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

Newsletter 10 March 2023

Attendance

The message we want to share is that attendance matters! If a child is not in school they cannot learn and they cannot make and sustain friendships. All children may be ill occasionally, and although our aim is for 100% attendance, we know a couple of illnesses, such as chickenpox, could reduce that overall percentage. However, once a child is dropping towards 92%, that is a concern and we look for patterns of absence, such as on a particular day each week. We then aim to work with families to support them to improve a child's attendance.

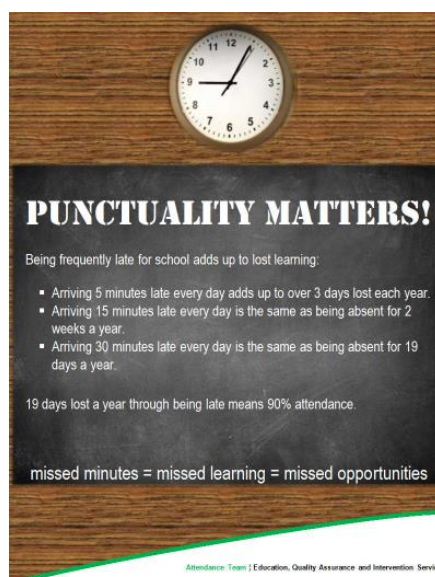
If for any reason, you are finding getting your child to school on time and regularly, please do contact us so we can look at supporting with this before attendance drops to 92%.

Punctuality is vital! Children need to be in school by 8.55 am and we have too many children arriving at 9am. We are aware there are roadworks in Dereham for the next few weeks which will cause delays so please ensure you leave extra time to get to school as any arrival after the gates close is recorded as late and the time of arrival is noted in line with Government expectations.

There is excellent advice on attendance on the NCC website that can be found by clicking on the link here <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools/behaviour-and-attendance/attendance/school-attendance>

Tips to support with school anxiety can also be found here:

<https://www.justonenorfolk.nhs.uk/school-life/resources-for-families/school-anxiety-tips/>



Children's Mental Health Support

Following on from our work on Children's Mental Health week, Place 2 Be who organise Children's Mental Health week have shared a link with us. It's for parents/carers that can help with their children's mental health and wellbeing. The link is:

https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/?utm_source=Schools&utm_campaign=9aa6e0e510-Non-Partner_Schools_Newsletter_March_2023&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_c6b02a1e38-9aa6e0e510-220153400

You can also use Moodbusters and Mood Movers:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/supermovers/pshe-super-mood-movers/zm2gydm>

Library Books

We have invested a great deal of money in new books for our libraries at both schools to ensure the children have a range of up to date and interesting and enjoyable reading materials. Unfortunately, some of these books have already been damaged, mainly because children have had water bottles in their bags with the books. If any book is damaged, the expectation is the parents/carers replace the book, either by buying a new copy and bringing it in or sending in the cost of the replacement book, just as you would in a public library.

We have issued some plastic wallets to put the books in, but please can you support the opportunity for all of our children to have excellent books in a great condition by ensuring your child takes care of the books that they borrow.

We encourage the children to look after their books, and with the older children to look after their books as well as they would look after their phones.

First Aid in Schools

As part of our RSE curriculum, we are formalising the teaching and learning of basic first aid in our schools. Therefore there is an addition to the RSE policy. As this is a policy we consult on, could you let us have any comments or questions sent to the office by 30th March please.

If you want to look in more detail at the sessions we will be using you can find them here:

<https://firstaidchampions.redcross.org.uk/>

This is the addition:

Page 13 of the RSE policy

Basic first aid 6.11.

By the end of their time at Toftwood Infant and Junior Federation, pupils will know:

- How to make a clear and efficient call to emergency services if necessary.
- Concepts of basic first-aid, for example dealing with common injuries, including head injuries.

Children in KS1 and 2 receive a termly first aid lesson from The British Red Cross - First Aid Champions toolkit. These lessons focus on basic first aid techniques, how to spot when someone needs assistance, making an emergency call, how to identify situations when first aid may be required and keeping safe. Children in EYFS learn about the role of a nurse and paramedic through visitors to the school during their 'People who help us' topic in the Spring term.

Science Week

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make our Science week such a success.

Thankyou to our Science Leads, Miss Goddard and Mrs Jacobs for pulling together all of the information and activities and coordinating, to all of the staff for putting in extra time and effort to make it a success, to the families for supporting it, to our visitors for coming in to talk to the children about their Science and to the children for the engagement in their learning.

The Science Fair on Friday was so well attended by families and gave all of the children an opportunity to develop their scientific thinking and share it with the school community. Mrs Cogman, one of our Chairs of Governors, attended and wanted to pass on that as someone with a Scientific background she was very impressed with the work the children had completed.

There will be a full write up with photos on the website, here is a taster of Year 3 who had a visit from Lieutenant Tim and the meteorology team from RAF Marham

<https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/year-groups/year-3/science-week/>

Year Group News

Each year group is updating their website page with an overview of what they have been learning this half term.

Just go to the website, click on children and then your child's year group.

Junior RE

In RE the children have been deepening their understanding of different beliefs and religions.

Year 3 had a visitor from the Jewish Synagogue in Norwich and their big question was 'How do people express commitment to a religion in different ways.'

Year 4 explored 'Is being happy the greatest purpose in life.'

Year 5 explored 'What can we learn from the Great philosophers.'

Year 6 have been discussing the differing points of view of those who follow a religion or those who follow Science.

Exploring these themes ensures the children learn about a balanced argument, how to use different sources of information to come to a conclusion and how to understand and respect others, even if their views are different from ours. All excellent life skills. This all builds on the work the children do at Infants, which explores the lives and beliefs of others and deepens their understating of this area.

Prize Winner!

As we shared before, Frankie in Year 6 won a prize from Breckland Council for her poster on the environment. Maxine O'Mahony, the CEO of Breckland Council, came to visit on Monday and presented Frankie with the second part of her prize, which was a bee hotel. All of the children were pleased for Frankie and her success. The poster will be displayed in school, as we received a print of it to keep. Well done Frankie!

Rocksteady Music School

Today and last week we have been fortunate enough to have visitors from Rocksteady Music School who visited and brought a range of instruments to demonstrate to the children and to join in with in a workshop. All of the children enjoyed this tremendously and it was so lovely to see them all excited and engaged in the live music.

All of the children have received or will receive a letter about how your child can join the sessions in school. It is a fee paying club, but we do hope that children will be able to join where there is interest.

Baby Tataryn

We did share the news on Twitter that Mrs Tataryn has had her baby and mother and daughter are doing well. Baby Erin Amelie Richardson was born on 16th February weighing 7lb 12ozs! We look forward to meeting her soon.













Dance Show

A huge well done to all of the children who went to Norwich and took part in the dance show! They all worked so hard to put together a fantastic show and overcome their nerves to perform in front of a big audience. A big thankyou to Mrs Parsons for running the club and choreographing the dance to ensure all children were ready to take part. Thankyou to Mrs Parsons and Miss Morgans for giving up their Friday evening to go to the show and support the children, and to all the parents and carers who went along too. Photos and a write up will be on the website soon.

Community News

There are lots of free opportunities and avenues of support for families in our local area. Please see below.

Sessions at Dereham Library

Creating Happy Confident Children	SENSORY PLAY	Creating Happy Confident Children
 	 	 
<p>Based around a different story each week, these sessions promote the self-esteem and confidence of young children. Each week you will support your child to dance, sing and take part in craft and play-based learning opportunities.</p> <p>These fun and energetic sessions help children to build their resilience, feel good about themselves, have the confidence to try new things and know that it is ok to make mistakes! The sessions are for parents/carers with their children aged up to 7 years, taking part together. We welcome SEND families.</p> <p>Dereham Library Creating Happy Confident Children - Exploring Emotions Course code: FLE5B0922P Thursday 23/03/2023 10:00-11:30</p>	<p>Join our friendly and supportive Family Learning Team for this FREE and FUN short course. Discover how babies experience the world through their senses. Suitable for parents or carers and their children aged 0-1yrs. We welcome SEND families</p> <p>Dereham Library Sensory Play Course code: FLELB0322P 27/04/2023 - 25/05/2023 Thursdays, 10:00-11:30</p>	<p>Based around a different story each week, these sessions promote the self-esteem and confidence of young children. Each week you will support your child to dance, sing and take part in craft and play-based learning opportunities.</p> <p>These fun and energetic sessions help children to build their resilience, feel good about themselves, have the confidence to try new things and know that it is ok to make mistakes! The sessions are for parents/carers with their children aged up to 7 years, taking part together. We welcome SEND families.</p> <p>Dereham Library Creating Happy Confident Children - Strengthening Our Self-Esteem Course code: FLE6B1122P Thursday 30/03/2023 10:00-11:30</p>
<p>To find out more and book your place: Scan the QR code above or visit: www.norfolk.gov.uk/familylearning</p> <p> </p>	<p>To find out more and book your place: Scan the QR code above or visit: www.norfolk.gov.uk/familylearning</p> <p> </p>	<p>To find out more and book your place: Scan the QR code above or visit: www.norfolk.gov.uk/familylearning</p> <p> </p>

The sessions cover:

Exploring Emotions - 23rd March 10.00 - 11.30am

'Happiness is like the sun, anger is a burning fire, and calm is like the leaves swaying in the wind - says the Colour Monster!' In this session you will sing and dance your way through the changing colour wheel of emotions, which provides a great opportunity to learn about identifying emotions in a relatable way.

Strengthening our Self-Esteem - 30th March 10.00 - 11.30am

The aim of this fun-filled session is to teach children that they don't need to change to be something wonderful. Based around the book *'Incredible You'*, we will use song, dance and craft activities to deliver messages which boost self-esteem in an enjoyable environment.

Both sessions are free and we welcome SEND families.

We will be back at the library in May to deliver a Sensory Play course for babies aged 0 - 1 year. In the session you will discover how babies experience the world through their senses. This course is also FREE.

Sensory Play - 27th April - 25th May 10.00 - 11.30am

These courses all currently have spaces and can be booked via our website, or by contacting me directly [Adult learning courses in Norfolk - Norfolk County Council](#)

Dereham Cancer Care

Some of our families have been directly affected by cancer. Dereham Cancer Care are a local charity in their 21st Year who support people affected by cancer, both cancer patients and their loved ones. They have a centre in Dereham Town Centre with parking and they offer befriending, information, therapies, workshops, craft and art sessions, jewellery making, equipment loan and respite breaks in their holiday home.

Their website is: <https://derehamcancercare.co.uk/>

You can also ring them between 10 am and 2pm Monday, Tuesday and Thursday and 9am to 1 pm on Friday. You can contact Zoe on 07710 897498