



“Where Every Child Matters”

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## JANUARY NEWSLETTER 2019

### 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 13 children with 100% attendance last term, who will all receive their certificates this term. A huge well done to all of these.

Just a quick reminder of the current attendance regulations:-



### **Attendance at school and legal intervention**

Research commissioned by the Department for Education shows missing school for even a day can mean a child is less likely to achieve good grades, which can have a damaging effect on their life chances. At Brancaster Primary our aim is to work with parents to ensure that all our pupils receive the most from their education and reach their full potential.

The law requires parents and carers to ensure that their child attends school regularly. The Government remains very clear that no child should miss school apart from in exceptional circumstances and schools must continue to take steps to reduce absence to support children's attainment.

The Local Authority operates a system where any pupil will meet the criteria for legal intervention through the issue of a Fixed Penalty Notice where they have:

1. 10 consecutive sessions<sup>1</sup> 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
2. 15% unauthorised absence over a period of 6 school weeks for reasons other than unauthorised term time holiday.

Any pupil at Brancaster Primary School, who meets either of the 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 within 21 days. If a Notice is unpaid within 21 days, the fine will double to £120 per parent per child if paid within 28 days. If a fixed penalty notice fine is not paid in full within the timescale set out above, the Local Authority is required to start legal proceedings against the parent(s) in the local Magistrates' Court for the offence of failing to ensure their child has attended school regularly.

I hope we can count on your support in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact school if you have any questions.

### **Please remember to let us know if your child will be absent from school -**

For holidays we require a completed exceptional circumstances form from you beforehand.

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.

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<sup>1</sup> Please note that the school day consists of 2 sessions.

## Samphire Class

The topic for this half term is **EXTREME EARTH**. Homework projects have already gone out and a story café for parents and families is planned for Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February 1.30-3.00pm



There will be no Titchwell for this half term. The plan is to return to Titchwell in the second half of the Spring term as a benefactor has offered to pay for the return journey bus fare.

This term we need egg boxes and biscuit tin inners for the design and technology part of our project, if anyone has any at home.

We are also asking for a willing volunteer to remove a door and some shelving as soon as possible please. Thank you.

## Thrift Class

### **TOPIC**

This term our topic is **ART AROUND US**.

We shall be looking in detail at art works painted and made by Aborigines, Dreamtime stories and art in Africa.

We shall also be learning about musicians such as George Frederic Handel and exploring the Country of Germany where he was born.

Further details will follow in a letter.



## Swimming

We will be swimming/gym on Mondays in the Summer Term this academic year beginning on 29<sup>th</sup> April. The children will travel by coach to Alderman Peel High School. Samphire will use the pool and Thrift will use the gym the first half of the term and after the May Spring Bank Holiday the classes will swap. Further details will follow towards the end of this term.

## PFA

The PFA are asking for donations for unwanted Christmas gifts which can be used for fundraising. Please leave any donations in the office. A full PFA letter to follow shortly.

Thank you



## Assemblies:

We have really appreciated how many of you have come to our celebration assemblies to support your children however we are aware that this is not always easy or possible for some of you. So, from this term, we are introducing class assemblies to which families will be invited instead. Each term every class will have the chance to be the stars of an assembly. They will be able to celebrate their hard work and tell family and friends what they have been learning and enjoying in class. We would love to see as many of you there as possible so we will make a timetable for when each class will hold their class assembly for the next two terms and we will get this to you as soon as possible. We will also put these details on our website.



## Parent Forums

There will be an opportunity for you to discuss assemblies and to share your views on homework at one of our new parent forums which will also start this term. These will be held at 2.30pm and the first ones will be 16<sup>th</sup> January for Docking, 30<sup>th</sup> January for Sedgford and 13<sup>th</sup> February for Brancaster.

## Multisport Club:

This takes place on Tuesdays after school (3.15-4.15pm) with Keeleyanne. If you would like to sign your child up, please ask at the office as spaces are limited. Cost is £1.00 per session.

## Dates for the Diary

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> January: NSPCC assemblies in school  
Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> January: Library van visit for Thrift Class  
Friday 18<sup>th</sup> January: Flu' Vaccination catch-up  
Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January: NSPCC Workshop in school- Yrs 5&6  
Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January: Dental Survey for 5yr olds only  
Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February: Parent Forum- 2.30pm  
Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February: Samphire Class Story Café - 1.30-3.00pm  
Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February: Half term break  
Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February: School returns



Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April: End of Spring Term - Easter Holidays  
Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April: Summer term begins  
Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May : May Day Bank Holiday  
Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May: SATs week starts  
Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May: Spring Bank Holiday break  
Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June : School returns  
Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July : Summer break starts

