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

Newsletter 6 December 2022

It's December!

Where has the year gone? We are already into December after a busy few months.

We have lots planned for the children and it is such a pleasure to listen to them practising their songs and poems for their Christmas celebrations with families.

Thank you for your understanding that when we have the events in class we can only invite one adult per child and no younger children. This already makes up to 60 per class so we really cannot safely have any more in the rooms. Over the year we do lots of different activities, inside and outside, so we hope every parent/carer will be able to join us for at least one event this school year.

Christmas Lunch

The Christmas Lunch orders for the children have now closed. If you did not order for your child, they will need to bring a packed lunch on that day, the 14th December. The kitchens will only be getting in the amount of food that has been ordered so please be understanding if you did not manage to get your order in on time and send your child with a packed lunch.

On that day children can bring a Christmas hat or festive headwear to wear for lunch. You don't need to buy anything special, they could just put some tinsel on or make something with things they already have at home. As usual, they are not obliged to do this.

Sugar for Shelters

Thankyou for your donations of sugar into schools. We have been amazed by the amount of sugar, tea and coffee donated and it will make a difference. The last day, if you wish to contribute, is the 13th December.

Children in Need

Thankyou for all of your support with Children in Need. We raised a fabulous £560.28. This will make a huge difference to the lives of children.

Police Visit to Years 1 and 2

The children in Year 1 and 2 had an exciting visit from a visitor from Watton police station. They talked about road safety, wearing reflective clothing, and keeping safe when crossing the road.

Check it out on our website <https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/special-events/special-events-2022-23/30-11-22-road-safety-police-visit-for-ks1/>

Year 4 Roman Day

Year 4 had an informative and exciting Roman visitor in November. You can read all about it on our website here:

<https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/year-groups/year-4/year-4-roman-day-2022/>

Podcasts

Today we have launched the first of our Federation podcasts. We are going to record them on different topics, and the launch topic is about family support with Mrs Bates, our Family Support Officer, and Mr Williams.

Future topics will look at the Sex and Relationships Education curriculum, attendance, supporting with sleep and more! If you have any ideas for other topics you would like to listen to, just let us know and we will do that! We will hopefully get some children to join in too.

The first one is on the website now. The link is here!

<https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/podcasts/>

Competition Winners!

We have been on a roll with competition wins this term!

Firstly, Frankie in Year 6 won the Breckland Council competition to design a poster about the environment. Her entry was picked from hundreds! Well done Frankie and to everyone who entered.

Her entry is here:



We also entered a competition run by Sir Isaac Newton Sixth Form in maths week for years 3,4,5,6. They had an origami competition and our school won the Primary competition! They were very impressed with the entries and how the children had attempted the more difficult creations.

Our prize is a video call from a real astronaut! How exciting is that? We also have a set of mini whiteboards. The photos of their work will be on display in the Forum in Norwich on the 11th December.

Well done to everyone who entered and congratulations to all those winners.

British Science Week

We are planning ahead for British Science Week from 13th to 17th March 2023. We are looking for visitors who work in Science to come in voluntarily to speak to the children, either as year groups, whole school or a class at a time. If you, or anyone you know, works in the field of Science and would be happy to come and talk to the children about your jobs, then please let us know so we can book you in.

Federation School Council

News from the Federation School Council

During Autumn 2, the Federation school council have been discussing how we could make positive changes in and around school. The children all made fabulous suggestions, where they explained how this would change our school. Once collating all of the ideas, we invited Mrs Pedlow to our meeting, where the

children discussed these with her. She was pleased with how well the children respected one another when contributing their ideas, as well as their ideas themselves.

The children's suggestions:

- A whole federation playtime
- A federation lunch for the King's Coronation
- More bins
- More equipment for lunchtimes
- Road safety talk
- Whole federation Art day

We look forward to planning these events in the coming year.

Lunchboxes

Just a reminder to please label your child's lunch box with their name as we have several that look the same and they can get mixed up, especially if the children are in the same class as someone with the same lunchbox.

Support with Stammering

If your child has a stammer, there is useful information on these websites below.

<https://stamma.org/>

<https://www.whittington.nhs.uk/default.asp?c=25406>

Free energy advice and support

Community Action Norfolk are holding an energy advice and fuel poverty awareness session for Norfolk as part of a partnership with Citizens' Advice's Big Energy Saving Network.

It is free to attend and will take place online on Microsoft Teams on the following day/time:

Thursday the 1st December: 11am-12pm

They are keen to explore the potential of holding some in-person sessions and it would be useful if we could give an indication of the interest amongst our parents. If this is something you might be keen to take advantage of please can you let Karen Bates know familysupport@toftwoodfederation.co.uk From my experience of working with Community Action Norfolk, they are incredibly supportive and want to be as helpful as possible to the local community.

Online Safety Workshop

Thank you to those parents/carers who were able to join us for our online safety workshop.

Please do take time to talk to your children about keeping safe online and make sure you know what you can do to be aware as a parent/carer.

We have some information on our website here:

<https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/parents/ict-and-online-safety/>

<https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/safeguarding-and-child-protection/online-safety/>

We will have more information on the website as we have it.

Christmas Wellbeing

Christmas can be an exciting and busy time. We have some useful resources you might like to use during the festive period with your children at home.

<https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/mental-health-and-well-being/>

Last Day of Term

On the last day of term, 16th December, children can come in any non-uniform or Christmas outfit they like. Wear something sparkly or special! Please don't go out and buy anything especially for the date, it is just a day of no uniform and celebration! Just remember to make it suitable for a day in school please.

Christmas Parties

On the days of the children's year group Christmas parties, the children can bring in an outfit to wear for it if they wish. They don't have to, but can if they would like to.

Good luck Mrs Rathi

We said goodbye for now to Mrs Rathi who left us on Tuesday for her maternity leave. We look forward to news about the new arrival, hopefully before the end of term.

Dates for the rest of term

Monday 5th December 9.15 - 10.30

Monday 12th December 9.15 - 10.30

Monday 12th December

Monday 12th December pm

Tuesday 13th December am 9.15 - 10.30am

Tuesday 13th December pm

Wednesday 14th December pm

Wednesday 14th December Christmas Lunch

Thursday 15th December pm

Thursday 15th December pm

Thursday 15th December pm

Friday 16th December

Friday 16th December

Year 1 Christmas activity session for one parent/carer

Year 2 Christmas activity session for one parent/carer

Year R walk to the Christmas postbox

Yr2 Christmas Party

Reception Christmas activity morning.

Parents/carers invited, one per child. No younger children please.

Yr1 Christmas Party

Yr 3 Christmas Party

Yr 4 Christmas Party

Peter Pan Virtual panto in school for children

Pre booked meals only! Christmas hats or headwear can be worn.

Reception Christmas Party

Yr 5 Christmas Party

Yr 6 Christmas Party

Non uniform - wear something sparkly or special day for all children and staff

School closes at 3.15 (Infants) and 3.25 (Juniors) for the Christmas holiday

Men's Shed

THE SHED PROJECT

SWANTON MORLEY & DISTRICT

We're looking to set up a 'Men's Shed' in Swanton Morley.

A space for men to gather, talk, build, learn, support and encourage.

A space filled with ideas, challenges, tools, materials and fun.

A space to trust, to try, to talk, to laugh - or sometimes just to sit and drink coffee and relax with friends.

Swanton Morley Parish Council are supporting The Shed Project as part of our becoming a 'Mindful Village', looking out for each other's wellbeing.

Come and find out more - the Village Hall, Sunday January 15th at 3pm - or contact Bob Almond, bob@revbob.org, 01362 637266



Best wishes

Joanna Pedlow