

FIRSIDE JUNIOR SCHOOL

YEAR 4 January Newsletter

13 January 2012

Middleton's Lane, Hellesdon, NORWICH, NR6 5NF
01603 426550

Headteacher: Mr S. J. Fisher
deputy Head: Mrs R. Robinson

Dear Parent,

Happy New Year and welcome back!

We hope everyone had a restful holiday. Certainly, the children seem to have returned refreshed, keen and eager to learn. Of course the New Year is a natural time to look ahead and think about what the future holds. Our assemblies (and PSHE lessons) this half-term focus on 'Going for Goals'. We want children to have high aspirations and set goals for themselves – and then help them take steps to reaching them! The London Olympics and Paralympics are a real inspiration for this and in Monday's assembly we watched a short video of Jonnie Peacock who is a truly inspirational Paralympic sprinter. One of our mottos in school is that *every day, every child* should achieve something they feel proud of and we are sure with continuing hard work and support the children will achieve their dreams!

2012 is not only the year in which we celebrate the Jubilee and the Olympics but also the school's 75th anniversary year! We are planning some exciting ways to involve everyone in our celebrations and look forward to telling you about them as the year unfolds.

Year 4 News

Thinking back to our first term in Year 4, all of us have been impressed with how much enthusiasm the children have had investigating and working on new topics and subject areas. We have been encouraging the children to take responsibility for their learning by prompting the children to ask questions they want answering about a new subject area and undertake research in independently and in groups. We are still asking the children to record their thoughts about their school week in their learning journals so they can actively think about what they have learnt.

The spring term is always one of the most productive and interesting terms! One of our main themes this term is a study of China and its cultural traditions, incorporating a celebration on Chinese New Year (January 23rd begins the year of the dragon). We will be investigating the history of China, the geography of the country, as well as its culture and religion. Watch out for a letter inviting you to an exhibition of your children's work which will be taking place on Wednesday 8th of February.

This longer project will be complemented by studies on materials in Science. Our literacy lessons will also complement our China theme as we will be studying Stories from other cultures.

Further on in the term we will be investigating sci-fi texts and linking that with our science and design and technology through studies into friction. We will also be working on our contribution for a book to commemorate the school's 75th anniversary.

The deadline for making a decision about whether your child will take part in our Whitwell Hall residential trip has passed. A letter will be sent out shortly to all those who have paid deposits. Please contact us if you have any queries.

You will be aware that a slight staffing adjustment has been made this term: from now until the SAT tests in May, Mrs Robinson is providing extra teaching support in Year 6 and Miss Ramsey is taking on the full week in Year 4.

Just a few reminders:

- A pen and pencil are essential for school every day. Replacements can be bought from the school office.
- P.E. equipment is required on Tuesday for 4E, Wednesday for 4R and Friday for 4P. Swimming kit, including a hat, is required on Tuesday for 4R and Wednesday for 4E and 4P.
- Learning journals should be in school every day and at least four reading sessions recorded each week please. Use this book to pass on any important information to us.

Emma Elliot, Jo Putt and Jacqui Ramsey

Bad Weather and School Closures: We have had a remarkably mild winter so far but IF the school is ever forced to close we will notify parents via the county website and local radio. Closing the school is always the very last resort and you may safely assume that the school is open unless a message is sent out as set out above.

Diary

January

Mon	9 th	EA Tennis: after school tennis club taster (Yr3&4)..... morning
Tues	10 th	Matt Philpott, Physical Fitness afterschool club (Yr5&6)..... assembly time
Wed	11 th	School Team to take part in Sports Hall Athletics competition - Yr 5& 6
Tues	17 th	FOF meeting 9:15 (in meeting room)
Thurs	19 th	Group of children take part in Tree Planting at Community Centre p.m.
Wed	25 th	Year 4 - Family Lunch
Fri	27 th	Road Safety workshops with road safety officer

February

Wed	1 st	Coffee & Chat – Parents forum in Dining Hall 9:00
	"	Year 5 & 6 - Family Lunch
Tues	7 th	Major Murray (Salvation Army) Year 5&6 Assembly
Wed	8 th	Year 5, Roman Day – Parents invited for the afternoon p.m.
Thur	9 th	Major Murray (Salvation Army) Year 3&4 Assembly
Mon	13 th	Half-term week
Tue	21 st	Year 3 – Family Lunch

Join the library....

Join Up January is a great chance to find out more about what your local library can offer your family.

It's free to join the library and really easy. You can do it online at www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries or visit your local library and staff will join you up in just a few minutes. If you have ID with you showing your name and address that's great, but even if you don't you can borrow a couple of books!

The library has lots of story books including picture books and easier stories for new readers. There are loads of other things to enjoy, like books on football, music, animation, and 'how things work' as well as books on TV series and films, graphic novels, comics and magazines. There are also children's DVDs and DS and other games to try as well as events and activities for both children and adults.

Friendly staff are on hand to help your child find something that will interest them. Staff can also let you know about books and websites you can use at the library or at home to help with homework.

For more information visit your local library, call 0344 800 8006 or visit www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries

.....and let the story begin



Parent Support Adviser

Mrs Nada Goodings has now started in her role as Cluster Parent Support Adviser. We are delighted to welcome her and we are sure she will be a real help to everyone. A leaflet is available in school – and is illustrated here -->

Parent Support Adviser (PSA)

Parenting isn't an easy job and at times things can get tough. Like every parent you want what is best for your child.

Parent Support Advisers are here to help families deal with issues, worries or concerns. We may not have all the answers but together we can explore ways forward.



The Benjamin Foundation

Working in partnership with the Hellesdon Cluster of Schools.



Parent Support Advisers can:

- Support you when you meet with teachers or other professionals
- Help prevent difficult behaviour from becoming more of a problem
- Find Services and other Agencies available to help families
- Help parents understand how and what their children learn
- Aid and encourage good attendance
- Foster positive relationships between home and school
- Meet to talk where you feel most comfortable

Contact your local Parent Support Adviser:



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