



SEDFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Ringstead Road, Sedgeford.

Hunstanton. Norfolk. PE36 5NQ

Tel/Fax: 01485 570997

email: office@sedgeford.norfolk.sch.uk

website: www.sedgeford.norfolk.sch.uk

Executive Head Teacher: Mrs Sarah A F Bocking

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER 2017



Welcome Back!



I hope that everyone had a good Summer and are looking forward to an exciting new school year. We are delighted to welcome our New Reception children and the new children in Class 2. We also expect at least 2 others to join the School by January, taking us to nearly 40 children in the school, the most we have had for a while.

Free School Meals

As you know, all children in Class 1 are entitled to "Universal free school meals". This applies to HOT dinners only. Free school packed lunches will, however, still be provided for trips.

If you qualify for income-related free school meals (see below), it is important that you still apply for this even if your child is in class 1 and gets Universal Free Meals, as the school receives more than £1000 per qualifying child, to help towards their education. As you can imagine, this makes a huge difference to our budget and the provision we can make.

Your child may be able to get income-related free school meals if you get any of:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after Working Tax Credit stops
- Universal Credit

Please ask in the office for details and forms.





Harvest Festival

This will take place on Friday 29th September at 2pm at Sedgeford Church. This year, we have agreed that all food brought in for harvest will be donated to the Hunstanton food bank, which is in desperate need. Unfortunately, this means that we cannot accept fresh food this year.

Jeans for Genes

We will once again be holding a "Jeans for Genes Day" on Friday 22 September 2017.

Genetic disorders affect 30,000 children born each year in the UK - that is one in every 25! This is where Jeans for Genes Day helps to raise much needed money to help improve the lives of thousands of children.

The children are invited to wear their jeans to school on this day for a donation of £1.00 towards this worthy cause. We would ask that the children also wear their school sweatshirts.

If your child does not want to participate in this fund raising day, please ensure that they come to school in their full school uniform. Thank you in advance for your support with this event

Main Entrance Door

Please do not use this door to drop off your children in the morning unless you have spoken to Mrs Bocking and have received prior permission. In the mornings class 2 should use the Hall door and Class 1 should use the door into their class room.

We would also like to remind parents that the school day starts at 8.55am. We would appreciate it if all children could be dropped off between 8.45am and 8.55am and that parents leave the classroom promptly after dropping off their children.

Tuesday Mornings

On Tuesday mornings you are welcome to come in at 8.30am and read with your child. The library is also open from 8.30am and children may drop in to borrow a library book, Mrs Davis looks forward to seeing as many children as possible on Tuesday mornings. Children still need to be in their class by 8.55am.



EYFS Profiles

Mrs Gressieux would like to invite the parents of Reception children to come in and see their EYFS Profiles on Tuesday 17 October at 8.30am. Parents may then take the Profiles home for the half term and add any comments.

Vegetarian Option for School Lunches

Because we are a small school and the demand for vegetarian meals is low, although we are always able to provide a vegetarian alternative for lunch, it may not always be the meal stated on the menu.

Social Media

Staff have recently received some updated training on this and are horrified at exactly what is out there, that children can access. o2 have designed some information especially for parents. Leaflets can be found in their stores, or the website link is

<https://www.o2.co.uk/help/nspsc?gclsrc=ds>. We are also hoping to run an internet safety information session for parents, so watch this space.

Please remember that children should be 13 or over to have a Facebook account and that all forms of social media need monitoring by adults. Sadly we have seen some horrendous examples of some very inappropriate messages sent and received by our pupils and in several cases, police have been involved.

Tesco's Grant

We have made a bid for a grant from Tesco's to support cooking and other practical activities in school, enabling us to buy resources, train staff, offer extra activities and involve families and the community. We are able to receive up to £4000 - depending upon how many votes we get.

Tesco's at Heacham and Hunstanton are both participating. For any purchase, you will be given a blue token. Please put your token in our box as if we get the most, we get the biggest amount! Please tell all your family and friends and help us win!

Attendance

In general, we are very pleased with our attendance figures and would like to thank you for supporting us in this matter. However, some of you did take children out of school for holidays. I fully sympathise with you as I think family holidays are very important, and I know that, in many fields of work in this area, school holiday times are the busiest times of the year and you are not able to take time off. However, we do have regular register checks by County Officers and if we do not follow the guidance and refer families who meet the criteria below, then we will be penalised. The latest message from the Government is that, despite various court rulings recently, we should continue to enforce the following:



Referral criteria:

- 10 consecutive sessions of unauthorised absence where some or all of the absence may be attributed to an unauthorised holiday in term-time (for absences from 1 September 2017); or
- 15% unauthorised absence over a period of 6 school weeks for reasons other than unauthorised term time holiday.

Any pupil at Sedgeford School who meets either of these criteria, will be referred to the Local Authority for action to be considered.

If a Fixed Penalty Notice is issued it is a fine of £60 per parent per child, which must be paid in one payment in 21 days. If unpaid, a further invoice for £60 per parent per child is issued. Both individual invoices would then have to be paid making a total payment of £120 in 28 days. Failure to pay the total amount within the timescale will result in legal action being taken.

If you do not meet these criteria but attendance falls below certain levels, "amber" warning letters will be sent out explaining the situation and these may suggest certain action. The first letter will be sent when attendance falls below 95%, although we will endeavour to use our common sense and take circumstances into account. County will be informed if it falls below 90%.

The cluster attendance policy is available on our website - or you can ask at the office for a paper copy.

We would like to remind all parents that in the event of a child being absent, if we do not hear from the parents by 9.30am then we will phone the parent to find out if everything is o.k. If we are unable to contact the parent by lunchtime, we will try to make a home visit. If we still cannot make contact we will then ring the attendance team and also the Police on 101.

It is, therefore, very important that you keep us up to date with any changes in your contact details.

Senior Management Days



I will usually be available for appointments on Monday afternoons and Wednesday mornings. Jackie in the office has my diary, so if you wish to see me, she can make arrangements for a time when I am free. If you need to see me at a different time or wish to speak to me urgently she can always contact me to organise this.

Keith Twaites (deputy) is now part time and will be in on Fridays, as well as some Wednesday afternoons. Again, the office will know his timetable and will be able to contact him if needed.



Peter Johnson is our Senior Teacher and will also be available if necessary.

Day to day matters can always be discussed with teachers. Although we do like to have an open door policy, please remember that staff are very busy preparing for the day in the mornings so please avoid coming in to talk at this time if possible. However, staff will, of course, always make themselves available for important and urgent matters.



Government Food Policy

Government regulations now state that children should have access to milk every day if they wish. We provide milk at lunchtimes for those children who would like it.

The Government also states that, in addition to milk, children should **only** drink water.

As most of you know, we have always asked that children **ONLY** have water in their water bottles - partly for health reasons, but also for practical reasons (spilt water is so much easier to clear up and causes so much less damage than juice!).

If a child brings juice to school, we will keep their bottle safe until home time and will provide them with water instead. We have usually found that if a child is provided with water in school, they will drink it - even if they won't at home! I am sure that you will support us in this.

Foss of Sedgeford School (FoSS)

We would like to say a HUGE thank you to all the people who helped last year. The money raised makes a significant difference to our children.

We have several exciting projects in the pipeline and we need to raise money for these.

Foss Committee members are - Paula (Chair - Kyran and Leah's Mum), Tamar (Secretary - Mia and Chimay's Mum), Sarah (Treasurer - Olivia's Mum), Malene (Hector & Flia's Mum), Debbie (Abbie's Mum), Kirsty (Harvey, Lewis & Oliver's Mum) and Claire (Isabelle's Mum). If you would like to join the committee or would just like to help then please speak to a Committee member.

As a fundraising activity we are registered with The Giving Machine. If you have not already registered then please sign up as soon as possible - www.TheGivingMachine.co.uk and choose to support Sedgeford Primary School. Then, every purchase made with your usual shopping such as Amazon, ebay, John Lewis, in fact over 400 of the UK's leading shops, triggers a free donation from the shop to the school. It doesn't cost you any more, and we're not asking people to buy what you wouldn't normally buy. Just keep shopping online as you do already, via www.TheGivingMachine.co.uk and at the same time raise money for the school.



Outdoor Revamp

We have started on our outside project and will soon have quotes for putting in new tarmac where the ramp has been removed and also for a new covering (artificial grass) for part of the area. A big thank you to those members of FOSS who very kindly repainted our gates and fence during the summer holidays. There will be more opportunities to get involved in this project.

Governors

The St Mary Federation has one Governing Body across all three schools. Together with the Headteacher and senior leaders, Governors set the future direction of the school and monitor and report on our progress and achievements. They make decisions on policies and finance. They also consider complaints and hear appeals from pupils and staff.

Governors attend a variety of training courses run by Norfolk County Council or the Diocese to help them in their governing role.

A list of current Governors can be found on our website or you can ask in the office for a paper copy. Claire Mears (Isabelle's Mum) is our parent representative. Mr John Ward is the chair of Governors and the named Governor for whistleblowing. Mrs Sally Beeston is the named Governor for safeguarding issues. Their contact details are on posters around the school.

The Governors have now analysed the results of the questionnaires that everyone completed in July and will act upon what they have found. Details will follow.

Certificate Assembly

This term we will hold our certificate assembly on Mondays at 2.45pm and would like to invite parents if their child has been awarded "star of the week". We will send a text to parents at the end of the previous week if their child is star of the week.

After School Clubs

These will start week commencing 18 September - separate letter to follow.

Consent Forms

Please see separate letter attaching all annual consent forms. With regard to the Parental Consent Forms for educational visits, we would like parents to complete this form now with all relevant information. In future, when letters are sent out regarding a visit, we will not send out a parental consent form for each visit but we will ask all parents whether there have been any changes to the consent form - i.e. medical needs, change of phone no, etc.



If you have any concerns, worries, problems, queries, information for us - or just want a chat, do pop in and see me

Sarah A F Bocking
Executive Head

Dates for the diary

Tuesday 19 September - Trip to Houghton Hall for the BeLong Project.

Friday 22 September - Jeans for Genes Day

Monday 25 September - Bethany & Benjamin car safety for Reception children

Wednesday 27 September - Olympic Gymnast visit at Docking

Friday 29 September - 2pm - Harvest Festival at Church

Wednesday 11 October - 8.45am - Individual Photos

Half Term - 20 - 29 October (Please note that we break up on Thursday 19 October - therefore half term includes Friday 20 October)

