



## Mrs Wheeler News

### January 2016

Here we are, almost at the end of January, and the weather doesn't seem to know what it wants to do. Rain, dry. Cold, warm. Windy, still. It is a month of opposites. Do you ever play the game with your children on journeys of opposites? We used to, as children, play lots of car games with our parents. Often these would result in my brother turning the game into something else, usually a discussion about car headlights (he is, indeed, now a mechanic!) What games do you remember, prior to electronic ones? How about 'in my suitcase I packed...' or 'yellow car'? I think as a person of a certain age, we often forget how to engage with our children, and how these simple activities can help memory, communication and daily skills that we take for granted.

We are looking back at the first 4 weeks of this Spring Term, and how the changes we are implementing are becoming successes.

Firstly, we do not tolerate any physical abuse as a staff. For some, this would be a given, but for others the basic rules of conduct and behaviour have to be learned. Do you find your child's behaviour sometimes challenging at home? We are fortunate to be able to offer some parenting guidance through 6 sessions with our Parent Support Advisor. These will run on Tuesdays from 3:30-5pm, for families with children in Years 4-6. After Easter we will be turning our attention to the younger children within the families, and information about this will come to you directly from the SureStart Centre.

A second positive change has come from the morning routines. Allowing children onto the playground from 8:40am has eased some of the transport congestion. We are still giving some thought to the after school collection – remembering that we allow Reception (Red Class) out at 3:10pm while all other classes work until 3:15pm then get ready to come home. While thinking about your journey to and from school I ask again that you be considerate to our neighbours and aware of the road markings. I have been asked to attend the Parish Council meeting to discuss what options we have, and how we can continue to keep our children safe.

We have looked at the number of teaching hours, and it has been highlighted that the children in Years 3-6 needed a few extra minutes each day. To support this, and to ensure lunchtimes run smoothly, the older children are now in class until 12:15. We have 3 sittings for lunch now, and all children get the opportunity to play safely outside within small groups. It is hoped that we will improve our lunchtime routines further, encouraging those who find safe play difficult, to learn some skills to engage with others in a structured way and to be harmonious in our expectations. Staff are considering what extra-curricular clubs they can offer too. Initially these will be by invitation, to a class group at a time.

We also have some staff changes to introduce. We are pleased to welcome Mrs Bradley and Miss Bellison. They have been working within Years 1 and 3 for a short placement this term, and will be back with us for a longer period of time in the summer term. Mr Bates is presently away from school due to family health issues. We wish him and his family well and hope to see him return soon. In the meantime, we will be making some alterations to class teachers responsibilities, and individual classes will be told about this early next week. Mrs Cooke has changed responsibilities and taken over some of the inclusion work previously undertaken by Miss Berry. We also welcome Mr Coy into school, 2 days per week this term, who is supporting the leadership and management of the school – with both the school leadership team and governors. Mr Coy works with DNEAT and has a wealth of experience, particularly around assessment and curriculum data.

Please see the 'dates for your diary' section for upcoming events and parental engagement opportunities.



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#### Polite notice:

After some communication with the pre-school, we are asking parents, and those collecting children, to refrain from smoking/vap-ing on or near the school premises. Please consider the messages these actions give to our children.

#### Please note:

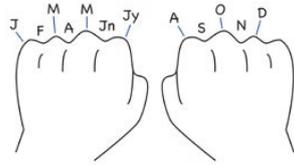
The school uniform information and guidance can be found on the school website. If you are unsure, please check. School keep a small selection of spare clothing for emergency situations. Each child needs a PE kit in school, on the days specified by the newsletters you received from your class teacher at the start of term. This information will also be displayed on the class pages on the website. A reminder that footwear should be sensible and appropriate for school life – knee high boots are warm and often hard wearing, but are difficult when children sit cross legged on the floor during collective worship. Of course, all uniform and belongings need to be named.

### Dates for your diary:

- 01/02 – Governing Body meeting
- 03/02 – Norwich— Tag Rugby Finals
- 09/02 – Shrove Tuesday
- 11/02 – Cluster Hockey
- 12/02 – Impact Day (times tables)
- 13/02 – 21/02 HALF TERM
- 22/02 – School starts
- 29/02 – 04/03 Book Week
- 03/03 – Author visit
- 04/03—Individual Photographs
- 07/03 – Half Yearly School Reports home
- 14/03 & 15/03 Termly Learning Conference
- 16/03 – Reception, Year 1 & 2 Cluster Multi-skills
- 17/03 – Class Photographs
- 24/03 – Easter experience day

30 days have September,  
April, June and  
November. All the rest  
have 31.

Excepting February which  
has 28 days clear and 29  
each leap year.



Congratulations to the many children who had 100% attendance during January! The attendance 'golden box' is drawn every 2 weeks, and the prize is an Amazon voucher. Last week, Cody Blockwell was awarded the prize. Well done everyone—our attendance officer was in school this week, and is pleased with the increased attendance by many.

A failure on my part is that I have not yet reached the 100% name success rate for children within school. I will keep going, and hope that by extending my goal to half term, I may be able to receive my own 'MarvellousMe' reward! If you are still to sign up, please ask at the office for details.



Congratulations to the sporting teams – our tag rugby crew did us proud at the Breckland event last week and are going on to the Norfolk finals next week. We also have a hockey team heading out soon – I hope to report back on their efforts next time.

As I mentioned previously we are looking to set up a family/parent forum. So far we have had little interest in this group. If there is anyone who could suggest a date/time that may be suitable for parents – straight after school, 9am, evening? We would also like to have a body of people to be proactive, supportive and rally help from within the school community and beyond. We need models of good behaviour - sparing 20 minutes to hear a child read, offering some 'lift and shift' help with areas of the school we are trying to develop, and so on. To express your interest, please contact the school office in the first instance.