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

Newsletter 12 - 26th April 2024

Term Dates

Here are the term dates for the Summer. Please note, we may have more dates added but will keep you informed.

Date	Infant	Junior	Notes
Monday 29 th April 2pm	Reception ready session		For parents and carers of new children joining Reception in September
Tuesday 30 th April		Y4 trip to Sealife Centre Hunstant	Group 1 of 2
Wed 1 st May		Y4 trip to Sealife Centre Hunstant	Group 2 of 2
Wed 1 st May	Music and Movement session for Reception children		
Wed 1 st /Thur 2 nd May		Bikeability Group 2	
Mon 6 th May	Bank Holiday - School Closed		
Thur 9 th May		Y4/5 Basketball Competition UEA for selected children	
Thur 9 th May	Barn Owls visit to Ted's Den		
Mon 13 th May - Thurs 16 th May		Y6 SATs week	Free SATs breakfast For all Y6 from 8am daily Mon - Thur
Tuesday May 14 th	Happy Smiles Dentist visit		Learning about how to take care of your teeth
Monday 20 th May	Parent support café. All parents/carers welcome. In the Infant Nursery Coffee and cake available. Information being sent out shortly.		Supporting positive behaviour at home for your child.
Wed 22 nd May	Reception visit to Gressenhall		
Thurs 23 rd May	Infant Race Day - parents and carers invited		9:15 Y1 10:30 YR 2pm Y2 Children to come to school in PE kit please. If wet we will Need to postpone
Thurs 23 rd May		Y4-6 Quad kids competition at UEA for selected children	
Fri 24 th May	Junior Race Day - parents and carers invited		9.15 Y6 10.30 Y5 1.15 Y4 2.15 Y3 Children to come in PE kit please If wet we will need to postpone
Fri 24 th May	Schools close at 3.15/3.25 for Half Term		

Date	Infant	Junior	Notes
Mon 3 rd June	Schools reopen at 8.40 am for Summer 2		
Tues 4 th June		Mental Health in Schools Team in To work with Year 6	Sessions to support with transition to High school
Thur 6 th June		Y5/6 Girls' cricket & Kwik Cricket competition for selected children	
Thur 7 th June	Y1 trip to Holkham Hall		
Week beg June 10 th	Y1 and 2 phonics screening checks	Y4 Multiplication Checks	
Tue June 11 th		Author visit Amanda Lowe Years 3-6	
Wed 12 th June	Joint assembly for years 2 and 3 at juniors		Infant to Junior transition
Fri 14 th June	KS1 Athletics at Taverham High School		
Fri 14 th June	Day of welcome		A Day of Welcome aims to build a culture of welcome and understanding for people seeking sanctuary. Celebrated by over 530 schools and tens of thousands of pupils in 2023, it designed to start Refugee Week.
Wed 19 th June	Y2 Pensthorpe Trip		
Wed 19 th June	New Reception and parent session 9.15		For children joining Reception in September 24
Thu 20 th June	EB2 tour of the Junior School with Mrs Pedlow		Infant to Junior transition
Fri 21 st June		Y2-4 Tennis Competition for selected children	
Mon 24 th June	KR2 tour of the Junior School with Mrs Pedlow		
Tue 25 th June	RP2 tour of the school with Mrs Pedlow		
Wed 26 th June		Y3-6 Panathlon at Taverham High school for selected children	
Wed 26 th June 12 noon to 1pm	Family Picnic on the field. Details to follow.		If wet, we will need to postpone
Wed 26 th June 1.15pm	Year 2 art exhibition for parents		
Thu June 27 th	Year 2 and 3 paired reading sessions		Infant to Junior Transition
Tue 2 nd July		Team Day event - children only Children to come in PE kit	
Wed 3 rd July		Sports' event for children only with West Norwich Sports' partnership	
Thu 4 th July	Team Day event - children only Children to come in PE kit		
Thu 4 th July		Sports' event for children only with West Norwich Sports' partnership	
Thu 4 th July		Y6 Team Building Transition Festival Taverham High School for selected children	
Week beg 8 th July	Year 10 Work Experience Students in		
Tue 9 th July		Wellbeing sessions for the children with the Sports' partnership	
Thu 11 th July	Rocksteady Concert for Infant 'Rocksteady' parents 9.15		
Thu 11 th July	Year 6 performances for parents/carers		Timings for Y6 performances 9.15 GB6 10.30 KH6 2pm GG6 2 adults per child, no younger siblings. If you have younger siblings and no one to look after them, please dojo your child's teacher in advance and we can arrange for you to come to a dress rehearsal

Date	Infant	Junior	Notes
Fri 12 th July		Y6 leavers' party (in school time)	
Fri 12 th July	EYFS Tennis multiskills Taverham High School for selected children		
Week beg July 15 th	Year 10 work experience		
Week beg July 15 th	Transition week for Years R to 6. All children in current Years R to 5 will spend the week in their new classes		Enhanced transition
Mon 15 th /Tue 16 th July		All Year 6 in	
Wed 17 th - Fri 19 th		Y6 attending Northgate or Neatherd for 3 days	High School Transition If your child is in Year 6 but NOT attending one of the Dereham High Schools, they will have separate arrangements but should attend here when not at their new schools.
Mon 15 th July	New Reception group A visiting 9.15-11.30		
Tue 16 th July	New Reception group A visiting 9.15-1.30 and staying for lunch		
Wed 17 th July	New Reception group B visiting 9.15-11.30		
Thur 18 th July	New Reception group B visiting 9.15-1.30 and staying for lunch		
Fri 19 th July	Last Day of Term		

These dates are subject to change if necessary but we want to give you sufficient notice to be able to make arrangements to attend.

Please keep a note of the dates relating to your child.

Junior Lunch Money

Just a reminder that school lunches increased after Easter to £2.58. This may be why some parents have had messages about arrears if they have not paid the new amount. The system is automated and counts the lunches your child orders, so any anomaly will be due to the new price.

Year 2-3 Transition

As well as transition week, we have some additional activities to support the move into Year 3.

These are set out below, There may be additional visits and activities but this is the minimum on offer.

Yr2 to join Yr3 assembly with Mrs Pedlow	Wednesday 12th June 9.15-9.30am
Tours of Junior School (PM) with Mrs Pedlow	Thursday 20th June (EB) Monday 24th June (KR) Tuesday 25th June (RP)
Year 2 playtime on Year 3 playground	Fridays - 10.15-10.35am 14th June, 21st June, 28th June, 5th July
Reading session (paired yr2/yr3)	Thursday 27th June 1.30-2.30pm (15/20 mins in each class)

KS1 mini leaders

We are going to pilot a PE mini leaders pathway this year for our year 1 children, so that when they are in year 2 they can support with games and support the MSAs with the equipment. The main aim for them is 'learning to lead'.

We going to start with 4 children from each class - children who offer good leadership skills and who are good communicators as well as being enthusiastic in PE , but don't have to be the best at PE.

Mrs Morton has completed some training and is going to do a lunchtime session with them every other Wednesday lunch 12-12:30 for the remainder of the summer term, starting on 1st May. Thanks to Mrs Morton for organising this for the children.

MSA Vacancy

We still have a vacancy for a midday supervisor at the Infants. Hours preferably are 11.30-1.30 daily or 12 - 1.15 on some days.

If you are interested or know anyone who may be, please ask them to contact the infant office for an application form.

Applicants would need to have 2 references that are work based. If you have ever worked with children, a reference would be required from that setting in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education. You would also need to have a full DBS check undertaken.

Year 5 and 6 helpers

Our new Year 5 and 6 helpers have been hard at work at the Infant school at lunchtimes.

We have been so proud of how they have taken this responsibility and fulfilled their roles so well. The feedback from the adults at infants has been so positive.

They have been on the playground with the Infant children supporting them with games and friendships, supporting in the dinner hall with confidence and independence or supporting children in Lunchtime Lounge. It is wonderful to see them step up and take on these responsibilities so maturely.

Year 1 Rockets and Planets Workshop

On Tuesday 23rd April, Dr Mandy Hartley from The Little Story Telling Company came to visit year 1 to deliver an exciting workshop about rockets and planets. She started by showing the children a size comparison of all the planets and stars in our galaxy. The children were amazed to learn it would take 1100 years to travel once round the biggest star in the galaxy!

Next, the children split into planet teams to complete a series of tasks. They made a playdough planet to the size of the picture given to them by Dr Hartley, found how many moons each planet had and identified the time it took to orbit the sun. Some teams even had time to learn how many hours were in the day on their planet. Did you know? Jupiter has 67 moons!

We learnt new facts about the planets including the heat of each planet, if they are gas planets and if we can see planets from Earth! Have a look and see if you can spot Jupiter this evening!

We played Top Trumps with the planet facts, which linked beautifully to our English lessons last week where the children created their own Top Trumps about the planets in our solar system.

The children shared some facts they knew about the different planets:

"Mars is red" Stephen

"It is 365 days or 1 year to go round the sun on Earth" Rafe

The children used reasoning skills to work out which planets would be the quickest or slowest to orbit the sun.

"The smallest planet has less weight so will be the quickest to orbit the sun" Auralia.

"Neptune will take the longest as it is the furthest away" Renelle.

We finished the workshop with some rocket experiments outside. We used water and alka-seltzer tablets in a film canister to create a mini rocket launch. Dr Hartley explained that the rockets were using the force of thrust to go through the air.

You can see this and photos on our website

<https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/year-groups/year-1/year-1-summer-1-rockets-and-planets-workshop/>

Infant Gardening Club

The Infant school gardeners were very excited to get started again this term and despite the cold, wet weather got to work straight away. The children got stuck into weeding our raised beds and preparing them for the summer term. Our garlic that was planted in the autumn is coming along nicely and we all enjoyed admiring the lovely daffodils that have popped up in our spring flower bed.

The children this year have asked to grow potatoes, carrots, beans and pumpkins. We have starting to see blossom on our apple trees and on the Jubilee tree which is fantastic. We can't wait to get back outside in the summer term to plant up our wild flower bed and get our vegetables underway.

Federation School Council

Improving Lunchtimes

Over the Spring term the School Council were busy discussing ways to improve lunchtimes across both schools. We each collected ideas and suggestions from our classmates and fed back in a meeting. We discussed which of these suggestions would be possible to implement and then put forward our ideas to Mrs Pedlow. We sent emails out to specific teachers and FOTS to help get them up and running.

Some of the suggestions put forward were:

- Calming music to be played in the dinner halls.
- New playground markings
- Playground pals to wipe over wet benches as part of their role.
- Alternative lunchtime clubs
- Mixed age group playtimes across the Federation once a half term.
- Junior Playground pals for Infants
- Introducing 'Quiet Play' areas in the summer on the playground (picnic blankets and a box of resources such as colouring, card games etc).

We look forward to seeing these ideas continuing to be incorporated into lunchtimes.

We look forward to an exciting term and look forward to seeing you all at some of our events if you are able to join us.

Community News

St John's Badger Unit



We are now recruiting young people aged 5 to 10 years old to join our Badger unit in Dereham to learn First Aid and many other skills (but still have fun and games too).

We meet every Monday during Term time in the Mid Norfolk Mencap Building, 1a Tavern Lane, Dereham, NR19 1PX.

Badgers - 5 to 10 year olds meet
from [5.30pm](#) to [6.45pm](#)

For more [details](#) please ring

Mrs. Rockett-Woods on [07749 870485](#) or

Go on the St John joining portal:-

youthjoining.sja.org.uk
([please complete all details](#))

[Or just pop along](#) to have an informal chat.

Kidical Mass Cycle Ride

Kidical Mass Norwich Ride - Sunday 5th May - ride starts 2pm, meet in Chapelfield Gardens, Norwich

Kidical Mass is a family cycle ride to celebrate cycling and show that we want to cycle and we need safe spaces to do so. This is a gentle cycle, for EVERYONE (all ages and abilities) with the aim to enjoy cycling as a group, improve confidence in cycling.. And, most importantly, to have fun!

Norwich will be joining hundreds of other cities internationally, as we let kids take to the streets on their bicycles. Last year, more than 150,000 children, young people, families and friends took part in over 500 locations worldwide! The Norwich ride will start from Chapelfield Gardens at 2pm, process around the town centre (route tbc), before ending back at Chapelfield Gardens again. Everyone welcome: children on their own cycles, balance bikes, stabilisers, BMX, cargos, trailers, trikes, tagalongs. (We ask that children are accompanied and that you're self-sufficient and responsible for any children you bring along. However, we'll ride as a group and there will be adults to lead the ride and help navigate any traffic.) It would be fantastic if you can join us.



Newsletter



Christians Against Poverty Debt Centre, in partnership with Dereham Baptist Church

2024 has got off to a flying start with a continued focus on getting the word out. We would like everyone in our area to know that there is free debt help available - they don't need to suffer in silence.

In January we joined a community event at Dereham library (photo shows our debt coach Morgan) and spoke to library users.

February saw a money coaching course running in the Green Pastures Community Hub.

In March we joined Love Dereham's Community Lunch, and enjoyed a free hot meal. Contact hello@lovedereham.org.uk if you'd like to know more about community lunches.



Many people don't think they're entitled to claim benefits, but a huge number of individuals who've used the benefit calculator on CAP's website have collectively found more than £100 million of additional annual income over the past year.
<https://capuk.org/money-and-debt-advice/benefits-calculator>

If you are interested in attending a Money Coaching Course please visit complete our [google form](#) to register your interest.

Could you support the Dereham Debt centre to continue providing vital debt help and budgeting courses? Aviva are currently matching all donations given via their community fund. Please go to bit.ly/capdbc if you are able to donate (upto £250 per household will be doubled by Aviva).



Our debt services are free, and available for those living in Dereham and the surrounding villages. There are other centres in Norfolk and across the UK.

For free debt help phone 0800 328 0006. Visit capuk.org for more info



Newsletter



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Four reasons for debt and how we can tackle them

Everything is so expensive these days, so it's easy for many of us to find ourselves in unmanageable debt. By recognising the causes of debt, we can gain a better understanding of the problem, prevent it and deal with it.

Low incomes

At Christians Against Poverty (CAP) we offer free, face-to-face debt advice and budgeting help. One of the main reasons our clients fall into debt is living on a low income. A lower regular income means less wiggle room to cope with rising costs.

We often don't realise what benefit support we could be entitled to. The free Turn2us benefits calculator on CAP's website at capuk.org/calculator is helping thousands of people to see if they are missing out on any vital income. Why not give it a try?

Unexpected circumstances

We've all had days where it feels like everything is going wrong and unexpected circumstances can have a massive impact on our finances. It could be that you've been made redundant, are going through a relationship breakdown, or a loved one has passed away, resulting in less household income. These types of situations can cause us both emotional and financial pain.

If you find yourself in debt that's unmanageable, the moneyhelper.org.uk website has a range of free support and you can reach out to CAP to access our free services in on 0800 328 0006

Physical and mental health struggles

Many of us will have heard the phrase 'health is wealth', meaning your health is always the most important thing. I think most of us would agree this is true. It's also true that long-term illnesses or injuries that happen to us or a close family member can have a huge impact on our household's finances.

Being kind to yourself, seeking professional, medical help early and readjusting your budget as quickly as you can following any changes to your regular income can be really helpful. This will give you a clearer picture of where your finances are at and help you make productive decisions.

In need of budgeting support

Budgeting and learning to save are essential life skills, but many of us have never been taught how to manage our finances and avoid debt. When things go wrong, not having this vital knowledge can make it a lot harder to deal with situations that impact our income.

Building up a savings buffer of around three to six months of your monthly income can bring you peace of mind. Even if you think you know how to budget and save, it's always great to learn new skills. Consider taking part in free money coaching to grow your knowledge. You can access free budgeting resources and find out more at capuk.org/budgeting.

Dereham Debt Centre Newsletter Jan 2024