

JANUARY NEWSLETTER 2018



Welcome back!

I hope you had a good Christmas and join the staff in wishing you a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Just a few quick reminders:

- All children should have their full PE kits in school every day, even on the days when PE is not timetabled as we often have extra activities. All kit should be named, please.
- All children should have gloves & hats in school daily as we will still be going outside to play whenever possible. On snowy days, children should come into school in their wellies and bring their usual school shoes with them to wear indoor (we have nowhere to store them and you may need them at home!
- All dinner monies should be paid in advance where possible and should be in a named, sealed envelope.
- Although snow is not forecast, it is always best to be prepared! So, just a reminder that if school has to close, you will be notified by text and you can also check the Norfolk Schools website. Closures are also reported on Radio Norfolk and KLFM

Attendance

We had 32 children with 100% attendance last term, who should all have received their certificates this term. A huge well done to all of them!



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.

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

Please remember to let us know if your child will be absent from school - for holidays we require a letter from you beforehand and if your child is ill please call us before morning registration to ensure we know where they are. If we do not hear, we will attempt to ring you.

If we have had no reply by lunchtime, we are obliged to take further action. We are expected to visit your house, if possible, and if there is still no reply, we have a duty to inform the police who will then try to make contact.

Relationship and Sex Education

From next year, it will become statutory to teach relationship and sex education to all year groups. I would like to take this opportunity to reassure you that all lessons will be completely age appropriate and that none of the teaching materials or strategies will be designed to shock pupils, neither will the teacher share their personal experiences or views. All lessons will be taught in a strictly non-judgemental and non-biased manner to allow your child the opportunity to consider the information and develop their own values, attitudes and opinions about the topic. We would encourage you to discuss this at home and share your family values in relation to our topics, building strong channels of communication with your child.

If you would like to know more information about our programme of relationships and sex education, please attend our parent's information session in the morning on Friday 2nd March.

Please feel free to contact the school if you would like to discuss our programme of sex education on an individual basis.

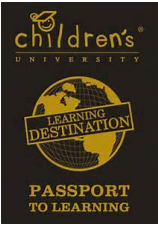
Pantomime

As you know, we traditionally take all children to the panto in January. We have always gone to Norwich as this enabled the children to visit a theatre they might not otherwise experience and who offer an exceptional and very professional show. It has also meant that we didn't spoil the fun for any parents hoping to take their children to a local show.. However, some parents have said they would prefer to support one of the local performances. We will be reviewing what we do for next year. As part of our review, we would welcome any comments - please pass these to Miss Chell.

Community Help

Did you know there are charities in Docking who have funds to help local families financially - e.g payments for school trips (including panto) etc. If you would like more information (in confidence) please contact John Ward via the school office.

Children's University



Well done to all those who completed the Christmas challenges or who have earned hours in other ways.

As a reminder, Brownies, cubs, scouts etc are already validated so children can earn stamps there - let us know if your group doesn't yet have a stamp. Most local swimming groups are also validated so will count, as do local drama groups. If your child belongs to a group which isn't yet part of the Children's university, just let us know and we can sort something out.

PLEASE BRING PASSPORTS IN ON FRIDAY 26TH JANUARY so we can stamp them (if not already done) and we can record how many hours you have done so far. We will have a "stamping day" on the last Friday of every month - and will try to remind you in advance!

The Graduation last term was very successful and we look forward to attending another graduation at the end of this term - hopefully in Kings Lynn.

Sports News from Mrs Easter

Football club continues to run on Mondays after school in the hall for Years 3 to 6, Karate Club on Tuesdays (places still available). Badminton on Fridays is currently full but please let us know if you would like to add your child's name to the waiting list. We are also pleased to let you know there is now an opportunity to join the Sedgeford children at their Multisports after school club on Tuesdays at their school until 4.15pm - please ask in the office for more details.

This half term, we have children entering the West Norfolk Championships for swimming and cross country. Also, we are entering a Year 3/4 and a Year 5/6 girls only football event at Lynnsport.

Dates for the Diary

18 th January	Special promotional lunch - see flyer
26 th January	Inca Jays trip to King's Lynn Stories of Lynn Museum Children's University Passports in for stamping
2 nd February	NSPCC Number Day - letter to follow
9 th February	School ends for half term 3.15pm
19 th February	Back to school
22 nd February	Whole School Drama Day with John Giller
26 th February	Tempest Class Photos Parents' Evening 3.30pm - 6pm
27 th February	Parents' Evening 6pm-8pm
1 st March	World Book Day
2 nd March	Parents' Information Meeting - Sex and Relationships Education
19 th March	Sport Relief Mile (back by popular demand!) - letter from School Council to follow.
20 th March	Year 1 Step on It Road Safety Training
27 th March	Easter Service in church 9.15am
28 th March	School Ends for Easter
16 th April	Children return to school for Summer Term