

# Pickering Community Infant & Nursery School

## School Newsletter No 12

22nd February 2019



### Writing Week

This week has been our half termly Writing Week across school. As the title suggests, there has been a lot of writing going on! You'll get the opportunity to see the great progress that children have made in their writing when you look through books at the upcoming parents evenings in March.

Whilst the children do lots of writing throughout the year, this week the children have had lots of opportunities to practice their key writing skills working towards their new writing targets. A copy of these will be in Busy Books for Reception, Year One and Year Two children. Following on from this week, the children will then be asked to use these skills, and their target areas, in the wide range of non fiction and fiction writing that they do in class. Everything from writing stories about imaginary worlds and character descriptions to instructions and fact files about their favourite animals.

I am looking forward to reading the Year Two letters aiming to persuade me to allow their next school visit to be to China! I think that it will require an exceptional level of persuasion!

### Handouts

#### Hard copies:

- 🐾 Bus Children only letter
- 🐾 Attendance information letter
- 🐾 Y1/Y2 Club letters
- 🐾 March/April Diary Sheet



### Half Term Attendance News

Congratulations to Owl Class who have the highest attendance for the half term with 96.4% attendance!

## Staffing Update

Mrs Smeaton has now begun her maternity leave, slightly earlier than expected. We welcome Miss Zoe Walker to the class team and class teacher on Thursday and Friday.

## Senior Leadership Structure

Senior Leaders in school have responsibility for working with and supporting the staff team, focusing on the continuous improvement of teaching, learning and the outcomes of our children. Following my return from maternity leave and Mr Newton's secondment, we have had a restructure of our Senior Leadership Team.

Head Teacher - Mrs Sarah Gillam

Assistant Head with responsibility for Key Stage One (Years One and Two) - Mrs Nicky Smith

Senior Teacher with responsibility for Foundation Stage (Nursery and Reception) - Miss Cheryl Duck

Senior Teacher with responsibility for Health and Well-being - Mrs Gemma Goff

## Attendance

Punctual and regular attendance are essential in establishing good routines for school and learning, as well as friendships. You will find our attendance information leaflet along with this newsletter. All parents will also receive a letter, giving you information about your child's current attendance, on Friday 8th March. The purpose of these letters is to ensure that parents are fully informed about their child's attendance and how this compares to the national levels. Nationally, the youngest children tend to be the ones who pick up most bugs and are off ill as they start in school and we know that the large majority of absences for our children are unavoidable. As ever, I would ask that parents try to avoid, or at least minimise the number of, days off that children have due to holidays. Staff have great empathy with parents who find it difficult to arrange holidays during school holiday time as they are in the same situation. It is widely acknowledged though that establishing good routines and attitudes to attendance from a very early age gives children a

positive start to their learning through our education system.

### Parents Evening

The first week back will be our two evenings for parents to meet with their child's class teacher from Nursery through to Year Two. (Two additional dates have also been arranged for Nursery) These meetings are important for discussing your child's social and academic development and is valuable time for both parents and teachers. There is a lot to discuss in these meetings and both parents and staff need to be able to talk openly and frankly about strengths, next steps and any concerns that they may have. Because of this it is not appropriate for children of the age in our school to be present during these meetings. I know that child care can be difficult on these evenings. If children need to come with you to school on that evening, as some do, please ensure that you have made arrangements for appropriate supervision whilst you are in your meeting. This could be supervision from a sensible, older sibling in the hall or from other parents who you have made arrangements with to have staggered meetings so that you can supervise each other's children. Our teachers always try to stick to the timing of these meetings

but sometimes things run over. Please accept our apologies if this happens and try to work with teachers by agreeing to make another appointment to discuss further if you need more than ten minutes.

### After School Clubs

Block two clubs commence Monday  
11th March

#### Mondays

Football Club—starts **Monday 4th March**—3.20-4.30pm collect from Eastwing playground door

Art Club—3.20-4pm collect from Eastwing playground door

Gardening Club—3.20-4pm collect from Reception playground door

#### Wednesdays

Gymnastic Club—3.20-4pm collect from Eastwing playground door

#### Thursdays

Recorder Club—3.20-4pm collect from the Portacabin

Lexia Club—3.20-4pm collect from Eastwing playground door

#### Fridays

Cricket Club—3.20-4.20pm collect from Eastwing playground door.

*Your support for your child's education is crucial to their progress. Please let us know if there is any adjustments we need to make to help you support your child, for example: letters in large font; letters in different languages; wheelchair access; explaining things over the phone.*

*Spare newsletters are available in the rack outside the office, together with term time dates, holiday forms, uniform order forms*

*Tel: 01751 472620      email: admin@pickering--inf.n-yorks.sch.uk*

*For attendance/absences - admin2@pickering-inf.n-yorks.sch.uk*



## Community News

**Pickering Methodist Church - Family Cinema**

**Sat 2nd March 6.30pm in the Memorial Hall**

**Admission free - donations welcome**

**sing up day**  
13 March 2019

Mini Sing Squad and our whole school community are participating in the National Sing Up Day on Wednesday the 13th March 2019. In addition to our whole school and staff, we will be singing the song One Moment, One People with members of the Junior Sing Squad, possibly Lady Lumley's Vocal Group and the Mickle Hill Retirement Village Choir, The Mickleodeons, at a Celebration Assembly on that day. If your child would like to practise the song at home, or indeed, parents would like to learn the song to sing with them, go to the following youtube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ckNmB9S0hvl> Happy singing everyone!

**One moment**  
**One people**