

Northam Schools' Federation Newsletter.



FRIDAY 2ND OCTOBER 2020

"TO LEARN EVERY DAY, TO HELP EACH OTHER AND TO BE HAPPY".

Headteachers' Update

We are looking forward to celebrating Harvest next week within our Collective Worship, which will be shared across both schools via a zoom link. As part of this celebration, it is important to show our gratitude for all that we have, by supporting those people in need. As in previous years, we aim to demonstrate our love and care for those living locally, who require help and assistance, through our donations to the Bideford based, Harbour charity. This organisation provides safety, replenishment and a base from which people in need can move forward with renewed confidence.

On **FRIDAY OCTOBER 9th**, it would be greatly appreciated if your child could bring into school, either tins of food, packets of pasta, rice or cereal. All of these food items will be placed immediately into a container by the children, which will then be stored for 72 hours, before being given to our friends at St. Margaret's Church, who will then distribute the donations accordingly.

Next week, you will be provided with information relating to the upcoming Parent/ Teacher consultations, which will be held during the week beginning October 12th. In order to adhere to social distancing guidance, these consultation will take place via a telephone call. These consultations will provide your child's teacher with the opportunity to not only celebrate successes achieved since the start of the year, but also share with you aspects of your child's schooling which if developed, could enhance their rate of progress.

I hope you enjoy your week-end. Kind regards, Mr. Jim Williams (Executive Headteacher)

CHAIR OF GOVERNORS: RESIGNATION/ and APPOINTMENTS

We are sad to report that our long-standing Chair of Governors, Mr. John Crossman, has decided to step down after 17 years of service, 12 with St. Margaret's and the last 5 as Chair of the Federation. Over the years he has supported both schools in every area. We will miss his support and wish him every happiness in his well deserved retirement.

Following John Crossman's retirement, we are delighted to announce that Katy Longley has been appointed as the new Chairperson. Please see her introductory statement below:

I should like to introduce myself as the Northam Federation of Schools new Chair of Governors. While I am relatively new to the Federation, I have a wealth of experience as an educator, a Headteacher and sole trader of my own company.

I began my teaching career in Exeter in 1994 and since then have taught in Plymouth, the USA, and in Hertfordshire before semi-retirement brought me back to my beautiful Devon. With more time at my disposal I am looking forward to helping Mr Williams and his team take St. George's & St Margaret's schools forward on to the next stage of their development.

I am sure you will join me in taking a moment to thank John Crossman who, as Chair of St. Margaret's for 12 years and as Chair of the Federation of Schools for the past 5 years, will be sincerely missed. He hands the batten over to me and I hope to serve as productively as he has over the years. Achievements of particular note for him have been the Federating of the two schools and the refurbishment of St George's but he leaves with many happy memories.

I am just beginning to get to know the schools from within and am very much looking forward to becoming ever more involved as time and Covid-19 will allow. I hope to meet many of you around the school and at drop-off and pick-up times, as I have a child at the Federation. If you have any comments or queries for me, the office staff will be pleased to put us in touch, and I would love to hear from you.

There are currently a few vacancies on the Board of Governors, so if you would like to discuss joining the team at this time of change and transition, or simply to find out what would be involved, then please do get in touch.

Finally, I would like to thank Mr Williams and his team, as clearly there has been a lot of hard work already happening behind the scenes to bring the children safely and happily back to school after lockdown. Now the staff and Governors will be working

hard to improve the standards and learning across both schools so that they gain and maintain the judgements they deserve.

Yours sincerely -Katy Longley

N.B. We currently have vacancies for 2 foundation governors and letters will be sent out next week for 1 parent governor vacancy. If you are interested in becoming a governor please contact either school office.

PARENT APP

We have this week sent out invitations to parents in both schools to sign up to our new parent app. This app can be used on a smart phone or computer and gives access to the data we hold on our child plus attendance data and diary dates. The app can be downloaded through google play or apple app or can be accessed through your normal google, Microsoft or facebook log ins. Full instructions were emailed out earlier in the week. However, further to those instructions we have discovered that if you have more than one child you only need to register one of them, then log out and back in again and the system recognises your other children. Please note that you can only access this app if you live at the same address as your child. **Watch this space for details of our next venture—an online payment system!**

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP:

Collective Worship theme for this week: **Forgiveness.**

"To forgive is the highest, most beautiful form of love. In return, you will receive untold peace and happiness." **Robert Muller**
"Let us forgive each other – only then will we live in peace." **Leo Nikolaevich Tolstoy**

KEY DATES

Parent/Teacher Interviews—week commencing 12th October 2020

Non Pupil/Staff Training Day—Friday 23rd October 2020

Half Term Week—Monday 26th to Friday 30th October 2020

Christmas Holiday—Monday 21st December 2020 to Friday 1st January 2021 (Children return to school on Monday 4th January)

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