



### **School Dinners**

As you probably know, our dinners are provided by NORSE. At the end of last year, we asked them to change the kitchen where our dinners are cooked, and, as from September, our meals have come from Fakenham School. The meals have been of much better quality and children seem much happier with them.

The NORSE catering website is [www.norsecatering.co.uk](http://www.norsecatering.co.uk) and contains general information, menus etc. There is a link to this website on our own website.

NORSE also hold an open telephone clinic, hosted by a fully trained NHS dietician, Nicole, on Tuesday evenings 4.30 - 6pm. This is an advice line specifically for parents who have questions or concerns regarding their child's dietary requirements.

If your child has an allergy, NORSE can cater for their individual needs. Please ask in the school office for details.

### **Celebrating Difference Week**

As some of you will know, we always like to take part in anti-bullying week. This year, it will be held from Monday 13<sup>th</sup> to Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November. The theme will be "All different, all equal", which fits well with our ongoing LELE Project (Learn Equality, Live Equal).

The aims of this week are to:

- empower children and young people to celebrate what makes them, and others, unique
- help children and young people understand how important it is that every child feels valued and included in school, able to be themselves, without fear of bullying
- enable us to celebrate what makes us 'all different, all equal' and celebrate difference and equality, encouraging all to take individual and collective action to prevent bullying, creating safe environments where children can be themselves

### **Future of the Schools**

There have been rumours circulating that some or even all of our Federation Schools will be closing shortly, due to falling numbers and budget difficulties. I am happy to announce that, in the light of these concerns, we have consulted with County and that they certainly do not see closure as an option in the foreseeable future; they are keen to support us to continue to provide the best possible education for the children in our communities. We have drawn up a business plan which ensures our budget remains viable and are full of exciting plans.

### **Uniform**

Can we please remind all parents, that school uniform should be worn at all times.

#### **Boys:**

Navy blue sweatshirt with school logo

Pale blue polo shirt with school logo

Plain grey trousers / shorts

Flat dark coloured closed toe shoes, preferably black

Plain socks - not vivid colours

**Girls:**

Navy blue sweatshirt/cardigan with school logo

Pale blue polo shirt with logo

A navy blue skirt/trousers/pinafore dress or plain grey trousers /tailored shorts

Flat, dark coloured closed toe shoes, preferably black

Blue gingham dress (summer)

Plain socks / tights - not vivid colours (white, black grey, navy)

**Site Safety**

Thank you for your support with our new gate arrangements. We realise that it may be inconvenient at times, but it is for the safety of our children.

**Security**

We have been advised by our local police officer that there have been a spate of thefts from vehicles in Docking and the surrounding areas. It is suspected that youths are trying car doors and taking advantage of those which have been left unlocked so please remember to lock your cars and never leave items in view.

**Author Visit**

Local author, Rachel Greaves, who writes books about Ruffle the dog, will be visiting school soon. She will join us for assembly, where she will explain to the children about being an author and will introduce her characters, telling one of her stories. She has already visited Sedgford and held all the children enthralled from a visiting toddler to Year 6- no mean feat! After the assembly, Rachael will be selling her books at a cost of £3 each. Parents are welcome to join us for assembly and look at the books afterwards, or you may like to send your child with some money. We will let you know the date as soon as it is confirmed.

**Parents' Evenings**

These will be held on November 27<sup>th</sup> 3.30 - 6pm and November 28<sup>th</sup> 6 - 8pm.

I will be happy to talk to anyone if you wish to make an appointment to see me as well as the class teacher. However, I will be accompanying our children to the Children's University Graduation on the 27<sup>th</sup>, so will not be available at the start of the evening.

Governors will be available on both days if you wish to talk to them about anything.

End of Year expectations will be given out and explained at these meetings.

**Reports**

We are currently reviewing our report format. If you would like to make any comments about what you would like to see included in your child's report, you might like to bring these to Parents Evening.

**Recent Teaching/Learning Audit**

As many of you know, we had a County Teaching and Learning audit recently (similar to, and, in fact, harder, than an Ofsted Inspection). There were many good points listed as strengths including:

- There have been some notable recent successes. Phonics skills have improved significantly in the last two years and in 2017 all Year 1 pupils reached the expected standard for their age. The school should be congratulated on this achievement.
- Pupils behave well most of the time and are keen to learn. They are polite and courteous and get on well together. In lessons, pupils generally try hard and do their best.
- The school successfully promotes pupils' good social and emotional well-being. It does this through its calm atmosphere and its nurturing environment where problems are tackled quickly.
- Pupils participate well in assemblies, for example, contributing successfully to a discussion about sporting achievements and healthy lifestyles.
- The curriculum is enriched well by practical activities, visits and visitors

We have a range of key issues to address and are currently drawing up an action plan to tackle these.

### **Christmas Events:**

**PTFA Christmas Fair - Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November, 10.00am - 2.00pm** - the PTFA are busy planning stalls which will include games, face painting, tombola, crafts and a raffle. If anyone would like to help please let the office or Sophie Gooch or Eve Bateson know. On 24<sup>th</sup> November we will be having a non-uniform day - please send your child in with a prize suitable for the tombola or raffle.

**Deepdale Christmas Market** - Brancaster have their usual tombola stall on Saturday 2nd December. All the schools are invited to sing at 11 o'clock on the Saturday (for about half an hour) and we are hoping as many children as possible can join us. We usually make a lot of money rattling our collecting buckets as we sing, but we do need to make enough noise to attract attention!!

### **Carol Service**

This will be held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm in the Church.

**Term finishes on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December and school starts again on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2018.**

### **A few dates for your diaries:**

<b>7<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Year 5/6 Quicksticks Hockey - Glebe - 1.30- 3.15pm</b>
<b>11<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>PTFA Partylite Evening 7pm - details to follow</b>
<b>15<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Flu vaccinations Rec-Year 4 - letters coming out end of this week</b>
<b>17<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Children in Need - details from the School Council to follow shortly</b>
<b>24<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Non-uniform day in exchange for a tombola prize</b>
<b>25<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>PTFA Christmas Fair 10am-2pm</b>

<b>27<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Children's University Graduation Afternoon Parents' Evening 3.30pm-6pm</b>
<b>28<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Parents' Evening 6pm-8pm</b>
<b>29<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Cluster Swimming Gala at CITB - Years 4,5,6</b>
<b>8<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Snowman performance to Inca Jays parents 9.20am</b>
<b>11<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Christmas Making Day - any parents wishing to join in the fun please let us know!</b>
<b>14<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Carol Singing at Morrisons Fakenham School Christmas Lunch</b>
<b>18<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Church Carol Service 6pm</b>
<b>19<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>PTFA School Disco - details to be confirmed End of Term</b>