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NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

I trust that you and your family had a wonderful Christmas and New Year and hope that you are all pleased to be back to school! On behalf of all of the staff, can I take this opportunity to thank you for the cards, gifts and kind wishes that we received; we are all very appreciative of your thoughtfulness.

It is with much sadness that this will be my last Newsletter for Barnby & North Cove School. I will miss the children, families and staff, but am sure that I will still see many of you from time to time and hear all of the schools exciting developments going forward.

Class Topics

This term our class topics are as follows:-

- **Oak Class – Dinosaurs**
- **Willow Class – The Rainforest**
- **Chestnut Class – The Rainforest, including people and places**

Please do try to engage with your child and their topic, it really benefits the children if they have the opportunity to research and discuss their topics at home. Easy ways of doing this is at the library, online resources, factual television programmes and reading relevant books with your child.

If any parents have past experiences or knowledge of rainforests, the ecology, deforestation, cultures, information or fossils from the Triassic, Jurassic, and Cretaceous periods, please speak to your child's Class Teacher, as they would love to hear from you!

Educational Trips

To complement the children's topics this term, we would like to arrange educational trips for **Oak Class** who will be attending the **Dinosaur Park**, the date of which is on the attached Dates for your Diary.

Whilst the Dinosaur Park is a lot of fun, it is also very educational; the children can see the actual sizes of the dinosaurs, colours and sounds as well as interacting with the educational resources and exhibitions. Further information and cost will be sent out shortly, but if your child receives free school meals, the school will subsidise the cost entirely.

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This term ***Willow Class will be visiting Thrigby Hall*** to complement their rainforest topic. Thrigby has many wild cats, red pandas and primates, as well as their amazing Reptile and Swamp House which houses fabulous specimens of snakes, crocodiles and alligators. I am sure that the children will thoroughly enjoy the experience and be able to relate a great deal to their rainforest topic. Once again, the date is attached and further information and cost will be sent out shortly, but if your child receives free school meals, the school will subsidise the cost entirely.

Chestnut Class will be visiting North Cove Nature Reserve and Broads River to compare the difference between the Amazon and the indigenous people past and present together with their cultures, against our local broads and river, people and culture. We do not have a date for this as yet, as it will be weather dependent, but confirmation will be issued at the beginning of the week planned for their 'expedition', which is likely to be after half term.

Class Assemblies

Each class has been working very hard on their topics and would like to give parents a presentation of their work in class assemblies, the dates of which are overleaf.

Brightness Day

As you know, the Junior Road Safety officers held a Brightness Day last Friday 20th January, and the children really enjoyed dressing up in their brightest clothes.

Easter Assembly

To round off the Spring Term, the whole school will also be holding an Easter Assembly for parents, which I am sure will be delightful. We hope to see as many parents and grandparents as possible and I may even pop along myself!

Year 2 & Year 6 SATs Parents Evenings

Mr Vaughan and Mrs Clements would like to offer parents a SATs Information Evening regarding the Year 2 and Year 6 SATs exams which take place in the summer term. These dates are also on the attached Dates for your Diary. We hope these will provide parents with information about the exams, what you can expect, and what the school will be doing to support successful results!

Mr Vaughan and Mrs Clements will then hold a follow up SATs Parents Evening for their Year 6 and Year 2 children, prior to the usual Parents Evenings below. This is to enable parents of Year 2 and 6 children to have an update of their child's individual progress for their SATs exams. Year 2 and Year 6 parents will not need to attend the usual whole school parent's evenings, below.

Parents Evenings

Teachers will be holding Parents Evenings for all other year groups on the dates overleaf. This will enable parents to discuss their child's progress and any concerns with your child's class teacher.

School Lunches

Our new Pick N Mix Menu has been well received and we hope that the children are enjoying having the extended choice. Mrs Hogg is working extremely hard preparing fresh options on a daily basis, as well as the usual hot school dinners and jacket potatoes. We are also pleased to announce that Jacket Potatoes have been extended to a Thursday!

Hedgehogs Breakfast Club

Our new breakfast club has started well with several children joining Mrs Davidson on mornings for breakfast and a chat. It is important that the club is sustainable, so please do make good use of it if you can.

Chinese New Year

As part of our continuous engagement in multi-cultural Britain, and to celebrate Chinese New Year, we are delighted to be hosting a ½ day ***Chinese New Year Workshop with Oak and Willow Class***. The children will learn a traditional Chinese Dance using the Chinese Festival Lion and Dragon Heads, Music and Parasols and will perform this at a ***Parent's Assembly*** at the end of the day, date overleaf.

Mrs Hogg has kindly agreed to provide the children with a Chinese themed lunch to celebrate Chinese New Year on the same day, in addition to Pick 'N' Mix or Jacket Potato.

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PTFA Events

The PTFA are kindly holding a ***Valentine's Disco and Easter Bingo this term***, dates overleaf. I would also like to take this opportunity to give my personal thanks to the PTFA, past and present, who have worked so hard to raise funds for our school over the years I have been Head Teacher.

Their fund raising has enabled us to purchase some wonderful resources and equipment, as well as subsidising transport costs for trips, for the benefit of all of the children at the school. Thank you also to you as parents and carers in your support of these events and I hope that I will see you at PTFA events in the future.

Mothering Sunday Lunches

With spring approaching, we are also looking forward to celebrating Mother's Day with our school families, dates overleaf. This year, we are offering three dates for Mum's to come in for lunch with their child(ren), and a Parent Mail Form will be issued nearer the time, or you can make arrangements with the School Office.

Sports Tournaments

Some of our Year 2 children attended a Matball Tournament at Ormiston Herman Academy in Gorleston last week and had an amazing time, scoring a total of 4 Goals! Some Year 5/6 children will be attending an Indoor Athletics Tournament at Water Lane Leisure Centre this week, and Year 6 will also be participating in a Badminton Tournament at Worlingham Primary.

We will continue to enter as many sports tournaments as we are able, and to give as many children the opportunity to participate in these as possible. The Federation is also planning a further ***'Sports for All afternoon'*** between Barnby & North Cove, Southwold and Somerleyton Schools later in the term, date overleaf.

World Book Day

The staff and children will again be celebrating World Book Day, date overleaf, by dressing up as their favourite book character and will be engaging in lots of activities to raise awareness of reading good books!

Comic Relief

Barnby & North Cove Primary are always on hand to raise money for good causes locally and nationally. This year, Red Nose Day is Friday 24th March and we will of course be participating on the day; further information will follow nearer the time.

Online Safety Share Afternoon

As you will be aware, online safety has been a highlight of media attention recently. The dangers in which our children are exposed to is ever increasing, and whilst we actively include online safety within our curriculum, we would like to host an Online Safety Share Afternoon to parents, carers and grandparents. ***We have arranged for Nathan Simmonds, Suffolk County Council's Online Safety Trainer to come in to talk to and give parents a presentation of online awareness.*** The date of this is overleaf.

Mornings and Rainy Days

Can we please remind you that unless it is raining or there is an urgent need to come into school, no one should be entering the school if at all possible. Teachers use the time before school to prepare for the day ahead and to brief their T.A.'s. Should you wish to speak to a teacher urgently, please speak to the member of staff on the playground, or ask for an appointment at the School Office. The Parent Post Box is also available to deliver any forms or monies for the School Office.

On rainy mornings children are allowed into the school hall from 8.40am and there will be a member of staff to supervise them. On such days parents may leave their children so there is less congestion. If it is raining when you come to collect your child at the end of the day, please wait outside. We have had several parents waiting inside and blocking corridors, so children cannot collect their belongings. This is also a safeguarding issue, as we cannot ensure children are with their correct adult.

Attendance

The school has recently had a register check by the Education Welfare Officer, to identify any children that have poor attendance (below 90%), or are regularly late for school. We would like to remind you that 'good attendance is vital for good attainment'.

Pupil absence not only affects the absent child's learning, but also disrupts their fellow pupil's education when Teachers and Teaching Assistants need to bring a child up to date with their studies. If your child is off school due to illness, please state when leaving a message on the answerphone, what the illness is, as this also needs to be recorded in the register.



Farewell Retirement Assembly

I have heard on the grapevine that the school is arranging a Farewell Retirement Assembly for me and I would love to see as many parents come along, as possible. Light refreshments will be served after the Assembly, so that I may have the opportunity to say a personal farewell to you.

Finally, it has been a very difficult decision to take early retirement, but one which I feel is right for the school and myself. I would like to wish Barnby & North Cove School all the very best for the future and hope that all the children achieve their very, very best and have successful futures. I am sure that I will see many of you from time to time and may even come along to the occasional PTFA event in the future!

With kindest regards to you all,

Mrs Nixon

Head Teacher

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Dates for your Diaries

DATE	EVENT	CLASS	TIME
Wednesday 25/1/17	Indoor Athletics Tournament	Information issued to those participating	1.00pm-4.00pm
Friday 27/1/17	Dental Workshops	Reception, Year 3 & 4	All Day
Friday 27/1/17	Badminton Tournament at Worlingham Primary School	Year 6	1.00pm-3.00pm
Friday 27/1/17	NO ARCHERY CLUB TODAY!		
Monday 30/1/17	Mrs Nixon's Retirement Assembly with Refreshments afterwards.	All Welcome!	2.15pm
Monday 30/1/17	NO SINGING CLUB TODAY !		
Wednesday 1/2/17	Chinese New Year Workshop	Oak & Willow Class	Afternoon
Wednesday 1/2/17	Chinese Workshop Parent Assembly	Oak & Willow Parents	2.30pm
Monday 6/2/17	Oak Class Assembly	Oak Parents	2.45pm
Monday 6/2/17	Year 6 SATs Parent Info Meeting	Year 6 Parents Only	3.15pm
Tuesday 7/2/17	Chestnut Assembly	Chestnut Parents	2.30pm
Wednesday 8/2/17	Willow Class Assembly	Willow Parents	2.45pm
Thursday 9/2/17	Year 2 SATs Parent Info Meeting	Year 2 Parents Only	3.15pm
Friday 10/2/17	PTFA Valentine Disco!	Whole School	4.15pm-5.45pm
Friday 10/2/17	LAST DAY OF HALF TERM		
Monday 13/2/17	START OF HALF TERM HOLIDAYS		
Monday 20/2/17	CHILDREN RETURN TO SCHOOL		
Wednesday 22/2/17	Year 2 & 6 SATs Parents Evening	Years 2 & 6 Parents Only	TBC
Thursday 2/3/17	World Book Day	Whole School	All day
Tuesday 7/3/17	Willow's Thrigby Hall Trip	Willow Class	All day
Tuesday 14/3/17	Oak's Dinosaur Park Trip	Oak Class	All day
Friday 17/3/17	Sports for All Afternoon	Barnby & North Cove, Southwold & Somerleyton Primary Schools	All day
Friday 17/3/17	PTFA Easter Bingo	All Welcome!	TBC
Tuesday 21/03/17	1 st Mother's Day Lunch	Whole School	12noon
Thursday 23/03/201	2 nd Mother's Day Lunch	Whole School	12noon
Friday 24/1/17	Comic Relief – Red Nose Day	Whole School	All day
Monday 27/03/2017	3 rd Mother's Day Lunch	Whole School	12noon
Monday 27/03/2017	Parents Evening	Whole School NOT Years 2 or 6	TBC
Tuesday 28/03/2017	Parent's Evening	Whole School NOT Years 2 & 6	TBC
Friday 31/03/17	Easter Assembly	Whole School	9.00a.m.
Friday 31/03/17	LAST DAY OF SPRING TERM!		
Monday 03/04/17	START OF EASTER HOLIDAYS		
Tuesday 18/04/17	START OF SUMMER TERM – PD DAY		
Wednesday 19/04/17	CHILDREN RETURN TO SCHOOL		