

ISLEHAM WEEKLY NEWS

Week commencing: Wednesday 3rd January 2019



HAPPY NEW YEAR



Welcome back to the Spring Term 2019. We hope you and your children have enjoyed a lovely break away from school. We welcome three new staff members this term- **Mrs Georgina Gibbs** who will be teaching Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays in Year 5, **Mrs Cheryl Tait** who will be full-time in Year 6, and **Mrs Gillian Dunbavin** who joins us as Office Administrative Assistant from January 14th. We hope all these staff members will settle quickly into school.

MORNING ROUTINES

Now that the Reception class are settled and established in school, they will be entering school via the green playground gates each morning from Monday 7th January. Please encourage your child to walk through independently. The children will continue to be collected from the Reception class door.

MESSAGES REGARDING END OF DAY PICK-UP

As we commence a new school term, I would like to remind all families that arrangements for your child's pick-up at the end of the school day need to be notified to the school in the morning. Messages can be given to Mrs Skillern or Mrs Deacon on the gate each morning, where they will be recorded and circulated to class teachers. If your child is being picked up by a trusted person who is one of your emergency contacts e.g grandparent rather than parent, and this adult has already met your child's class teacher, there is no need to notify the school but rather to make your child aware so that they are not confused to see that different person. If your child needs to be collected by someone else e.g. another parent, please notify the school via the message book system or prior to 12 noon on the day of the change, except in an extreme emergency. The office staff are unable to leave the office to circulate messages phoned through at the end of the school day as they are often already speaking with parents, so there may be a delay in releasing your child if messages are not received as soon as you are aware of a change of plan. Thank you for your support.

PUPIL HAIRSTYLES

Please can I remind all parents at the start of this term that children's hair should be neat and tidy for school? Long hair needs to please be tied back to avoid it falling over the children's faces or work in class. Shaved patterns/ extreme contrast cuts are not suitable for the children in school. Thank you for your support.



NEW POINTS REWARD SYSTEM



After several weeks of discussions with the School Council and the children in all year groups prior to the Christmas holiday, we have decided to move away from the Merit certificate reward system run in our school, in order to give more consistent and instant reward and feedback to children for their good work and behaviour in class and throughout the school. The children of all age groups were skilled in recognising the advantages and disadvantages of the Merit system, which has seen some children soar through the merit certificates and gain the reward badges, whilst others, especially quieter children or those who have joined the school at a later date, have not always done the same for a variety of reasons, despite consistent hard work and good behaviour. The children were all in favour of a system which would give a treat or reward each week to those who deserve it, be less open to 'cheating', and act as a deterrent for poor behaviour and disruption by excluding the few children who have chosen to behave badly in that week.

Along with many other schools nationally, we have signed up to use the online point tracking system ClassDojo to help staff keep track of the points earned by each child. At this stage, we will be trialling the system within school for the first half of term, but will open this for parents to view after half term if there is a demand for this. Your child's points will be reset each week, and the only data held within the system is their point allocation and name. This is not accessible beyond the ClassDojo network or to anyone other than the teachers and system operators.

We hope your children will enjoy the new system, which will see them start the week with 10 points, and need to gain 10 further points in order to take part in the 20 minutes 'golden time' activities in class on a Wednesday afternoon. Children will be expected to have had sufficient opportunities to easily gain the extra 10 points needed to take part in the golden time throughout the week and more... They will lose minutes of golden time for every point under 20 if they have not reached the target of 20 in the week- this means that they need to avoid losing points in order to take part. Those who gain more than 35 points in a week will be rewarded with a house token in assembly on Thursday to add to their house point collection box- the winning house team each term will receive an additional playtime or reward as previously.

The following + points can be earned by the children:-

- Helping others (+1)
- On task/ participating well (+1)
- Politeness (+1)
- Persistence (+1)
- Teamwork (+1)
- Great work/achievement (+1)
- Homework completed (+1)



The following points can be lost:-

- No effort (-1)
- Not listening (-1)
- Talking over teacher (-1)
- Rudeness/ refusal to do as asked (-1)
- 'Red' card behaviour (-5) (repeated poor behaviour as stated in the school's behaviour policy which would see a child moved to red on the traffic light grid after ignoring several warnings, or moved to red straightaway for unacceptable behaviour such as physical aggression, extreme rudeness or damage to others' property)

Year 6 will continue to run the Clasdojo point system alongside the Merit certificate system for the remainder of this year, as there are several children still working hard to be crowned the 'Most Merits' champion for Year 6 at the end of the year.

Meanwhile, in the other year groups, the following children are to be congratulated for gaining the most merits in each class:-

Year R- Finn, Alexander, Daisy and Darcey (60 points)

Year 1- Bethany (200 points), Ethan & Laurence (280 points)

Year 2- Florence (360 points), Millie & Ciana (260 points)

Year 3- Freya (420 points), Isla (340 points), Autumn-Eve & Henry G (300 points)

Year 4- Harry (540 points), Nicole (534 points), Sophia (501 points)

Year 5- Eden (438 points), Zac (435 points), Evie (418 points)

Congratulations to all those named above, who will start off the term by adding an additional house token to their house reward box.

CONGRATULATIONS AMBER HOUSE

Well done to the children in Amber House who gained the most merits in the Autumn term 2018- the children will enjoy an additional treat and play time on Monday next week.

ASSEMBLIES THIS WEEK



This week, we will be thinking about the New Year and reinforcing expectations for our new behaviour system.

MUSIC ASSEMBLY

Many thanks to our visiting music teacher Mr Wright for hosting a super music assembly in the final week of term. All the children played brilliantly, and it was fantastic to hear how quickly they are learning- some performing after only a few lessons in school.





MENU THIS WEEK

This week's menu options are listed below.

| Thursday | Friday |
|--|--|
| Rosemary wholemeal bread | Garlic & herbed ciabatta |
| Roast turkey with roast potatoes and yorkshire pudding | Fish fingers & chips with tomato ketchup |
| Broccoli & tomato pasta bake with melted cheese | Vegetable flat bread pizza |
| Seasonable vegetables Selection of salads | Seasonable vegetables Selection of salads |
| Ice cream | Gingerbread man |
| Sliced fresh fruit | Sliced fresh fruit |

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS- SWEET-FREE ZONE



We are always delighted to celebrate your child's birthday in school, and will sing to him or her in class. Your child is also able to book a birthday lunch with cakes provided by the catering team for the birthday child and up to 7 friends. Please speak to the office for details and for invitations.

Please note however that we will no longer be accepting cakes or sweets to share out in class on your children's birthdays. This was not something we have ever invited or encouraged, but appears to have become more and more commonplace. As a healthy school, we encourage the children to have a healthy fruit snack at break-time and a healthy substantial school lunch or packed lunch- please encourage your children to wait until off the school site



and ideally until they reach home for any further food and snacks before their dinner, so that the school site and classrooms remain food and litter-free at the end of the school day. Your support is greatly appreciated.

STEVE SAUSAGE

The children enjoyed a wonderful treat in our final week of term- a visit from Steve Sausage with his wonderful Christmas magic show. The children of all age groups were enthralled by all the magic tricks and Steve's zany sense of humour.



ISLEHAM'S GOT TALENT

The Year 5 and 6 children impressed with a range of talents last term as they hosted their own talent show; from poetry reading to dancing, trumpet-playing, comedy, football skills and singing, the children really did an excellent job in putting on a show. Well done to everyone who took part.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 7th January- Club choices for Spring term 2019 are printed in newsletter

Monday 14th January- Spring term lunchtime and after-school clubs commence

Thursday 17th January- CENSUS Day- special lunch chosen by School Council



Tuesday 29th January- SATs information session for Year 6 parents and children (straight after school-3.20pm in the classroom)

Thursday 31st January- SATs information session for Year 2 parents straight after school at 3.20pm (free crèche available in Group room for Year 2 children and school-aged siblings)

Monday 18th February to Friday 22nd February- Half term (School closed to pupils)

Friday 5th April- Break up for Easter holidays after school

Tuesday 23rd April- Professional Development Day for staff- school closed to pupils

Wednesday 24th April- Pupils return to school after the Easter break



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