

Norfolk County Council

Ormesby Village Junior School

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Headteacher: Ms. Lucy Bates

Tuesday January 16th 2018

Dear Parents

Welcome back to the New Year and the Spring Term. We hope you enjoyed a very happy Christmas break. It was lovely to see so many of you in school before the holiday for our Christmas events. We are delighted to report that the Christmas disco raised £326.55 for School Fund. Many thanks to the parents who organized it and to staff for helping them supervise! The sale of refreshments at the Christmas concert on 5th December at the church raised £78.71 for the school. The raffle at the Y3/4 Christmas performances raised £165.27 for School Fund and we raised £41 for Save the Children on Christmas Jumper Day. We donated a large number of items to the Salvation Army as a result of our 'reverse advent calendar' event. Thank you so much for your support and generosity. It is greatly appreciated! The children thoroughly enjoyed their 'Christmas Eve' treat on 18th December – and thank you again for donations for the donkeys! It was a really special day! The children thoroughly enjoyed Peter Pan on the first day back – another lovely event!

Parking

Please remember that when you park near the schools you need to do so considerately and legally. You should not block residents' driveways or park alongside dropped kerbs. Neither should you park on the yellow zig-zag lines by the school entrances. There have been reports of inconsiderate parking, particularly the latter! The lines are there to stop people parking where children are walking to enter and leave the school building. The police have been informed and will make regular 'spot checks' at the beginning and end of the school day. These rules are to keep all our children safe and we appreciate you taking note of them.

P.E.

Please ensure your children have a suitable P.E. kit in school EVERY DAY OF THE WEEK. All the children are receiving additional sessions during teaching time and at lunch times, thanks to the increase in sports funding from the government. They need to be able to change into suitable clothes – and most importantly, correct footwear. Thank you for helping us to ensure your children get the most from these health-promoting activities.

School attendance

The school's attendance figures for the academic year 2016-17 fell to just over 95%, for both the two and three term calculations used by the Department for Education and Ofsted. This puts the school in the lower percentiles when compared to other schools nationally. The school's persistent absence figure – the number of children with attendance below 90% - was twice the national average, which is very concerning. Ofsted and the DfE make a strong link between attendance and pupils' achievement. It is crucial that your children attend school every day that they are well enough to do so. The vast majority of the school's unauthorised absence is due to holidays in term time and we urge you to take a break in school holiday time if at all possible. The attendance figure for the Autumn term 2017 is better, at 96.1%, but the number of pupils persistently absent is still too high at nearly 10%, above the national figure. The school will follow rigorously the requirements for ensuring good school attendance set down by the DfE and the local authority and you can find these details on the school's website.

School improvement

The governors and staff are always striving to ensure that the school's resources are well managed and used appropriately to provide the best education possible for your children. They are at the heart of everything that happens at Ormesby Village Junior School and everyone charged with running the school wants to give them the best opportunities to succeed and so be able to make aspirational life choices in the

future. This school is relatively small, with a predicted much smaller school roll moving up from the infant school for the foreseeable future, and this significantly affects the school's budget. We are acutely aware that the school 'requires improvement' following the last Ofsted inspection and we need to continue with a high level of support, collaboration and intervention from external sources to maintain and increase the current steady rate of progress towards a 'Good' judgement. Other local schools in our Gt Yarmouth North cluster are already academies or are seeking to join/form multi-academy trusts. We cannot allow our school to become isolated and need to explore ways of working together with other schools to share and learn from good practice elsewhere. Also we need to explore ways to ensure our increasingly limited budget is maximized to offer best value for the services we are required to purchase for the school, including maintaining current staffing levels. Consequently the governing body is considering joining a multi academy trust and is engaging with the relevant personnel from the local authority and the Department for Education. Governors have approached three trusts, following guidance, all of which have local schools as members of their organisations. As soon as there is any further information to share with you we will do so in a timely manner.

Diary dates

4.1.18 – Pantomime – Peter Pan – for all children – 1.45pm

9.2.18 – School closes for half term

19.2.18 – School re-opens

20.3.18 – Parents' evening – 3.45-6.30pm

27.3.18 – Parents' evening – 3.45-6.30pm

28.3.18 – School closes for Easter holiday

16.4.18 – School reopens for summer term

Yours sincerely

L. J. Bates

Lucy Bates

Headteacher

