

Recreation Road Infant School

Newsletter 4

December 2013



We would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a healthy and peaceful New Year.

We will look forward to seeing you all again on Tuesday 7th

Reminders From Our School Office:

Attendance: It is important that you let the school office know the reason why your child is absent on the very first day of absence.

Meals: If you would like a school meal please ensure that you come to the office and order one before 10:00. Also can you please let us know if you wish to stop school meals and replace with packed lunches from home.

Family Events:

Many thanks to all of you who attended our Family Events this term. Thanks to PTA who have supported the events with drinks.

Our Parent-Support Team (Kit Dunthorne and Tony Yallop) have planned some new activities for the Spring Term: These sessions do all have to be on Fridays due to the timetabling of the hall space for PE.

Friday 7th Feb- Ideas suggested re. Bring and buy event

Friday 28th March- World Food Event

Friday 23rd May- Going Green

Friday 11th July- Our Community

More information will be sent out in the Spring Term.

Please donate your empty Pringle tubes to us after Christmas....Kit Dunthorne has a fantastic use for them...they become "Adventurer's Packs"Watch this space!



What Have We Been Up To?

Here's some of the things we've done this Autumn Term 2013

Pupils and Families:

We've settled 120 new reception families into school involving them in finding out how we promote Reading For Pleasure and how we introduce the teaching of phonics.

Families have also participated in Harvest Nibbles and Xmas decoration making as well as weekly maths games and attending Reading Cafes.

We have settled 8 new pupils into our school who have transferred from other school/areas. Questionnaires were sent to both the staff and parent so that we can learn what we're doing well and what areas we can develop further regarding transition into our school.

Prospective families for September 2014 have been looking around our school and meeting with staff.

Our staff, Parent Support Advisor and Family Team have been busy working with and supporting families as required.

Teaching and Learning:

Our Leadership Team have monitored teaching and learning in PE, phonics and Foundation Stage (YrR). Drop- in visits have also focussed on classroom culture and community links in the mornings. Our 2 Newly Qualified Teachers have been coached and observed by their mentors. Designated Staff have delivered Safeguarding Training to new members of staff.

We have scrutinised pupil progress data and worked on creating action plans to track the progress of particular groups and also worked with colleagues on developing useful and reflective case studies.

Staff have met regularly to discuss and reflect on teaching and learning within their year groups.

Year Two Staff have benefitted from working with advisor, Luke Abbot in developing Mantle of the Expert. They have all also attended weekend residential training on developing this further.

Other Continued Professional Development has focussed on reading, early maths skills, PE and observation/assessment.

Staff have benefitted from working together to develop their teaching of PE and YrR staff have been out to visit other settings to inform their practice.

Our Family Team have learnt from their training on Nurture Groups and the role of PSA along with more specific areas of development such as attending Autism Anglia day.

Our children have visited Heigham Park, Earlham Cemetery, Strangers Hall and Trinity Church. They have organised their own Victorian Market raising money for their selected

charity Dr Barnardos, Enterprise Project on Car Washing and have embraced their roles of Digital Leaders.

Children in Need Event was successful as was the support given for the Philippines Disaster Fund.

In our final week each class will take part in a Christmas Performance presented to families and friends.

Leadership and Governors:

We have completed teaching staff appraisals this term and have welcomed and inducted 3 new Governors to the team. Governors have been in school to monitor SEND, H&S, conduct HT Appraisal and have been involved in interviewing new staff.

The Leadership Team and Teaching and Learning Committee have met together twice enabling us to take a look at our Teaching and Learning Policy as well as using Pupil Attainment Data to create action plans and raise questions.

Our Leadership Team has welcomed 3 Associate Leaders who attend meetings regularly and are able to provide a wider perspective on discussions. Our Leadership Team are currently involved in several programmes to help us improve. Several members of the team have been settling into their new roles: DHT and SENDCo being released from class responsibilities, EYFS Lead, Digital Lead and Outdoor Learning Support.

We have been working on introducing the New National Curriculum (Sept 14) and the new Code of Practice for SEND.

Staff questionnaire were distributed to help evaluate and reflect on our work and improve areas for the Spring.

Cluster work:

Various groups within the CNS Cluster have met including HTs, Chairs of Governors, DHTs and Curriculum Leads in a shared project. We have also inducted our new Cluster Special Educational Needs and Disability Co-ordinator.

Staff from a local pre- school have also attended some maths training.

Our PTA have been busy with MacMillan Coffee Morning, Half Term Cake Sale for The Brain Tumour Charity, Family Games Night, Harvest Food Bank, Christmas Craft Fair, Christmas Hampers and supporting Family Events. They have also conducted a survey on traffic management around the school site.

We have continued to support students from City College, UEA and Teacher Training Projects.

We have invited parents to join a working party looking at further developing and improving our school website.

Some parents have started their Bookbinding Inductions to help us offer more opportunities for reading with children.

Merry Christmas!