



Headteacher Newsletter

Believe in yourself, Value others, Be proud of your achievements, Smile, Shine, Be happy.



Welcome back after the Christmas break to a brand new term, a brand new year and a brand new decade.

We hope that you all had the most amazing break over the past two weeks and have made some fantastic memories with your friends and families. Time seems to go so fast and before we know it Christmas will be here again but in the mean time let's all look forward to having a great year full of possibilities and exciting opportunities.

We are almost a full week into the term and I have to say, the

school has felt wonderful. The children have all come back in to school very settled and eager to start the new year off well. I cannot wait to see what they all achieve over the course of the rest of this academic year.



As you will all know, this month sees our first ever residential abroad, a Ski Trip to resort Alph d'Huez in the French Alps. We met with the group of 30 children from Key Stage 2 this week and the excitement surrounding the visit is wonderful. As this is the first time we have ventured abroad, both myself and Mrs King are accompanying this visit. During this week, we are leaving school in the very capable hands of Mrs Payne who will be 'Acting Head' for the week, with Mrs Steward, Senior Assistant Head, and the Phase Leaders, Mrs Lloyd, Miss Wilson, Mrs Hilton and Mrs Urcioli supporting too. We will be in daily contact and know that the rest of the school will have a wonderful learning week while we are away.

Tonight, is the PTA Annual General Meeting (AGM) and I hope to see many of you attend to find out all about the successful year they have had. A few highlights for me have included their wonderful fundraising for charity and school alike, fantastic events for the children such as the Valentines DISCO and film nights as well as their ultimate Summer Fete last academic year. We thank them all for their continued support over the past year and hope to see another wonderful year as we move into this new decade. A big thank you to Suman, who stands down as Chair, but remains within the committee to allow this opportunity for another parent. We will keep you updated on the new appointments.



There is so much to fit into this term with a wealth of opportunities built in to support our children's first hand experiences and broaden their horizons. The majority of these can be found in the 'Important Dates for your Diary' section at the back of this newsletter but just to highlight a few we have: Motivational workshops for Year 6; Sports Festivals at Stanground Academy for a range of year groups; Explorers Academy visits school in both Year 4 and 6 to explore the Mountains and Rainforests; Year 5 visit the Jorvik Centre in York; Year 2 embark on their first residential to Stibbington; Year 1 visit the Dinosaur Park; Year 3 embark on their residential to Aylmerton; Early Years visit Sacrewell Farm; and Year 4 embark on their residential to Horstead. Alongside all of this we have many other events in the calendar such as the Valentines DISCO and Easter BINGO, many parents meetings, cafes, consultations and events as well as fundraising for charities and school. We also have the English Challenge Final in just under two weeks time, good luck to the Team, Go Team Southfields!

You will see in the diary there are several dates for 'Inclusion Cafes' which are usually held in the KS2 dining room by Mrs Payne and her team. I sometimes get a few messages asking what these are for so let me explain. Our Inclusion Cafes are held for families of children who attend the school with difficulties in areas of their learning. They are usually themed with some form of training or discussion to give more information to parents on how they can support their child at home. Sometimes these are more formal with visitors from outside agencies coming in to speak and other times less formal and more of an opportunity for a catch up and coffee. In addition to these Inclusion Cafes, we are looking at having other cafes open to families to share information on how to support in other areas of the curriculum or groups of children such as with those who may need more challenge in their learning. We are always open to suggestions if there is something you would particularly like more support with. Please send Mrs King a Class Dojo message and we will plan out the rest of the year and hope to accommodate as many of you as we can. Another question asked by parents were the timings for cafes for working parents. Once again we will try to accommodate as many people as we can and do our best to offer a range of timings where possible.



Behaviour is Communication

As we are now in a new year and a new decade, can I take a moment to talk to you all about behaviour. For many years we have prided ourselves on the behaviour of our children and families and when Ofsted came back in September they were blown away by everything we as a school do to support those with behaviour challenges. Over time, we have seen a shift in behaviours and what expectations are from home so can I reiterate responsibilities for you all. In school it is our main focus to ensure that everyone, including staff as well as children, are safe and learning in school. It is a place for education and to learn about the world all around us. Teachers are here to ensure that every child has a well rounded education and that every voice can be heard. What I love about our school is that it is like a mini world. Our children get to meet and learn alongside many children from a variety of backgrounds and with varying learning or behaviour needs. Our children learn how to navigate around one another and some are much more advanced at this than others. Our philosophy is that behaviour is a form of communication and if you think about it, many of us are better at communicating with one another than others. This is the same with children. Everybody grows at their own pace and learns how to communicate their wants and needs in different ways. It is the role of the parent, from birth onwards, to role model and explain how to communicate feelings and what to do if they feel different emotions such

as happy/sad, anxious/excited, upset/settled. It is also their role to establish boundaries and learn what is accepted both at home and when out and about. For some children they pick this up really quickly and others it will take a little bit longer. Relationships are very important at building good communication, spend plenty of time explaining and talking to your children about your expectations and what the sanctions or rewards will be to support them with this. It is both ours as a school and parents roles to support children in finding the best way to communicate. We are a team who need to work together. We have the best interests of the children at heart with a full Inclusion Team whose role is to support, liaise and manage the day to day behaviour of pupils. We always want to move forwards positively and hope that parents will support school in doing everything they can to ensure the consistency of expectations and thinking positively about support given so that we can show children that we are a team and together we can reach our targets.



BIRTHDAYS IN JANUARY

Oliver, Roxas, Aimee, Scott, Amelia, Alice, Henry, Archie, Nathan, Nicole, Zachary, Lora, Christian, Scarlett, Levi, Patriks, Aisha, Scarlett, Hanika, Dorian, Sonny, Oliwier, Elsie-May, Layton, Charlie, Lauren, Freddy, Cienna, Vedansh, Mohammad, Benjamin, Mason, Kaycee, Marcel, Paige, Ugne, Amy, Adam, Frank, Joshua, Gracie, Robert, Samuel, Giovanni, Daisy, Jayce, Muhammad, Holly, Alfie, Jacob, Wilson, Eliza, Patrick, Alicja, Lexie, Jake, Divyana, Tyler, Miles, Logan and Logan.

Happy birthday everyone!

Snow or Flood Closures

With the colder weather approaching and the recent flooding sweeping the nation, please could I take a little time to explain the school's weather closure procedures.

If in the event that the school needs to close we will parent pay in the first instance, update the school website, send a Class Dojo message and parents can listen to 'Heart FM' on 102.7 where all of the Peterborough school closure announcements will be made. This can also be found on their web site www.heartpeterborough.co.uk.

Posters will then also be put on the external gates by the caretaker.

We try not to close the school as we are very aware that childcare arrangements can be very difficult at short notice and unless the weather is very severe the school will endeavour to stay open (also we love playing in the snow with the children!). This is also very dependent on staff being able to arrive at school as we have many staff who drive as long as an hour to reach us.

If we are able to remain open, please could children bring extra clothes, (warm jumpers, wellies, socks and trousers or snow gear if you have any, warm hats and gloves...oh and a carrot for the snowman's nose...we always run out!) two lots if they love being outside and then they will have a change if they get wet.





IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

January 2020

Monday 6th - Term opens
 Thursday 9th - PTA AGM
 Monday 13th - Y6 Motivational workshops
 Wednesday 15th - Full Governing Body Meeting
 Friday 18th-25th - Ski Visit to France
 Tuesday 21st - English Challenge Final at Town Hall
 Wednesday 29th - Y1 Multi Skills at Stanground Academy

February 2020

Monday 5th - Y5 to Jorvik Centre
 Tuesday 4th - Y4 Explorers Academy - Mountain Adventure
 Wednesday 5th - Y6 Explorers Academy - A journey to the rainforest
 Thursday 7th - Inclusion Cafe
 Thursday 7th - Children's Mental Health Day
 Monday 10th - 14th - Y2 Stibbington Residential week
 Tuesday 11th - Y3 group to 999 Club
 Wednesday 12th - Valentines DISCO
 Thursday 13th - Parent Rep Meeting
 Monday 17th-21st - Half Term Break
 Wednesday 26th - Y4 Sports Hall Athletics at Stanground Academy

March 2020

Monday 2nd - Y5/6 Swimming Gala
 Thursday 5th - World Book Day
 Thursday 5th - PTA Meeting
 WB Monday 9th - Sports Relief Week
 Wednesday 11th - Governors in School Day followed by FGB Meeting
 Wednesday 11th - Friday 13th - Y3 Aylmerton Residential
 Tuesday 17th - Y1 to Dinosaur Park
 Wednesday 18th - Y3/4 Gymnastics Competition
 Wednesday 18th - London 2021 Parents Meeting
 Monday 23rd/Tues 24th - Early Years classes to Sacrewell Farm
 Wednesday 25th - Friday 27th - Y4 Horstead Residential
 Wednesday 25th - Aylmerton Feedback meeting for parents
 Friday 27th - Inclusion Cafe
 Monday 30th - YR+Y1 Easter service
 Monday 30th - Wednesday 1st - Parents Evenings
 Tuesday 31st - Y2+Y3 Easter service
 Wednesday 1st **April** - Y4-6 Easter service
 End of Spring Term

PARENT'S COMMENTS TO THE HEAD

As always we really value your opinions about our school. Please add your comments here for the Headteacher. You can return them in the 'Comments Box' located in the main school office.

2019-2020 TERM DATES

Spring Term 2019

Opens Monday 6th January
 Half term - Monday 17th to Friday 21st
 February
 End - Wednesday 1st April

Summer Term 2019

Opens - Monday 20th April
 May Day - Friday 8th May
 Half term - 25th to 29th May



