

## **JUNE NEWSLETTER**

### **Next Year's Dates**

Many of you are beginning to ask for term dates for next year so that you can book holidays.

#### **Autumn Term:**

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2018 to Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October  
Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October to Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2018.

#### **Spring Term:**

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2019 to Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2019  
Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019 to Friday April 5<sup>th</sup> 2019

#### **Summer Term:**

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2019 to Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2019  
Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019 to Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2019  
KS2 SATs are the week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> May

### **Reminder Regarding 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 - and the County Officers will take actions anyway!

#### **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.

### **GDPR**

Most of you will know that there are now new regulations governing what data we may keep and what we do with it. For simplicity we plan to introduce our new measures in September. In the meantime, do please tell us if you wish to opt out of any form of communication from us or the PTFA.

### **Parking**

Parking is always an issue around school at drop off and pick up times - please remember to park carefully and considerately and avoid the yellow markings, dropped kerbs and junctions to ensure the safety of the children. Please also take extra care when reversing or turning where families may be walking. Any dangerous parking can be reported to the police by calling 101.

### **Home Times**

Please remember that once you are on site, you are responsible for your younger children, and, once we hand your children over to you, you are also responsible for them although still on the school site. For safety, please do not let them run off or climb on equipment, fences, gates, banks etc. or get toys and equipment out to play with. Children should also not be allowed to run around the oil tanks or staff cars. Thank you.

### **Libraries/Reading**

Thank you so much to all our volunteers (including staff) who are helping tidy and sort our libraries. We are gradually auditing what we have, removing old books and trying to restock. There may be some books that are appropriate for us to sell on, rather than bin, so watch out for these!

We are trying to include the books on the following lists:

<https://theteachingbooth.wordpress.com/2017/06/24/100-book-lists-for-primary-classroom/> as these are quality texts that should inspire children to read. If you are having a clearout and have but no longer need any of these books we would greatly appreciate them!

### **SATS**

Well done to all our Y2 and Y6 children who have all worked really hard. We will obviously circulate results once we know them, which is likely to be near the end of term.

## Country Dance Practices

Joint practices will be held as follows:

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> June** and **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> July** at Sedgeford. The bus will start at Brancaster and collect from Docking on the way. Again, we will return before the end of the day.

Children will need PE shoes and a water bottle, although we will provide a drink of squash and a biscuit in the break. Please inform us of any allergies.

## Lottery Grants

All three schools are applying for lottery grants for exciting projects.

At Brancaster, we are hoping to win the money for an outdoor learning gazebo (similar to the very successful Outdoor Learning Zone at Docking), with benches and a board, to encourage, and give us more facilities for, outdoor learning

At Docking, we are planning to provide new equipment for Curlew's playground to promote physical development, and also outdoor whiteboards to help us with our outdoor learning sessions. We are also hoping to fund more work ourselves, including resurfacing around our outdoor learning zone and replacing the rather sad willow structure with a climbing frame.

At Sedgeford, we are asking for a wonderful water wall and outdoor whiteboard for Class 1's playground and a climbing frame for our playground. We are hoping to completely revamp the Class 1 playground but will need help with this so watch out for more details.

## Dates for the Diary

14<sup>th</sup> June - Inca-Jays Holkham visit.

18<sup>th</sup> June - Year 3 Whitlingham Trip

New Intake Parents' Evening 5.30pm in the School Hall

22<sup>nd</sup> June - visit by Purcell School of Music - Years 3,4,5 & 6

**25<sup>th</sup> June - 28<sup>th</sup> June - Move up days - whole school** (Year 6 children at Smithdon, home visits for new Early Years children)

27<sup>th</sup> June - Area Sports - Years 2-6 - Smithdon - 4.30-6.30pm

4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> July - visit by Colebourne School - including Beach trip for Golden Eagles 5<sup>th</sup> July  
- Alderman Peel High School Transition Days

5<sup>th</sup> July - Swimming Gala at Glebe School - Years 2 & 3

11<sup>th</sup> July - Sports Day 9.30 am at the playing field followed by BBQ-style school lunch  
- Country Dance Party at Hunstanton Primary School

13<sup>th</sup> July - Key Stage 1 Sports Festival

14<sup>th</sup> July - Sedgeford School Fete

16<sup>th</sup> July - Hunstanton Activity Day - Years 2, 3 & 4

17<sup>th</sup> July - Sports Day Rain off day

18<sup>th</sup> July - Pleasurewood Hills Trip - Years 5 & 6  
- Level 1 Cycling for Years 3 & 4

19<sup>th</sup> July - Children's University Graduation Day - College of West Anglia

20<sup>th</sup> July - Leavers' Service - 9.15am in church

23<sup>rd</sup> July - Year 6 Leavers' trip to Eaton Vale

24<sup>th</sup> July - School ends for summer holidays - back 6<sup>th</sup> September.