Freethorpe Primary and Nursery School

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Wednesday 13th September 2017

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- Talent Show
- Snacks
- Uniform
- Introduction of house system
- Holidays and leave of absence
- Key dates

Welcome back to the new term! I hope you will find our fortnightly newsletters interesting and informative. We want to ensure really good communication with parents and we hope the newsletter will help do this. In addition we have planned a number of events throughout the term to let you know what is happening in school. We will be holding a curriculum subject evening where you can find out more about what your child is learning in the classroom. Further details to follow. If you wish to discuss any school matters please feel free to email me directly on head@freethorpe.norfolk.sch.uk

This year we will be sending home a newsletter once a fortnight, on a Wednesday. These will be sent home via Parentmail, for those of you who have signed up for it. If at present you do not receive school information by Parentmail, and wish to in the future, please pop in to the office to give your contact details to Lyn. If you would like a paper copy of any of the newsletters that are sent home, please let the office know and we will make arrangements for printing a copy for you. In addition to the whole school newsletters, you will also receive class newsletters

Talent Show – Year 1 – 6 pupils: At the end of last week you will have received a letter explaining about our Talent Shows which will be taking place during this week. The class shows will take place on Thursday where the children perform to their peers. From this we will select the performers who will display their talents to the whole school on Friday. The children will need to have any costume items, props etc. in school for first thing Thursday morning.

Snacks at morning playtime: Key Stage 2 pupils may bring a healthy snack to school or purchase items from the tuck shop. KS1 pupils are given a piece of fruit daily as a snack. However, they are able to bring an additional snack from home if they wish. Items brought from home should be either a piece of fruit/vegetables or plain biscuits. Additionally please remember that drink bottles in the classroom should only contain water.

Uniform: The children have all started the term looking very smart in new school uniform. Please can we remind you to name all items so that we can limit the amount of lost property that accumulates in school. Please ensure that your child has a pair of dark, flat shoes that are suitable for school, to wear on a daily basis. The children should also keep their PE kit in school all week, as they may have PE on any day – we aim to teach it on a given day but there may be occasions when the children require kit on other days e.g. due to weather conditions.

House System: We have been reviewing our positive behaviour management strategies within school and have decided to introduce a house system to school. There will be four different houses, named after local rivers: Wensum (Red), Yare (Yellow), Thurne (Blue), Bure (Green). Each child will be allocated to a house and we will be awarding house points for a wide range of activities and behaviours within school, including the completion of homework. We will select house captains and other roles, and each week they will total up the number of points each house has been awarded. There will be a display in the entrance hall showing the totals for each week.

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Attendance, Holidays and Leave of Absence:

Punctuality:

Most of our pupils arrive at school in good time. We have very few pupils who are late on a consistent basis. However, lateness has a negative impact. Being late can disrupt lessons, affect achievement and embarrass/upset your child. Some recent research shows that being late adds up to loss of learning: 5 minutes late every day adds up to 3 days lost each year, 10 minutes adds up to 6 days lost each year. If you were 30 minutes late every day it would add up to 19 days lost each year - being late means missing out!

Why is regular attendance at school important? Regular school attendance will mean that your child has a better chance in life. Your child will achieve better when they go to school all day, every school day. They learn better. They make friends. They are happier. They have a brighter future. Missing school means missing out! Schools are expected to have an overall attendance of 95% or above. Research published by the Department for Education (DfE) suggests that children with poor attendance are more likely not to be in education, employment or training when they leave school.

Holidays and leave of absence:

Our school policy about requesting leave of absence has been in place for a number of years now but we have copied the key information below as a reminder of how the process works within school:

In line with Government expectations **headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.**

- Service personnel returning from / scheduled to embark on a tour of duty abroad.
- Where a period of leave has been recommended as part of a parent's or child's rehabilitation from a medical or emotional issue. Evidence may be requested from qualified professionals, such as a doctor.
- Attendance at the wedding / funeral of a close family member.
- A short break as a family, due to the fact that employer commitments mean that this cannot be taken in **any** school holiday (including Half Terms) – evidence may be requested from an employer

Other times when permission could be given include

- approved educational activities such as music exams
- religious observance
- or approved higher level sporting competitions (eg County or national representation).

The school **cannot** accept as an exceptional circumstance the fact that a holiday is cheaper during term time, or for birthday treats.

Applications for leave of absence will be looked at on a case by case basis.

If you do need to take your child out of school during term time, we would ask that you please respect these new regulations under which we must now work and **make very clear on the 'Leave of Absence' form how the circumstances are exceptional**.

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Diary Dates: (updates have been highlighted)

Monday 18th September	Year 1 Step On Pedestrian training
Friday 22nd September	Purple Class trip to Castle Museum
Friday 29th September	MacMillan Coffee and Craft morning Year 6 Shakespeare cast workshop at Norwich Playhouse Year 5 – WOOFYT visit to Upton Church
Tuesday 3rd October	Level 1 cycle training (Year 4)
Wednesday 4th October	Level 1 cycle training (Year 4)
Friday 13th October	Cluster Cross Country event, Fairhaven
Tuesday 17th October	Parents Evening 4 – 8pm
Wednesday 18th October	Parents Evening 4 – 6pm
Tuesday 31st October	Pumpkin carving competition
Wednesday 1st November	High 5 Netball Tournament, Acle Academy
Monday 6th November	Year 6 performance of Much Ado About Nothing, Norwich Playhouse 7pm
Friday 8th December	Christmas Fair, pm
Monday 11th December	Reception, Year 1 and 2 – Nativity performance 2pm
Tuesday 12th December	Reception, Year 1 and 2 – Nativity performance 2pm
Wednesday 13th December	Key Stage 2 Christmas Carol Concert at Halvergate Church 7pm tbc.
Monday 18th December	Christmas disco, evening times to be confirmed
Monday 29th January	Book fair, school Book Week
Friday 2nd February	Open Afternoon for parents – Book Week activities
Tuesday 6th February	Cluster Speech festival
Wednesday 7th February	Cluster Speech festival
Thursday 8th February	Valentine's disco
Tuesday 20th February	Parents Evening 4 – 8pm
Wednesday 21st February	Parents Evening 4 – 6pm
Monday 14th May	Year 6 SATs week
Thursday 14th June	Cluster Open Concert
Friday 29th June	Sports Day and family picnic
Tuesday 24th July	Leavers Assembly 10:30am

2017/18 Term dates:

Monday 4th September	INSET Day
Tuesday 5th September	INSET Day
Wednesday 6th September	8:45am School opens for Autumn 1
Thursday 19th October	3:30pm School closes for half term
Friday 20th October	INSET Day
Monday 30th October	8:45am School opens for Autumn 2
Tuesday 19th December	3:30pm Term ends
Tuesday 2nd January	INSET Day
Wednesday 3rd January	INSET Day
Thursday 4th January	8:45am School opens for Spring 1
Friday 9th February	3:30pm School closes for half term
Monday 19th February	8:45am School opens for Spring 2
Wednesday 28th March	3:30pm School closes for Easter holidays
Monday 16th April	8:45am School opens for Summer 1
Monday 7th	May Bank Holiday
Friday 25th May	3:30pm School closes for half term
Monday 4th June	8:45am School opens for Summer 2
Tuesday 24th July	3:30pm School closes for summer holidays