

Ormesby Village Infant & Junior Schools Federation

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HEADTEACHER'S TERMLY NEWSLETTER – AUTUMN TERM 2021

Welcome Back!

I hope you and your children have all had a superb first week back. Please let me welcome you all to another year at the Ormesby Village Infant and Junior Schools Federation, with an additional warm welcome for any new families who are joining us. If you missed my previous letter, I am the new Headteacher, Bradley Young, and I look forward to meeting you all soon. I hope that the items in this termly newsletter will act as a good source of information for the term to come, particularly as we all forge ahead in the face of the pandemic. As mentioned in the previous letter, certain Government restrictions have finally been relaxed, but many school decisions remain heavily influenced by the ever-changing guidelines imposed by the Government to keep everyone safe. There is a lot of information here, so I apologise in advance.

Vision

At the Ormesby Village Infant and Junior Schools Federation, we will be developing a fresh, clear vision for the future, which we will want all our stakeholders to absorb and remember. We will devise an ethos involving viewpoints from all stakeholders that will be implemented and embedded across both schools to help us get closer and closer to achieving our vision. Ultimately, we wish our Village Schools Federation to be a nurturing environment underpinned by strong British values. We wish to be a beacon of inclusiveness; a family community where each child is treated as an individual, and outstanding teaching helps them to discover and develop their unique talents and abilities.

Our Curriculum

We are always reviewing the effectiveness of our curriculum and improving the impact it is going to have. Small changes have been made already and in doing so we have been able to keep it fresh and engaging. Moreover, our curriculum allows for pupils to be given a real purpose for their learning and a challenging outcome enhancing necessary life skills. We will ensure all subjects are taught well and topics covered engage and interest the pupils as much as possible. Teachers will also be creating Knowledge Organisers about different themes covered in class, which contain key vocabulary, important dates, significant people and other useful facts that will aid your child's learning.

Curriculum Celebration Events

We are intending to regularly celebrate the learning from our curriculum at the end of each half-term with you. This may be through our websites or social media accounts or, if possible, by inviting you in to share in the pupils' efforts in person in a safe and managed manner.

New, Continuing and Evolving Initiatives

As the year progresses, we will be implementing new initiatives and we will be continuing the effective ones that have had a successful impact. We will also be adjusting others to make them even more effective and to increase the progress our pupils make.

The Reception class will be teaching its updated curriculum and enjoying planning and preparing this for its new cohort. We hope the pupils enjoy this new approach equally as much.

Each day classes will have access to key teaching in Spellings, Grammar and Punctuation within our English learning time to ensure our pupils leave Infant and Junior school with strengths in their writing and understanding of a wider range of vocabulary. Our strategy will have the desired impact of improving spellings across the school, as well as phonic ability, word recognition, reading, handwriting, sentence structure, word definition, etymology and dictionary use. Alongside this, the manner in which we teach writing has also been adapted to build the stamina and willingness to write within our pupils. Our aim is to provide them with more free writing opportunities allowing them to practise

their writing across the curriculum indoors and outdoors. At the same time, we aim to give pupils a far greater scaffolding to know which elements are needed to achieve stronger pieces of writing. We will also be looking at how guided reading sessions operate and ensure these instruct our pupils on the skills needed to read well, to understand what they are reading better and to increase their passion for reading all through the use of quality texts.

In Maths, we will be looking to implement Cooperative Learning. This enables pupils to lead their own learning further and reinforce work more with peers. Knowledge and skills are modelled by the teacher and then learners are able to practise these skills in a series of structured activities. These structured activities are called CLIPS. CLIPS means Cooperative Learning Interactive Pattern. Each CLIP is designed to encourage certain elements of listening, speaking, questioning and response. The teacher will use the CLIP they feel best supports the learning of the groups of learners in their class. Further information will be released through an information leaflet that will be on our website.

Parent and Teacher Meetings

Nearer half-term, we will see a return of parent and teacher meetings. The schools are dedicating a week to arranging ten-minute meetings with parents either over the telephone, via Google Meet or in person in a safe manner. These meetings will take place at agreed times beginning on Monday 18th October 2021. More information on how to book an appointment will be released nearer the time.

Homework and Class Dojo

All classes are continuing their use of Class Dojo, in order to relay how the week has gone and to celebrate what the pupils have been learning. Please make sure you have downloaded the app and linked to our schools to stay abreast of what your children have been doing or what exciting things may be coming up. They also have important information, contain reminders and will be a tool for teachers to set any class homework. There will still be expectations to learn weekly spellings, to read daily and to practise times tables throughout the year as usual.

Statutory Assessments

Despite not having any statutory assessments for the past two years, the Government have stipulated that all statutory assessments will remain and take place in Summer 2022. The Reception class have a new Baseline Assessment to complete over the next few weeks, there will be the Phonics Screening Check for Year 1 and Year 2 pupils, the KS1 SATs for Year 2, the multiplication tables check in Year 4 and the KS2 SATs in Year 6. Rest assured we will take all the necessary steps to prepare all our children for any testing. Please support us, by working on daily reading, times tables and the four mathematical operations, as well as handwriting and pencil grip at home (depending on the age of your child). We also have online tools such as, Times Tables Rock Stars and Hit the Button. Links for these will be found on our website.

Communication and Safeguarding

Our Federation always endeavours to do its very best, but sometimes we will not always get it right. Please contact the school if you realise an error or oversight has occurred or you are simply unhappy about something. We will always aim to resolve issues as quickly and as supportively as possible. However, we cannot do this if we do not know about it. In the first instance, please contact your class teacher, but if you feel the issue is more serious it may require a more senior leader or myself to resolve the issue. As a final note if you have any safeguarding issues, please contact the school to speak to a Designated Safeguarding Lead. These are: Mr. Young, Mrs. McMylor, Mr. Robertson (JNR) and Mrs. Vaughan (INF).

Uniform and Appearance

A reminder about uniform and appearance has already been shared with you and I must say that all children have come back looking smart. To maintain our high standards, please ensure that ALL uniform is named and that our uniform code is adhered to. If you had already purchased items prior to the previous letter coming out, please do not worry. Class teachers will speak to parents if there is an issue with a pupils' appearance. If any family needs assistance with uniform, please speak to the School Office.

Lost Property

If your child has lost any property, just ask the staff to take a look for the items, as it will most probably be found in the pupils' classroom. Please ensure all clothing items are named.

Visitor Conduct

We are grateful for the ease at which you have already adapted to small changes from how things were arranged in the previous academic year and with any change of school leadership things may not seem as convenient or as relaxed as they once were, which can cause discontent. Nevertheless, we expect all stakeholders to conduct themselves appropriately and politely when interacting with our staff/each other either in person, via the telephone or through

email. Any rudeness to staff will not be tolerated. Ultimately, we are all working towards the same goal and that is to provide our children with the best possible school experiences.

Parking, Cycling and Scooting

We know that it gets very busy on the roads outside the schools, but please show consideration towards others. Please do not park on the zig-zag lines at any point nor block the driveways of houses near the school. Please also remember not to use our car park, unless a prior arrangement has been agreed with the school. Alternatively, you could consider going green and select another method of getting to school other than a car, or simply walk. Please note if you are cycling/scooting to school and wish to leave your bike/scooter in the bike shed, please dismount and push them to the shed to avoid any avoidable accidents.

Pets and Smoking

Whilst it is lovely to know our children have family pets, particularly dogs, no dogs are allowed on site (except registered guide dogs), as this poses a serious health and safety risk. Anyone bringing a dog on to the site will be asked to remove it. Please do not tie a dog to our railings or stand right outside the school gate with one, because some children at our school have genuine phobias of dogs. Similarly, can I remind you that smoking/vaping on site is also not allowed, as it is something we do not wish to be promoted to children.

Attendance and Illness

We continue to take every step possible to ensure your children learn as much as they can, so please ensure your child is in school each day and on time. If your child is late, you must bring them to the relevant school office, do not send them directly to the classroom. If your child is ill, please notify the school office giving a specific reason for their absence. As we have children and staff with lower immune systems in the schools, we must know if your child is suffering from a contagious illness so this information can be passed on to the relevant parties. More information about illnesses will be placed on our website. It is our duty to know where our pupils are, particularly if they are not in school.

Pastoral Support

Many of you may be new to the schools, but please be reminded that we have very supportive staff who are happy to assist all our pupils and their families pastorally. We can offer support with behaviour, parental separation, bereavement, financial worries and many more. Help is there, you simply need to ask.

Christmas Performances

I am pleased to say that, COVID-permitting, there will be Christmas performances at the end of term. We are hoping for a Christmas Nativity at the Infant School and a Carol Concert at the Juniors. It is also hoped that we will be able to invite parents in to share in the festivities and celebrations. These have been sorely missed by all.

Extra-Curricular School Clubs

Now that restrictions have been lifted and class bubbles are suspended, we hope that lunchtime and extra-curricular clubs will return and I am keen to increase provision. Depending on the school, this may include Choir, Football, Dance, Netball, Athletics/Cross-Country, STEM, Bushcraft, Gymnastics, Lego and many more over the course of the year. There will be further information coming out soon regarding these. At the Junior school, we are fortunate to have Mrs. White-Joubert, who can provide peripatetic music sessions for those budding musicians. If your child is interested in learning a new instrument, please inform the school office.

After-School Club

Our After-School Club is back in operation and is open to both Infant and Junior schools running on a Monday 3:15pm-5:00pm, on a Tuesday 3:15pm-4:45pm and on a Wednesday 3:30pm-5:00pm. Mondays and Tuesdays are at the Infant school and Wednesdays are at the Junior school. A walking bus will be manned by staff to transfer pupils safely from one school to the other. Cookery and Gymnastics are just some of the activities pupils can enjoy, and these are reviewed and changed each half-term. If you wish to book your child into after-school club for the half-term, please fill out a booking form that is normally sent out well in advance of the period in question and return it to the school offices with full payment. Full payment is required to confirm the booking. The cost of after-school club is £6.00 per week.

P.T.A

The P.T.A. or Friends of Ormesby Village Schools Federation is a vital committee to help raise much-needed funds for further school improvement. Sadly, the pandemic caused events to be put on hold, but with restrictions being lifted it is hoped that some parents will be enthusiastic enough about re-energising the P.T.A. and meeting with staff to see what ideas can be decided upon. These meetings could be conducted virtually now to make them even more convenient to attend. Please show your interest in joining and help make Ormesby Village Schools Federation a better place for all with your suggestions for improvements.

Websites and Social Media

Please ensure you keep abreast of letters and notices from both the Infant and Junior school websites, which are in the process of being updated and improved for the new academic year. This will take some time, so please bear with us. A bespoke website design for both schools has been commissioned to further enhance the profile of the schools and make things more consistent for pupils and parents transitioning between the two. As a Federation, we are continuing to be more environmentally friendly and continue our strong infection controls, so reducing the amount of paper we share and the costs of paper we incur are vitally important. We will use texts and emails regularly to inform you about events and celebrate both schools with our new social media accounts on Facebook and Twitter. Please ensure you follow us and watch out for our posts. We can be found on both the above platforms: **Ormesby Village Schools Federation '@OrmesbyVSF'**

Governors

We are always keen to share the wonderful things happening in and out of our schools with our Governing Body. We are looking forward to inviting them in over the course of the year to enable them to see for themselves what our pupils learn and enjoy. If they can be of any help to you, as parents, please inform the office, who will advise you on how best to contact the Chair of Governors, Mr. Clive Sillitoe.

Thank you all for making me feel so welcome. I hope you all have a great term.

Bradley Young
Headteacher

