



Freethorpe Primary and Nursery School

Contact us: office@freethorpe.norfolk.sch.uk 01493 700215

Wednesday 28th March 2018

Contents of this newsletter

- Meet the staff
- Friends of Freethorpe
- Safety on school site
- Cluster Great Egg Race
- Writing competition
- Hilltop lost property
- Golden Work and Presentation Certificates
- Letters and clubs

Currently our whole school attendance is

96%

Well done everyone, we have reached our target of 96%. Now let's see if we can do even better!

When you receive this letter you will probably be just beginning the Easter holidays! It doesn't seem any time at all since we were coming back to school from after Christmas. However, despite the much missed hour of sleep at the weekend, it has been lovely to see some more sunshine and light in the evenings – Spring could well be on its way!

Although the term has flown by, there has been lots of fantastic work going on across the school. The Easter Fayre was a great success last week and I would like to thank everyone who took part in it and in particular the Friends of Freethorpe School who tirelessly work to organise the fundraising events that happen throughout the year – they are regularly working away in the background drumming up raffle prizes; setting up activities and booking entertainers (from disco or bug based!). All the staff and pupils really appreciate all the time and effort that goes in to the activities and send a big thank you to all the volunteers who have given so much to the school.

Later in this newsletter you will see that we have added a new section – Golden Work and Presentation certificates. Each fortnight we will be listing the names of the pupils who have received Golden Work or Presentation certificates. The Golden Work certificates can be awarded for achieving in any aspect of school life – academic or otherwise. The Presentation Certificates are given to children who have worked exceptionally hard on their presentation in one or multiple pieces of work.

Many of us regularly use social networking sites and do so very responsibly. However, we are aware some parents have been using Facebook and other social networking sites to discuss what happens at school.

It has also been brought to our attention that Facebook, in particular, has been used to discuss concerns. Social networking sites such as Facebook are not an appropriate place to discuss such concerns and we request that parents raise any questions with their child's class teacher or the headteachers. That way we are able to respond and deal with your concerns. If you do have an issue that you would like to discuss with us, staff are more than willing to meet in person or speak with you on the telephone.

Meet the staff:

Hello everyone, my name is Andrea Rowlands. I am a Teaching Assistant at Freethorpe Primary School, supporting children in year 4 and 5. I also help run the Junior Tree Warden Scheme one Saturday a month with John Fleetwood.

I have been married to my husband Wayne for 28 years and have 2 children, James 20 and Christina 23. Oh yes, and a fluffy 10 year old rabbit called Poppy. I love dancing, art, gardening, cookery and travelling in my spare time.

My life so far has been very interesting. Living abroad, working with different cultures and learning new skills. From the time of leaving education, I worked in a lithographic printing firm in Banbury, Oxfordshire until I met Wayne in 1988, who was a soldier in the army.

Once married, we moved to Middle Wallop in Hampshire and lived within the army community for 6 months where we waited for our posting to Germany. We lived in Germany for 4 years... Hildesheim, Gutersloh and Detmold, where I worked as a Tailoress, cleaner and making and serving food in the soldiers' canteen. When we finally left Germany in 1995, we moved to Wattisham Airfield in Ipswich, Suffolk. Here, our children were born.

In 2002, Wayne was given a posting to Brunei, on the island of Borneo. What can I say but, WOW! What a lovely place. Here, I worked alongside the visiting Nepalese teachers, in a primary school, as a Teaching Assistant working across both key stages. The Gurkhas and British military amalgamated both of their schools which gave all children a wider knowledge of language and culture.



Contents of this newsletter

- Meet the staff
- Friends of Freethorpe
- Safety on school site
- Cluster Great Egg Race
- Writing competition
- Hilltop lost property
- Golden Work and Presentation Certificates
- Letters and clubs

I was given a fantastic opportunity to teach both Nepalese and British children to swim and whilst at the school, with a friend, taught weekly Jazz Ballet classes. One of the highlights was teaching the children a dance routine to be shown to the visiting Duke of Gloucester. Whilst living in Brunei, I travelled in helicopters, jumped a 30ft waterfall, learnt basic survival techniques in a jungle, organised dinner nights, fundraising events and visited places such as Bali, Canada, Kathmandu, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur and Malaysia. Riding an elephant in Bali with no way to stop was a bit scary!

The children had an amazing experience living overseas, holding a baby Orangutan, seeing scorpions, snakes, huge bugs and learning some of the Nepalese and Malay language.

In July 2004, a few months before departing Brunei and moving back to the UK, I shared an amazing experience with Wayne as we were invited to the Sultan of Brunei's birthday party where we were introduced to him alongside his other guests. We even appeared on their news channel the following day!

We left Brunei in October 2004 after a memorable time, arriving in Plymouth Devon to begin life away from the forces. Once moved in, I began work as a SEN Teaching Assistant in a Primary School. I also ran my own cake business from home.

After 4 years, Wayne's job changed and we moved to Freethorpe where we have lived for 10 years.

Now, this is where my journey pauses...waiting for the children to leave uni and fly from the nest, waiting for my next adventure!

Friends of Freethorpe: We would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who supported our Easter Fayre. As always it was great to see people at the event as well as showing their support in other ways, such as purchasing raffle tickets. Currently we are working with the school staff to look at the most useful ways in which we can use the money that we raise to help the children in school. In the next newsletter we will be able to give you an update on how much the Easter Fayre raised, as well as where some of the money will be going. Many thanks again – without your support we would be unable to raise so much for the school.

Safety on school site:

It is fantastic to see many children walking to and from school with parents and family members. As part of this many people walk their dogs to school also. However, please do not bring dogs onto the school site. Both children and dogs can respond unpredictably towards each other so for the safety of everyone on the site dogs, other than assistance dogs, should remain outside the school gate. Many thanks for your co-operation in this matter.

Cluster Great Egg Race:

Four of our Key Stage 2 children took part in the Cluster Great Egg Race – a challenge which took place in our school hall a couple of weeks ago. They were asked to build a glider that would safely transport an egg as far as possible. However, they could only use a limited amount of resources! The team worked brilliantly together with Ms Gillick (one of our PGCE student teachers) to produce the amazing looking "Ninja Coffin"! The glider was a design classic and the children should be very proud of their efforts – pictures and the model itself are on display opposite the photocopier in the entrance hall.

Well done Calum, Marjorie, Leo and Millie.





Contents of this newsletter

- Meet the staff
- Friends of Freethorpe
- Safety on school site
- Cluster Great Egg Race
- Writing competition
- Hilltop lost property
- Golden Work and Presentation Certificates
- Letters and clubs

Writing competition:

Some of our writers in Key Stage One have been successful in getting their work published as part of the Young Writers Storyland Competition. The successful authors are:

Macsen Owen
Emely Buckley
Layla Peruzzi
Adam Edwards
Sarah Lawes

The children will receive a certificate and bookmark as well as having their work published in a compilation of children's writing. Congratulations to all the children who took part and we look forward to seeing the school's copy of the book in our library soon. Well done everyone!



Hilltop – lost property:

Despite the very cold weather we all had a great time at Hilltop. On returning to school we had a number of lost property items, most of which have been claimed now. However, I have three items remaining:

- **A pair of red waterproof trousers – new with label still inside**
- **A pair of Karrimor black waterproof trousers, also fairly new looking**
- **One pair of Dunlop wellies, size 1.**

These items will be in the school office for the first week back after half term so please contact Mrs Thrower if you think they belong to your child.

Golden Work and Presentation Certificates:

This fortnight the following children have been awarded certificates in assembly:

Golden Work Certificates:

Samuel Elderkin
Alice Key
Ivy Ramsden
Sarah Vos
Tariro Mutokonya
Calum Sparkes
Elliott Smith
Matthew Pittam
Millie Smith
Alfie Hogbin
Mollie Meale
Madeleine Hammond
Hugo Ball
Stanley Beales
Maisie Normington
Eliza Pentney
Jake Dunnett
Lily Watts
Ruby Farrell

Presentation Certificates:

Henry Bass
Sarah Lawes
Isabel Crow
Theo Broom
Sammy Barber
Josh Anguish
Nivani De Silva
Amelie Brown
Ellie Cooper
Tariro Mutokonya
Zoe Barnes





Contents of this newsletter

- Meet the staff
- Friends of Freethorpe
- Safety on school site
- Cluster Great Egg Race
- Writing competition
- Hilltop lost property
- Golden Work and Presentation Certificates
- Letters and clubs

Clubs and letters: When we return to school in April please look out for letters about after school clubs – we will be running clubs from the week beginning 23rd April to the end of the half term and then again from 4th June to week beginning 16th July. On the first and last week of term where there are no clubs our Out of School Care will still be running if you require child care.

After the Easter holidays Year 3 children will be swimming. Not all children swim every week so we will send out a letter on the first day back explaining which weeks your child will be going swimming.

Diary Dates: (updates have been highlighted)

Tuesday 17 th April	Dogs Trust workshop in school
Wednesday 25 th April	Yellow Class farm visit – meet at Oaks Farm, Southwood at 9am.
Wednesday 25 th April	Wind in the Willows – visiting theatre group
Monday 14 th May	Year 6 SATs week
Monday 21 st May	Year 6 level 2 cycling course taking place this week, details to follow
Thursday 7 th June	Year 6 Tea Party at Acle Academy, times tbc
Thursday 14 th June	Cluster Open Concert
Friday 29 th June	Sports Day and family picnic
Tuesday 10 th July	Year 6 Parents Information evening at Acle Academy
Thursday 12 th July	Yellow, Red and Green class Bewilderwood trip
Friday 13 th July	Choir performance at Freethorpe Methodist Chapel - evening
Tuesday 17 th and Wednesday 18 th July	Key Stage 2 Summer Production, including 2 evening performances at 7pm
Monday 23 rd July	Year 6 Leavers trip
Tuesday 24 th July	Leavers Assembly 10:30am

2017/18 Term dates:

Wednesday 28 th March	3:30pm School closes for Easter holidays
Monday 16 th April	8:45am School opens for Summer 1
Monday 7 th	May Bank Holiday
Friday 25 th May	3:30pm School closes for half term
Monday 4 th June	8:45am School opens for Summer 2
Tuesday 24 th July	3:30pm School closes for summer holidays

Happy Easter

We look forward to seeing you all again on Monday 16th April 2018

