

Mrs Marriott's October Newsletter

Communication Poll Feedback

Thank you to all parents and carers who took the time to complete the short poll on communication. Your feedback is really valued. Below is an outline of the main points reviewed in light of the feedback we received. A really helpful comment was from a 'Proposals and Communications Writer' in our parent/carer body - all comments are anonymous - your offer of help would be appreciated, but we don't know who you are. Please do pop me an email to the office though!

See-Saw

The majority of parents and carers are using see-saw and find it a really valuable to receive regular updates about their child's/children's learning and to receive class reminders.

Useful Question - Can parents/carers contact teachers via See-Saw? See-Saw is only to be used to share and comment on learning. Any direct correspondence must be emailed to the office as it always has been and it will be forwarded to teacher's emails.

If you are struggling to access See-Saw, please contact your child's class teacher.

Home Learning

We have reviewed and taken on board feedback about home work. It's a complete mix of opinions about set traditional homework tasks from school - like marmite, some love it, some hate it! We are rephrasing 'homework' to 'home learning' because it values all the learning you do at home in addition to the set tasks from school. Children learn all the time and parents and carers are teaching social skills, life skills and constantly discussing life events and experiences. Taking part in clubs, sports, music, family traditions, community groups all offer a richer experience to children's learning about the world they live in.

Reading is a big school priority at the moment. We want to support the learning at home by sharing learning from school and setting some non-negotiables. Moving forward, we will expect children in all year groups from Reception to Year 6 to read on a regular basis. In addition from Y2, we expect children to practice spelling rules which will be shared on See-Saw weekly. This will give you a chance to practice words which have that spelling rule in them at home. Testing will not take place, but the spellings will link to daily tasks within the classroom.

Times Tables Rockstars are another non-negotiable from Year 2 with the expectation of at least three short sessions a week. Passwords are the same as last year but if you are having trouble, please let the class teacher know.

Maths strategies that are being currently taught will be shared by teachers on See-saw when appropriate. Our aim is that parents and carers who wish to do additional work at home know what their children are learning and how we are teaching it. Practical examples in the home are the best learning opportunities when cooking, shopping and even when building furniture! Examples ... to apply the strategies that we are teaching them in school. Additional maths tasks will be sent home in Y5/6 in preparation for secondary school years.

Termly projects linked to the theme will continue across KS1 and KS2.

Website

We are currently working on updating the website bit by bit. The issue with the mobile phone version of the website is now resolved. Do let us know if there are any further problems. Your feedback is varied about how often you access the website. I am now running a newsfeed on the website for future whole school updates of general news like football match scores and photo competition winners. The first upload is already there on the homepage regarding the Foodbank Donations.

Communication from the office

We appreciate that lots of information is sent to you via attachments in numerous emails. We really like the suggestion that documents are uploaded on the website which can more easily read than trying to download and open attached documents on phones. We will work on this over the next half term, so please do keep checking the website as it evolves.

The termly dates have been well received and will be uploaded after half term onto the school calendar on the website as well as emailed to you, so that you can plan ahead to Easter. The weekly Friday email is also well received as it helps parents and carers plan for the week ahead.

Come to Learn - Wellbeing Feedback

Thank you to the HUGE number of parents and carers who attended our Come to Learn this half term on Wellbeing. The information shared was uploaded onto the website and the Governors approved the Behaviour Policy that evening which is also on the website. We took on board previous feedback that attending talks about the curriculum are tricky to attend when young siblings cannot attend. We tried having siblings in, but it was very hard to listen. In future, we will endeavour to run a crèche for any talks in the hall.

The next Come to Learn is going to focus on phonics and spellings. There will be one for each phase - Foundation Stage, Year 1/2, Year 3/4 and Year 5/6. You will be able to hear Phase leaders talk briefly about how phonics and spelling are taught before joining in with activities that your child is doing. This is 9am on Thursday 7th November. Siblings welcome.

The Hemingfords Pantomime Needs You!

Please look out for an email with attached information about how you can be involved in a Hemingford Pantomime due to show in March 2020. Help is needed with acting, costumes, lighting and sound and much more. This is a great community event and the children have an opportunity to be involved in designing the advertising poster in a competition that will run next half term for:

'Jack and his (wilting) Beanstalk'

PTA and School/ Family Partnership

Thank you for all the interest in developing a PTA. We will start gently by introducing a 'Winter Walk' next half term, followed by hot chocolate and cake in the hall. This will give an opportunity to primarily, come together as a school community and secondly to raise a little money. It would be great if you can join the walk, bake some cakes or prepare and serve hot drinks back at school. If you are interested in helping to organise this event we will meet to plan the walk after school on Friday 1st November and plan the actual walk for after school on Friday 15th November.

"I am still learning" Michelangelo at age 87