



Rothersthorpe CE Primary School

Pride, Ability, Positivity

Newsletter April 2017



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Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the start of the summer term. Thank you for attending our Easter celebrations in Church and we hope you enjoyed the 'creative arts theme'. I thought the artwork, miniature gardens, acting, speaking and singing were wonderful. To see our Reception children reading their lines in front of approximately 150 people was amazing!

We have such a busy first half term with a range of sporting events as well as the statutory Y2 and Y6 tests. All our pupils and staff are working hard and we have every faith in their abilities to achieve the best they can.

Myself, Mrs. Walker and Miss Ralph will be attending training from a highly respected education system in Finland from 24th-28th April. (See the back page for class organisation during that week). We look forward to cascading this training back to our school staff, pupils and local schools. We will keep you updated via our school website and Facebook account.

Kind regards, Mrs. Fountain



Easter Celebrations March 2017



Our retiring collection was in aid of the Diana Kindness Charity.

Pupil Feedback

Elliot: "I liked my Easter bonnet". Ben: "I enjoyed the Easter songs, especially Easter Jubilation".

Isla Y5: "The posters we created really made me think about what Easter means to me".

Ellison: "To make an Easter garden you need plants, flowers, pebbles, soil chicks and lolly sticks to make the cross".

Oliver B: "The actions were really fun to learn for the Gethsemane poem".

Lottie: "I enjoyed pretending to drink the wine, the blood of Jesus".

Freya: "The artwork was bright, colourful and represented Jesus".

School Council



Currently the school council are working on pupil questionnaire feedback, the play-ground project and peer mentoring with writing. More information will be in the next newsletter.

Anti-Bullying and E-Safety (on-going)

Our children receive teaching and reminders constantly to ensure that they are happy and safe at school. Last term Class 4 focused on direct and in-direct bullying, as well as issues around equality and racism. Children made a 'ribbon against racism' and these are on display outside Mrs. Watt's office.

We have also upgraded our EXA I.T monitoring system. However, nothing is 100% safe and so we teach children how to manage safe internet use. We use Rising Stars and Jigsaw resources.

This term we will be supporting the 'Be Kind' campaign that is currently in the public eye. The Diana charity also organises a Kindness day on 10th June 2016, however we promote 'being kind every day'.



<http://www.antibullyingpro.com/kindnessday2016/>

<http://www.itv.com/thismorning/hot-topics/pledge-to-share-our-anti-bullying-message>

Christian Value of the Term: Hope

We will be focusing on the value of Hope this term through the story of Jesus and Hope of the World; The Rainbow, a symbol of Hope; Planting Hope; Hope for the Future; Bringing Hope to Others.

This value can be supported at home by: making a rainbow flag; reading stories about seeds; planting and recording their growth.



Hope, encouragement, reassurance, expectation, optimism, fearless, promise, aspire, secure, faith

Christians see their hope in God's promise *'that love and goodness have, and will ultimately, overcome all evil'*

Erasmus Funding for Quality Staff Training in Joensuu, Finland

We were successful in obtaining a grant for training in Finland and Belgium over the next two years.

In April some staff will be attending training at a range of schools in Finland. The Finnish education system is one of the best in the world and we will be looking at what we can bring back to enhance our pupils' education in England. Some facts about the Finnish Education system:

- teachers hold the same status as doctors and lawyers
- the National Curriculum is only broad guidelines
- the school system is 100% state funded
- the difference between the strongest and weakest pupils is the smallest in the world
- fresh air, nature and regular physical activity breaks are considered engines of learning
- children learn through play, songs, games and conversation up to 7 years of age
- children's ability is not measured for the first 6 years of their education; Children are assessed by teachers through direct observations, check-ins and quizzes. There is only one mandatory test which is taken at 16.

In Finland warmth, collaboration, teacher-led encouragement and assessment are promoted. Teachers are encouraged and trusted to constantly try new approaches to improve learning.

Mrs. Fountain will be focusing on Leadership, Management and Assessment

Mrs. Walker will be focusing on reading and writing, especially boys compared to girls

Miss. Ralph will be focusing on outdoor learning and I.T

Full Governing Body Meeting—29th March 2017

Governor Vacancies

- In order to fill one of the vacancies on the Board, it was proposed that our Chair, Mrs Newitt be appointed as a Co-opted Governor. This will create a vacancy for a Parent Governor, which can be advertised to other parents. Skills needed are Finance, Curriculum experience or Health & Safety.
- Parish Councillor and village resident Shayne Major has expressed an interest in completing an application for the role of LEA Governor via the NCC website.

PDET Progress

- NF met with Mike Cowland from PDET to discuss the academy application process. NF completed the application and submitted to the DfE. Conversion is not anticipated until 2018. On the application, NF had to declare the involvement of the original School Trustees. This could make the legal process more complicated and so NF will contact the NCC legal representative, James Ellis.

Finance and Personnel

- PE Sports Funding analysed and updated on school website with new compliance features.
- New lighting and electricity costs to be monitored for savings. Class 4 extension costs discussed.
- Erasmus Funding for staff training in Finland April 2017 and Belgium in 2018 received.
- Indicative school budget for 2017/18—similar to 2016/17. Future funding after 2018 is unknown, but predicted to be lower due to a number of factors such as—pension costs, living costs, new apprenticeship levy etc. There will also be a significant drop in Pupil Premium Funding next year; this will also affect the 'deprivation element' in our budget. If any families are in receipt of certain benefits or on a 'lower income' we need them to come forward so that this funding can be accessed.
- Budget proposals for 2019 are still under consultation—could have a severe impact on the lump sum received by schools. This is currently £125,000—proposed to reduce to £110,00!
- Statutory School Financial Value Standard—completed.

Curriculum

- Feedback reports from Maths and English Subject Leaders pupil interviews were discussed. Good evidence of pupil voice. Governors commented that the monthly newsletters always includes lots of comments from children about activities they have taken part in and enjoyed.
- E-Safety—EXA Stormshield box for further monitoring of laptops has been installed. Training required.
- School website has been upgraded by NF and consultant. Governors checked website for statutory compliance. Few minor adjustments for mobile phone use was made. A clearer view can be seen in landscape.

Health & Safety

- Both quotes for FoRS playground feature were unsuitable. NF to pass information to School Council.
- Water Management. Risk assessment completed.

Governor Monitoring

- FN completed a monitoring visit of teaching and learning focusing on 'challenge of the more-able'. Good examples of challenge to 'accelerate learning of the more-able pupils' was seen.

Safeguarding/Equality/SEND

- A reminder of the school dismissal procedures was sent out to parents. It was noted that staff always challenge any unknown visitors. It was made clear that 'parents must advise school if someone else was collecting their child, even if it was an extended family member or other Rothersthorpe parent'.
- KK completed further monitoring check of SCR—single central record.

Governor Self-Evaluation

- NF, FN & KK met with Paul Davies a National Leader of Governance, focusing on accountability and what to expect from an Ofsted visit. Mr. Davies was very challenging and Governors were able to demonstrate good leadership and management of our school.
- Governor Quality Mark—NF provided governors with annotated notes on section 1—points agreed.

Governor Training

- Governors will compile a list of all training courses they have attended, as well as in-house training.

Parent and Pupil Questionnaire

- NF compiled a summary of the replies—mostly very positive comments. A few parents said they did not 'understand role of Governors'. A Governor suggested that this question was not necessary, as we regularly pass on information about GB meetings to parents in newsletters, so giving an opportunity to see what the role involves. Governors were disappointed that 1 reply stated they would not recommend our school.

Any other business

- Concerns were raised by some parents regarding the new school, Pineham Barns Academy. Residents of Hunsbury Meadows were informed by the new school principal that they are in the catchment area. NF addressed this in the March newsletter, reminding parents they have a choice regarding which school their child attends. It is envisaged that Pineham will be a much larger school than Rothersthorpe; two-form entry with 60 pupils per year group, and will provide the school places needed as the Pineham housing development expands. NF suggested inviting prospective parents to the end of year activities in July, and the last few Friday achievements assembly, 'to show our small village school family ethos and personalised learning'. Then followed by the usual new parent visits in October.

Diary of Events

Friday 21st April 2017	4 x Y5 Sports Crew leadership day 9.30am-3pm
Monday 1st May 2017	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 2nd May 2017	Back to School. Science Assembly at 10am (Science club TBA)
8th-11th May 2017	Y6 Sats week
15-19th May 2017	Y2 Sats week
Wednesday 17th May 2017	1.30pm Class photos
Thursday 18th May 2017	4 x Y4 pupils to Tennis Tournament at Campion 4-6pm with Mrs. F
Friday 26th May 2017	1.30pm May Day Celebrations—Last Day of Term
Half Term Holiday Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June 2017	
Monday 5th June 2017	Back to School
10th June 2017	Kindness Day
12-16th June 2017	Y1 Phonics Test week
Wednesday 14th June 2017	Whole School Sports Morning/Picnic 9am-1.15pm. All welcome.
Monday 19th June 6pm	New Parents evening - Reception class September 17
Saturday 24th June 2017	Y5/6 Strictly Team Grand Final at Derngate—Evening times TBA
Wednesday 28th June 2017	Gym R-Y6 competition at school organised by Mrs. Fountain
Friday 21st July 2017	Last day of term

Class Organisation W/C 24th April

From 24th—28th April, Mrs. Fountain, Mrs. J. Walker & Miss. Ralph will be attending training in Finland. Our School will continue as usual with a few class teaching adjustments. Ms. ACE and Mrs. Watt are available for any pressing queries during this week.

Class 1—Mrs. Patel & Mrs. Townsend (Mrs. Patel will be teaching full time this week and knows our school and pupils well).

Class 2—Mrs. Donohoe, Miss. Anderton, Mrs. Woods & Mrs. Gill. (Mrs. Donohoe will be teaching full time this week). Mrs. D'Costa will be in school on Thursday 27th April.

Class 3—Mrs. Gibbon & Mrs. Young. (Mrs. Gibbon will be teaching full time this week).

Class 4—Ms. ACE and Mrs. W. Walker as usual.

Our Chair of Governors, Mrs. Newitt is also available for any queries. Headteacher Mr. Lee Wood, from Pattishall Primary, who is in our school cluster, will respond to any urgent safeguarding issues. Our LA advisor Mrs. Sharon Bray, is aware of our staff training and organisation.

May Day Celebrations 2017

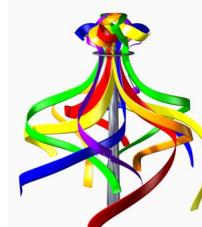
Friday 26th May 1.30pm

The Y6 May Queen will be crowned.

Our reception pupils will join in with the procession of the May King and Queen. All classes will perform a variety of dances such as Maypole, Country and Morris.

Children should come to school in their uniform as usual and bring a change of clothes for the afternoon dancing. Clothing should be smart, no sport or football wear. Children should wear shoes, trainers or plimsolls to dance in. Strappy sandals or loose shoes are not suitable.

Our Friends of School will be organising refreshments.



Team Points

Spencer: 1350

Crick: 1330

Redmond: 1145

Tull: 1122