

Pickering Community Infant & Nursery School
School Newsletter No 13
26th March 2021






Spring and Easter

Lots of the children across school have been learning about the Christian festival of Easter this week. Children were all able to talk about how their families celebrate this festival, which helped the discussions about the traditions of this festival and how it links to the Christian festival.




The children have also been looking for signs of and focusing learning on the season of spring, including looking at changes in our school grounds since winter.

Handouts

Email attachments:

-  Hawkes Health
Easter School
Holiday Provision
-  Diary Sheet
-  Code of Conduct

Hard copies:

-  Bus children only
collection letter
-  Diary Sheet
-  Menu for Summer
Term



Thank you to our families for

the generous Easter treats for staff and to the Grandma of Marcus in Ladybird Class who has kindly knitted every child in Reception an Easter themed egg covering and completed with a chocolate treat!



Congratulations to Hedgehog Class with
99.4% attendance for the two weeks 15th
March to

25th March 2021



Reminders

-  Friday 26th March—School closes for Easter Break
-  Tuesday 13th April - First day of summer term
-  Thurs 22nd April - Class photos
-  Thurs 29th April—Bgs 2 School (Please save any clothing if you're having a spring clear out, further information will be sent out after the break)



Window Safety

When coming to school in the mornings and leaving at the end of the school day could you please make sure that children stay on the paths at the front of the school and not walk in front of the kitchen and classroom windows. The kitchen and classroom windows may be open and are easily walked into. We also ask that children are encouraged not to play on the grass around the large tree at the front of school. We know that this is a tempting play space but many of our spring flowers have sadly been damaged by lots of little feet.



Class Photos

Classes will be having their class photographs taken on Thursday 22nd April.

Nits/Head Lice

As in every school across the country there are children with head lice in school. Please check your child's hair regularly and treat when necessary. Once you have treated the hair, you will need to keep checking to make sure

that all the eggs have gone. If you are unsure as to what to do contact either the doctors' surgery or a local pharmacy.



Further guidance can be found at;

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits>

Red Nose Day Donations

A huge **THANK YOU** to everyone for donating to Comic Relief through school last Friday. We raised £187.00.

Water Bottles

Please make sure that your child brings a clearly named water bottle containing water (not juice or flavoured water) into school.

Fruit squash and flavoured waters are acidic and can cause tooth erosion, particularly when drunk between meals. Water bottles in classes are for keeping children hydrated and must therefore contain only plain water.



Before and After School Club

As our Before and After School Club numbers grow, we are moving the location of these clubs to give more space. After the Easter holiday, from Tuesday 13th April, these clubs will be based in the bottom classroom of the East Wing side of school. When you stand on Ruffa Lane, this is the furthest classroom to the right and nearest the modular building. Drop off and collection for the clubs will be at the bottom door on this side of school. We offer Before and After School Club places on either a regular or ad-hoc basis, as and when you need the



provision for any children who attend our school. Our school based staff Mrs Johnson and Mrs Nichols run our Before School Club and Mrs Davis and Mrs Kelly run our After School Club.

Further information, photos and booking forms can all be found on our website at <http://pickering-inf.n-yorks.sch.uk/before-and-after-school-club-provision/>

Parent Code of Conduct

We are incredibly grateful that our school community work so well together for the good of our school and our children. We always encourage parents and staff to talk to each other about any concerns. As our annual update, please find attached our code of conduct.

Moki Bands

Squirrel Class have been trialling a new resource in school this week—Moki Bands! These are wristbands worn by the children and staff during school hours that record both the number of steps and the minutes of at least moderate activity that children take part in. This will be useful in helping us to look at levels of activity for our children and staff throughout the week but is also an excellent opportunity for some inter class physical competition when we can't, at the moment, do this across classes in person for sports events due to covid safety measures. Classes will be using these next term, taking turns for a week so that there is time to quarantine between uses.

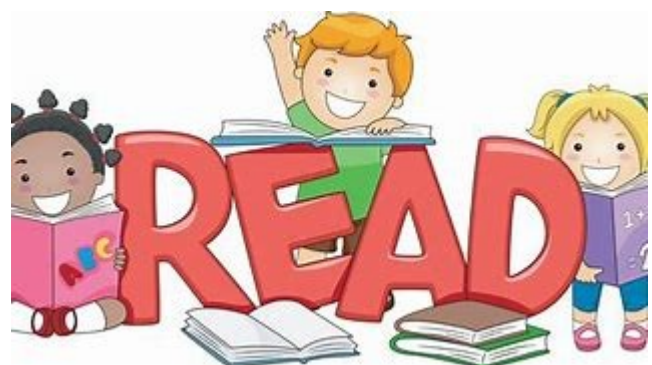


Motional

The last twelve months have seen significant disruption to all of our lives. This has had an impact on all of us, in many different ways. Staff have been prioritising, as ever, the relationships across their classes and school and supporting the development of resilience and well-being for all. In school, we are starting to use an assessment tool called Motional, which should support us further with this. It is a tool that staff in class use to identify where individual children may have specific well-being needs and to offer activities to support. This will be an extra resource for us to use to enhance the work that we already do with children in this regard and in no way is intended to be used as or replace help from appropriate professionals wherever it is needed. If you have any concerns about your child's mental health, please contact your health care professionals or speak to your child's class teacher about the best next steps to access further support.

Usborne Sponsored Read

A huge thank you for all of your fundraising efforts through the sponsored read. You have raised a fantastic £464.75 for us to spend on new Usborne books for classrooms!



Covid Restrictions

We are all looking forward to lock down restrictions potentially being eased gradually over the coming weeks and months to allow more social contact and a return to a little more normality.

Our current covid measures will remain in place until further guidance is received in schools from the Department for Education. We therefore ask that everyone continues to follow all of the following guidance that we have shared, including;

Keep the number of people entering our school site to a minimum

Please wear a face mask if you are able to when on school site

When in the playgrounds, please keep your children with you at all times and do not allow them to mix with other families or play with any of our equipment

Do not mix with other families on school site

We know that there are a number of opportunities in schools across the country that children have not had the opportunity to experience. These include school visits, whole school events such as concerts, plays and sports days. We know how important these events are and that these are often events that stand out for our children when they look back on their time in school. Many of us still remember those key visits and visitors to school from our own childhoods. We are in the process of planning dates for our summer term and will look to include visits and events for our whole school community if and when we are permitted to do so. You will see from our attached Diary Dates Sheet that our Sports Day, at the moment, is planned to be a joint event for children only across school. This will, of course, be subject to the covid restrictions and may need to take a different format to usual. We will keep you up to date of any changes to this, and other events, as and when we are able to. The safety of our whole school community and playing our part to reduce the chance of future lock downs and school closures remain our priority.

Postponed—Volunteer Gardening Day 11th April 2021

Unfortunately, we will **not** be able to go ahead with our volunteer day on 11th April as planned to help clear the school gardens as we are currently awaiting confirmation of a few details and hope to rearrange a date sometime next term.



A word from our Chair of Governors

Hello Everyone

It has been great to see the school full of happy, smiling children again over the last few weeks! Personally, I think that this term has been particularly difficult with the latest lockdown coming at short notice and coinciding with poor weather, dark evenings and general 'Zoom' fatigue. As a school community we have also had some very sad news and our thoughts remain with the friends and families of those affected.

For those that don't know me, I've been the Chair of Governors since 2017. With two children at the school I decided I wanted to get more involved and put my name forward for a Parent Governor role and from there became Chair.

This term we have welcomed John Goodyear to the Governing Body as a Local Authority Governor. John has previously been a Governor at both Ryedale School and Kirkbymoorside Primary and we are delighted to have him join us. With John's appointment there are now 12 members of the Governing Body (two staff, three parents and seven external). Like many, we have adapted to virtual meetings over the past year but have definitely missed the opportunity to be in school and to spend time in the classrooms. Whilst there have been some things we've been unable to do, we have still been able to work with the staff on the wider strategic direction of the school and the ongoing challenges that all schools face.

On behalf of all of the Governors, I would like to wish you all a very happy Easter break. Fingers crossed for lots of sunshine and for the restrictions to continue to be lifted over the coming weeks and months.

Neil Herring



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