and, at around 69p for a 1kg bag, affordable; it also helps children focus on the spirit of giving at Christmas.

British Sugar will match the schools' donations of every kilo of their brand of sugar (Silver Spoon) up to 2000kg!

We appreciate that many people will be experiencing hardship this winter and there is no obligation to donate but if you are able to help please send a bag of sugar into school with your child by Tuesday 13th December 2022. Thank you in anticipation for supporting the Appeal at this special time of year.

Energy Bank Support for families

The increase in energy costs is proving very difficult for many families. There is a Thetford Foodbank Energy Bank which Mrs Bates has been looking into. It can support some of our families if they are a Victory or Flagship housing tenant. To access it you would usually be accessing support from the foodbank also. You would need to be on a prepayment contract using PayPoint or Post Office to top up.

Families can receive a £49 emergency top up.

If you think you could be eligible, please contact our family Support Worker, Mrs Bates, on familysupport@toftwoodfederation.co.uk and she can help you to apply.

Helping your child with communication

Being able to communicate effectively is very important for all children, and we work hard to support them with this in school. Parents and carers have a vital role to play in all of this too and here is a link to a site that Mrs Litwin has shared that can support you to do this.

If you have any concerns about your child's speech and language, communication or even speaking confidence, please do let the teacher know as we can support them. Mrs Litwin and Mrs Brown work very hard on this with our children, running assessments and groups and individual support.

You can find more support here:

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/early-years/>

Children in Need

To support Children In Need this year we would like to invite the children to take part in a spotty outfit/accessory day 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. We would suggest a donation of £1 or whatever you can donate if you are able to support the charity. Please send this in in a named envelope marked Children in Need donation. This will be collected and sent to the Children In Need charity.

Please ensure the children do still wear appropriate shoes and dress for the weather as we will still be going outside for break times.

Parent Consultations

Please remember to sign up for the parent consultations as set out in the email you had previously. If you need any assistance, please do contact the offices and we will be happy to help you. Please remember that these are on line so you can access them easily without having to come out! It also means we can keep to time to be fair for everyone.

We are sorry that Mrs Chapman is unwell and unable to do any consultations at this time, but we will schedule these when she is better and back in school with us. If you have any questions about your child's progress, please do contact us and we will discuss it with you. We are very pleased that Mrs Kim is able to step in and take the class during this absence period. She is experienced in Year 2, having taught in that year group for all last year. We look forward to seeing Mrs Chapman back in school when she is better.

Black History Month

The children have been learning about Black History Month in school. They discussed treating everyone equally and why this is important as well as learning about significant people in Black History.

You can see this more in detail here

<https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/news/curriculum-news/black-history-month/>

Year 3 Egyptian Day

Year 3 had a day to inspire and start their learning about Ancient Egypt this term. They learnt many new things and explored things they already were aware of. You can find out more here

<https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/year-groups/year-3/year-3-autumn-2022-ancient-egyptian-day/>

Keep on time and attend regularly!

Just a reminder that all children should be in before the gates close at 8.55 am. Anyone arriving after this time is recorded as late on our registers. A small number of our children are arriving after 8.55am too often.

Can we also remind you all of the importance of regular attendance. A child cannot learn if they are not in school. We are looking at all children whose absence drops below 92% and will be contacting those families to look at how we can support you or invite you to an attendance panel before we consider legal action. If you have any concerns about your child's attendance then please do contact us to see how we can help.

Christmas Lunch!

The Christmas lunch will be upon us before we know it!

The majority of our children have this lunch, so it is important we have all bookings in so the food can be ordered and no one is disappointed and no food is wasted. If you do not order, then your child will need to bring a packed lunch.

The link to the booking form will be sent to you on November 14th. Please fill this in even if your child does not want the school lunch on that day and will bring a packed lunch or if your child has free school meals. We need exact numbers.

The menu is

Roast turkey with a cocktail sausage and stuffing

Roast potatoes, peas and carrots and gravy

OR

Quorn fillet with a vegetarian sausage and stuffing

Roast potatoes, peas and carrots and gravy

FOLLOWED BY

Chocolate Fudge Cake

As we are now able to serve the lunch directly to the children, they can opt on the day to have or not have gravy.

Please note this will be the only meal available on this day.

The cost for those who pay is the same as always at £2.30. **The payment for Junior children will open on the 15th November** and this will be a separate stand alone payment to normal school meals and should be paid in advance.

Any questions, please ask!

We look forward to a busy November of learning!

**Best wishes
Joanna Pedlow**