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Follow us on twitter - @ToftwoodFedera1

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

Newsletter 2 - 28th September 2023

A great start to the term!

We are only a few short weeks into the start of the term and it is lovely to see how the children are settling in. The new Reception children are enjoying exploring their new environment and it is such a pleasure to see new friendships forming and positive relationships developing. They are coming in so well in the mornings and are quickly getting used to the routines in place.

Whenever we walk around after the gates closed, the children are already settled in their learning for the morning and it is good to see them focused, engaged and making progress.

Thankyou to all of the parents/carers who support their child's learning at home. Reading at least three times a week at home is expected, and if you do more, that is even better.

Juniors work on Accelerated Reader (AR), which gives each child a ZPD score so they know which books are suited to their personal ability. This is a range eg 3.0 - 3.5 and they pick within that range. If they do well on their quiz and get 100% they need to be choosing books at the higher end of their ZPD and if they do not get 80% they need to choose books at the lower end of their ZPD. Staff support with this and monitor the scores and other reading information. At Juniors, please do ensure your child reads regularly so they can quiz on their book once completed. Every child should have taken at least one quiz by now and aim for 80-100% correct.

An Accelerated Reader workshop is planned for Junior parents on 4th October at 2-3pm in the Junior hall. Please come to the main office. We cannot accommodate younger children unfortunately but information will be shared on the website after the session.

You can also read more about AR here:

<https://www.renlearn.co.uk/parent-resources/>

Reading Advocates

Here is some information about our new reading advocates initiative

Two Reading Advocates have been chosen in each class to attend a club each half term and talk all things books and reading! We could have chosen from a very large amount of children across the Federation that have a LOVE of books! The advocates will be encouraged to enter into a range of conversations about books by sharing their opinions about the stories they read in school and at home, help develop the profile of reading by getting their ideas about how we could improve reading further and become a 'go-to' person if someone has a question about reading in their classroom. The reading advocates are also going to be set TOP SECRET reading missions each half term to take back to their classrooms. The first mission is based around Non-fiction November but we cannot divulge any more information at this time! Shh!

Student Teachers

As a Federation, we are committed to supporting teachers joining the profession.

This year we are pleased to be supporting students from the UEA and from Norwich City College.

Mrs Field is working in CT3, Miss White will be working in TC1 and Mr Chapman-Pell will be working in GG6.

They will benefit from working in our Federation and learning from and with our teaching staff and teaching assistants.

We hope they enjoy their time with us and feel well supported on their journey into a career in education.

School Council

Congratulations to Szymon in Year 6 who has been elected by the children as Chair of the Federation School Council. All 4 of the candidates gave an excellent speech and well done to them all for standing. Szymon talked about how he has had lots of help from adults in school during his time here and he now wants to help other students and make it the best it can be. He wants to help others and make sure no one is left out. His qualities include being a good listener and will think things through for the best possible outcome. . We have already had our first Head teacher and Chair meeting and have been looking at our rewards money can't buy! The school council have asked classes to vote on what they want to call them. The shortlist from the school council is:

Toftwood Tokens, Excellence Points, Merit Tokens

All of the children were invited to submit ideas for the rewards, which they will get once they have received 10 'points' or they can bank them to work for a 20 points reward. Points will be awarded for the above and beyond behaviours, or overcoming a particularly difficult challenge. Here are the ideas the children came up with:

Rewards for 10 points	Rewards for 20 points
Basketball at lunchtime with 3 friends	Climbing frame with 3 friends
Bring your toy or stuffed animal to school	Disco with the disco ball
Colouring outside or in the hall	Going to Reception for an hour to help
Football in the smooga at break with three friends	Library lunch with friends
Have a draw with Rob	Lunch on a special table in the hall with 3 friends
Lunch time with your teddy	Lunch with your brother or sister
Maths challenges	Lunch with your favourite adult
Picnic lunch outside with a friend	Outside lunch with a friend
Pirate ship with friends	Play football for half of lunchtime with friends
Play a board game with a friend at break (outside the office)	Play on the play equipment with a friend
Play in Ted's Den	Playing a sport of your choice at lunchtime with 3 friends
Play with equipment at breaktime	Sit in Mrs Pedlow's chair (for a lesson)
Playing with a sibling at break time (even if they are at the infants)	Squash and biscuits with Mrs Pedlow
Playtime at the other school	Ten minutes extra play (maybe during assembly)
Playtime with someone of your choice from either school	Ten minutes football with friends (maybe during assembly)
Read your favourite book in the library (lunchtime at juniors)	VIP First lunch pass for you and a friend
Reading at lunchtime	Watch a movie at lunch
Top trumps with an adult of your choice	

We will keep you updated with how things are going!

A Parent's Guide to Keeping Kids Healthy this School Year

Please see the following link to access the above guide sent to us by the UK health Security Agency
<https://ukhsa.blog.gov.uk/2023/09/08/a-parents-guide-to-keeping-kids-healthy-this-school-year/>

Careers and Enterprise Project

We have been chosen to take part in a 'Start small, dream big' careers programme to increase the aspirations of primary aged children so they keep an open mind towards their career pathway choices throughout their formative education years. This is for Years 5 and 6.

To take part in this Mr Barnard will be partaking in a programme of study and provide sessions to get the children to 'start small and dream BIG' once our initial surveys are complete.

There will be a further letter sent out to parents/carers of children who will be involved and Mr Barnard will keep you updated with how it goes.

School Photo Dates

School photos have been booked as follows:

Friday 13 th October	Year 4/5/6 individual photos
Monday 16 th October	Siblings across the Federation and Year 3 individual
Wednesday 18 th October	Infant only siblings/Reception/Year 1/Year 2 individual photos

Year 3 Egyptian Enrichment Day

Year 3 have been deepening their learning about Ancient Egyptians with a visitor from portals to the past. Check out what they have been learning

<https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/year-groups/year-3/year-3-autumn-2023-ancient-egyptian-day/>

Year 1 Wellbeing Workshop

Year 1 have had a visit from Ellise from the West Norwich and Dereham School Sports' Partnership. They talked about the changes from reception to Year 1 and then looked at our five ways to wellbeing that we use in the Federation.

1. Connect
2. Keep learning
3. Be active
4. Give
5. Take notice

The children also took part in some active games linked to the 5 ways to wellbeing.

The children in Reception and Year 2 will enjoy these workshops later in the year.

You can see photos from the event on the website here:

<https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/year-groups/year-1/year-1-wellbeing-workshop-autumn-2023/>

World Mental Health Day

To support and acknowledge 'World Mental Health Day' (10th Oct) the Federation are planning to take part in the 'Hello Yellow' day organised by 'Young Minds', a charity that supports and raises awareness of the importance of young people's mental health.

During the week both schools will have an assembly to discuss World Mental Health Day and on **Tuesday 10th October** we are inviting all the children to wear something yellow to support this. We are asking children to wear their uniform as usual but they can add a yellow twist! This could maybe be yellow socks, a yellow hair band, a yellow t-shirt under their jumper. Please ensure the children wear their normal school shoes and dress appropriately for the weather. If you are unable to find anything yellow don't worry, we will provide some yellow card on the day for children to get creative. Maybe make a wrist band or badge.

We are not asking for donations to come into school as raising awareness is the main objective of the day, however if you would like to donate to this good cause the details are below.

Thank you <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/support-us/donate/>

Governor Vacancies

We have vacancies on our Governing Board and are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to join us. Information on a Parent Governor election is being sent home this week.

Governors play a strategic role in schools, not an operational role. A range of workplace skills are beneficial for this role, especially in finance, budgeting, human resources, education, legal system, health, mental health and health and safety. You need a commitment to ensuring that children have a positive and successful school experience, the ability to work with others, to be objective and to be committed to the Federation and its children.

Benefits of becoming a Governor include:

- Developing your professional skills and experience such as strategic planning, chairing, financial planning, and team working, all of which are valued by employers and can assist your own career development;
- Building relationships and networks in your locality and;
- Supporting children and young people in your community.

As well as parent Governors, we have other vacancies on the board and are asking for your help in recruiting people to work with us.

Do you know anyone in your workplace, within your family or in the community who may want to join us? They do not need to have children at the school and we have had a range of skills and experiences on the board over the years.

Are you able to put up a poster in your place of work for us to help us recruit Governors?

If you have any questions or are interested in any way, please do contact us via

fedadmin@toftwoodfederation.co.uk

If you would like a poster/flyer for your workplace, please also request this via that email address.

We currently only have four very hard working and committed Governors but would appreciate expanding this further.

Please do get in touch!

Compliments

It is always good to hear compliments about our children. LW5 went swimming at the leisure centre this week and a member of the public approached our staff and said she normally dreads being in the pool when schools are in as it always gets very noisy, but every time we are there the children are so calm and quiet she can get on with her swim as normal and they should be proud of themselves. Well done LW5.

Pre-loved Uniform

Just a reminder that we do have good quality pre loved uniform for sale, in a range of sizes. If you would like to buy any, you can email fedadmin@toftwoodfederation.co.uk with your details and what you are looking for and Mrs Knox will get back to you and sort it. You can also ring the Junior office between 9.30 and 2.30 each day if you would rather. You can also bring in good quality pre loved uniform and exchange it for the next size up.

New Term Roles and Responsibilities

As we start a new term the children are being voted for and chosen for new roles and responsibilities, including playground pals, school council, Infant playtime helpers and more. We will keep you updated with those chosen this year and thank them all for committing to supporting others.

Changes to NORSE Special Diets

Please see below for the details of changes to menus for those with special diets for medical reasons. If your child needs a special diet menu, you need to download the allergen aware registration from the NORSE website www.norsecatering.co.uk or email admin@norsegroup.co.uk

You do have to provide medical correspondence confirming the allergy when you apply. Further info can be obtained from the school offices if required or email NORSE directly.



Special Diets are Changing!

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Our school food ethos is, and has always been, to feed **all** children tasty and nutritious meals that can help enhance their learning, health, happiness, and wellbeing during the school day.

Special diets form a significant part of our catering provision, and we understand that when a young person has an allergy, intolerance, or medical condition, coming to school and feeling safe to eat a school lunch can feel overwhelming.

We currently have a special diet policy, registration form and wide range of allergen aware menus in place across our schools. As a responsible school meal provider, we regularly review our policy and practices and, following a recent audit from an external school meal nutritionist and our own industry research, we are pleased to introduce our new **Allergen Aware Menu**.

New Allergen Aware Menu

Our new Allergen Aware Menu will replace any individual special diet menus previously created for any of the top 14 legal allergens*. **This means that any child registered with us with an allergy or intolerance to any of the top 14 allergens will be on the same menu.**

It is important for us to highlight that the Allergen Aware Menu will be closely aligned to the Primary School Main Menu so children who require it can feel safe and included.

As you will see when the menu is released, the changes made to dishes will be demonstrated in a purple font. There are two or three choices daily. In addition, we are pleased to offer schools an Allergen Aware Packed Lunch Menu (please check with your school if this is available).

**The top 14 allergens are: dairy, egg, gluten, soya, nuts, peanuts, sesame seeds, fish, celery, mustard, lupin, crustaceans, sulphur dioxide, molluscs.*

Rocksteady

The children came home with an information leaflet about Rocksteady this week. There is a charge as it is run by an external company, but we know some families have already taken up this opportunity and there may be others that would like to.

A promotional banner for Rocksteady Music School. It features a green-tinted background image of children playing instruments. The text "WOULD YOUR CHILD LIKE TO PLAY IN THEIR VERY OWN ROCK BAND?" is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. To the right, the "ROCK STEADY" logo is displayed in a stylized, white, bold font. Below the main text, it says "Enrol online today at rocksteadymusicschool.com or call 0330 113 0330 (local rate) 8am-8pm, Mon-Thurs, 8am-6pm Fridays".

WOULD YOUR CHILD LIKE TO PLAY IN THEIR VERY OWN ROCK BAND?

ROCK STEADY™

Enrol online today at rocksteadymusicschool.com
or call 0330 113 0330 (local rate)
8am-8pm, Mon-Thurs, 8am-6pm Fridays

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Rocksteady in-school band lessons are the perfect opportunity for your child to learn to play an instrument, develop life skills, have fun, gain confidence, and boost their wellbeing. As they progress through the Rocksteady curriculum, they will collect up to 300 different instrument, musicianship, and performance skills along the way.

Here's what you need to know:

- Lessons are held during the school day. There's no experience necessary and all instruments are provided, so it's very inclusive and accessible.
- Your child can choose from drums, vocals, keyboard, electric or bass guitar (subject to availability). They'll join their band mates for a weekly 30-minute lesson, where together they'll learn to play their favourite songs.
- You can proudly watch as your child performs in their end of term performance, showing you and their friends just how far they have come, and how far they could go. You can also follow their musical journey in your Parent Timeline from your Backstage account.
- Loved and trusted by thousands of schools, lessons are taught by experienced professional musicians who make music education fun. Your child's band leader will support and inspire them, while making sure they progress at their own pace.
- Your child will become either a Mini Rocker (Reception to Year 2), Rock Hero (Year 3 and Year 4) or a Rock Icon (Year 5 and Year 6).

Places are offered on a first come, first served basis. Selecting different instrument options will also give you the best chance of getting a place.

For more details on availability and cost, visit rocksteadymusicschool.com and find your school on the sign up page or call 0330 113 0330.

Best wishes,
Rachel Hawker | Director of Education



Support groups for Parents and Carers



Scan for Q&A's or find on NANSa Website.

Norwich Support Group
Supporting Families affected by diagnosed/undiagnosed
Special Educational Needs & Disabilities
at Nansa Family Centre
33 Woodcock Road NR3 3TT

MONDAY'S WEEKLY TERM TIME ONLY
10AM-12PM

Drop in at any time for chat with other parents/carers and one of our friendly Family Support Advisors

Refreshments provided

More Info :
www.nansa.org.uk/sensational-families/

nansa
National Association for Sensational Families

Sandringham Woodland Walks



WALKS WITH WOODLAND JULIE

Join me for stories, games, nature activities and more!

**24TH SEPTEMBER, 29TH OCTOBER,
26TH NOVEMBER**

Sessions at 10:30am & 13:00pm

**Sandringham Estate, Sandringham,
Norfolk, PE35 6EN**

Join Woodland Julie, an experienced outdoor educator, through the Royal Parkland woods to see what you can find, listen to stories and enjoy a game in nature. Wrap up, meet new friends and be inspired in nature. Approx 1½ hour activity starting at 10.30am or 1pm, meeting outside the Ticket Office in the Courtyard. Please dress and wear appropriate footwear as the walk will go ahead in all weathers. For all ages (all children must be accompanied by an adult) and places must be booked in advance. £9 per child with one accompanying adult free. Advance parking online £4. Visit www.sandringhamestate.co.uk/events to book a woodland walk place

Make your own pumpkin house

Make Your Own Pumpkin House



*JOIN LAVENDERFOREST AND WOODLAND JULIE
IN THE COURTYARD
OF THE SANDRINGHAM ESTATE VISITOR'S CENTRE
ON*

THURSDAY 26 FRIDAY 27 SATURDAY 28 OCTOBER

SESSION TIMES

10AM-11AM 11.15AM -12.15PM

1PM-2PM 2.15PM-3.15PM

£12 PER PUMPKIN HOUSE

INCLUDES ALL MATERIALS

Booking Open

<https://sandringhamestate.co.uk>

/post

/make-your-own-pumpkin-house-bcce7a

