



Winter Term Newsletter 1

Dear Parents,

Welcome back for the Winter term. This term our curriculum focus will be on Design/Technology and History as well as continuing our weekly non-core lessons for Music, RE, PSHE, computing and in KS2, Spanish. A full break down of what your child will be learning can be found on our website at:

<http://www.freeshoollnorwich.org.uk/learnin/our-curriculum/>

If you would like further information about what your child will be learning, take a look at individual subjects in the Curriculum tab on our webpage. The information on these pages detail what your child will be learning throughout the year and what our expectations are for each year group. These are very comprehensive documents, so comprehensive that teachers use them to inform their lesson planning!

Building work

Starting on Monday 15th January we will be having some work done to repair part of the flat roof. Part of this work will require scaffolding to be put in the bike shed area and on the path outside the side gate. For the duration of this work, **there will be no access through the side gate or to the bike shed.**

Because of this, we have had to make a few changes to keep everyone safe.

From Monday 15th January **all children will enter and leave the school through the front door.**

Due to large numbers of children leaving at the end of the day we will have to stagger the children leaving the building as follows:

- EYFS and children in Years 1 and 2 will be picked up at **3:15pm at the front door**. School staff will hand over your child when they see you as normal.
- Children in Years 3,4,5 and 6 will be picked up at the normal time of **3:30pm**.
- As there will be no access to the bike sheds please could we ask that **no children bring bikes or scooters** while this work is being completed as we have nowhere to store them during this time.

We ask that you leave the front forecourt as soon as you have picked up your child in order to minimise the number of people and make it easier to hand over the children.

We hope that the work wont take too long and will keep you informed of any other changes as they arise.

Year 6 Engineering

This week Year 6 children received a visit from Christos Sofopoulos of Canham Consulting who spoke to them about building bridges in preparation for their Design and Technology project. I know that the children were fascinated and it was a brilliant afternoon. Thanks to Christos for taking the time to visit us and I know we'll see you again in a few weeks when you come in and see the children's efforts!

Parent Drop in Sessions

Starting next Thursday from 9-10am, we'll be running weekly drop-in workshops to support various aspects of family support.

These will run over 6 sessions, and completing after half term they will have the following focusses:

18th January: Budget support and financial assistance

25th January: Supporting Healthy Lifestyles

1st February: Sleep routines

8th February: Supporting challenging behaviour

29th February: SEN Drop-in Session- how do we support children with SEN? Where to go for advice and support

7th March: Children and adult wellbeing. Where do I go for support and how can school help?

Sessions will be supported with resources from the Norfolk County Council Community and Family Teams and Just One Norfolk. They are voluntary and will be held in the school hall. To help us prepare, if you'd like to attend, please indicate this by completing the form below:

<https://forms.office.com/e/Pj8cxgRuSC>

However, dropping in on the day is absolutely fine too!

If you're unable to attend and would still like the resources or support, please contact the school office, indicating which resources you'd like.

Look forward to seeing you!

Cold Weather

As the weather is getting colder it is good to see that most children are arriving at school with warm coats, hats and gloves. However, there are a few children who are not bringing

appropriate clothing every day. Please be aware that we will be continuing to take children out of school for events and activities and even though they may tell you that they don't need a coat when you leave for school in the morning, they often complain of being cold when we take them outside later in the day!

Water Bottles

A small number of children are not bringing water bottles to school. Please ensure that your child brings a named water every day to ensure that they stay hydrated.

Importance of Home Reading

Reading at home is one of the most important ways in which you can help your child. At school, we will teach the skills needed to read but in order to consolidate these skills and grow as confident readers, children need to practice regularly. Children who read to and with their families develop these skills much more quickly and are more likely to develop a love of reading that can last a lifetime.

With this in mind, we ask you to read at home for a minimum of 10 minutes daily. Ideally this will be your child reading their school book to an adult at home. We also ask you to record your daily reads in your child's reading record, in the year groups which use records, so that we can monitor how your child is getting on with their home reading. This communication is vital, your support is vital.

We recognise the incredibly important role that families play and we want to support this in every way we can. Therefore, if you need any help with encouraging your child to read at home or with approaches to support their reading, please speak to your child's class teacher who will be able to advise.

We thank you in advance for your support.

Eaton Vale Residential

Parents of children in Year 4 should have received a letter about the Eaton Vale residential trip this week. If you haven't received it or have misplaced please contact us for another copy.

School attendance

Recent reports in the media about school attendance have highlighted the difficulties that some parents have when making the decision to bring their children to school. If your child is finding it difficult to come to school the first thing to do is to contact us so we can try and find out possible reasons and then some solutions. The longer your child is off school, the more difficult it is for them to catch up and this can generate a cycle of poor attendance and school anxiety.

A useful video to help support parents with school attendance can be found at:

<https://youtu.be/oDCEl4mMjKQ>

Google Reviews

It would be wonderful if as a parent community you could give us a review on Google. We were last reviewed in 2017, so any updated reviews/comments would be greatly appreciated.

https://www.justonenorfolk.nhs.uk/attendance?utm_source=Facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=Orlo

Monday 26th February- First day of Spring term

Thursday 29th February: SEN Drop-in Session- support children with SEN?

Thursday 7th March: Children and adult wellbeing.

Kind regards,
Darren

Useful Dates:

Thursday 18th January: Budget support and financial assistance

Thursday 25th January: Supporting Healthy Lifestyles

Thursday 1st February: Sleep routines

Thursday 8th February: Supporting challenging behaviour

Friday 9th February- End of Term

Stars of the Week

EYFS

Last week's Star of the Week went to Zak for being brilliant at sharing and helping others to take turns. This week it goes to Esme for always being kind and helpful.

Year 1

The Star of the Week for last week was Queenie for a fantastic hardworking start to the Winter Term and for recognising and celebrating her own progress. This week it goes to Millie for always being a kind friend and for always giving 100% in every lesson.

Year 2

Last week's Star of the Week went to Ruby for demonstrating an exemplary commitment to learning this week setting a commendable tone for 2024! This week it is Myla for having a super first week!

Year 3

Star of the week last week went to Cillian for an excellent Bronze and Iron age timeline. This week it is Sotirios for a determined attitude producing excellent work during some challenging English lessons.

Year 4

Star of the Week for last week was Isaac for the concentrated focus he has applied to his work all week and for working exceptionally hard in all subjects. This week it goes to Aavya for working really hard as well as supporting other pupils and sharing her expertise.

Year 5

Last week, Star of the Week went to Frank for always participating in class - for sharing his ideas and opinions. This week it goes to Amir for creating complex questions all about the story of Beowulf and answering them in detail.

Year 6

Last week's Star of the Week went to Neshvita for excelling in all maths lessons. This week it goes to Ellie for conjugating regular verbs fantastically in Spanish. Excelente!

Communication and Information Easy Access

Newsletters: <http://www.freeschoolnorwich.org.uk/parents/newsletters/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/The-Free-School-Norwich-102238845787805>)

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/freeschnorwich>

OFSTED Parentview: <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>

Calendar: <http://www.freeschoolnorwich.org.uk/school-calendar/>

Amazon Wishlist: https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/1H53OWPFNIFOO?ref=wl_share