

# Recreation Road Infant School



## Newsletter



2 October 2020

### General update

We're now into our second month back and, hopefully, routines for drop-off and pick-up are becoming pretty well established. There certainly seems to be a happy 'buzz' among most children and parents when I have the pleasure of saying hello and goodbye to them.

In school, we're doing our best to provide continuity and stability for the children, as we know it's really important for them, particularly when the situation in the wider world is so uncertain. However, sometimes this is proving difficult, as staff members are, rightly, self-isolating and getting tested as soon as they're displaying any potential Covid symptoms (I must be clear that no one has tested positive!). This means that you'll sometimes see unfamiliar adults when you drop-off or collect, but please be reassured that they are following agreed plans, and that we're working within Local Authority Health and Safety guidance.

The children (and parents) have been great at adapting to the new rules and routines. Some children were out of school for a good many months, and this has understandably meant that we've had to work much harder than usual to re-establish common expectations, such as listening to each other, taking turns, sharing space and being aware of other people's needs and feelings. We've also had to work at gradually building up the children's stamina and concentration levels. All of this was to be expected, and I think the children deserve a pat on the back for how well they've done overall.

I would also like to extend that pat on the back to my wonderful colleagues. They are working so hard to educate the children, with so many Health and Safety considerations to remember and limited time and resources at their disposal. They've all been doing their very best to keep smiley and energetic for the children, but they're getting pretty worn out!

### Meet our Learner Values Champions for this school year

Before the summer, I shared with parents our intention to select six Learner Values Champions per year group, drawn from children's literature and the wider world. Our plan was (and still is) that each of these Champions will be used as a focal point for learning about one of our school's Learner Values during the year. At the end of the year, we'll involve the children in reviewing the Champions and will change some of them for the 2021-22, based on their feedback. A number of parents contacted us with ideas for Learner Values Champions and we've taken this into account, along with our desire to provide diverse role models, challenge stereotypes and ultimately inspire infant-age pupils.

#### Our Learner Values Champions for 2020/21 are:

	Reception	Year 1	Year 2
<b>Creative</b>	Rosie Revere, Engineer*	Mrs Armitage*	Grayson Perry Artist
<b>Caring</b>	The Smartest Giant in Town*	Izzy Gizmo*	David Kinnersley Water Aid
<b>Collaborative</b>	Percy the Park Keeper*	Old Bear*	Katherine Johnson NASA Mathematician
<b>Resilient</b>	Incy Wincy Spider*	Ellie Simmonds, Swimmer	Lily Rice Wheelchair Athlete
<b>Reflective</b>	Floyd from 'Stuck'*	David Attenborough	Nicolas Lowinger 'Gotta Have Sole'
<b>Problem Solver</b>	Ada Twist, Scientist*	Dr Mae Jemison, Astronaut	Katie Stagliano Katie's Crops

All Champions marked with a \* are storybook characters. The rest are 'real life' figures.

If you're interested in find out more about our Learner Values and our chosen Champions, please refer to the more detailed information sheets attached to this email.

## Norfolk Fire Service 'Virtual' Open Day

I understand that it's meant to be rainy again over the weekend. If you're looking for something cheap and cheerful to entertain and educate the children, why not consider 'attending' Norfolk Fire Service's free 'Virtual' Open Day, which is taking place tomorrow from 10:30am until 12:30pm? As well as viewing rescue demonstrations, you will be able to have a virtual tour of a station and have a chance to look inside a fire engine. Join the Facebook Event page at [www.facebook.com/NFRSPage](https://www.facebook.com/NFRSPage) for details of how to log on to this event. If you don't use facebook, you can email [marketing@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:marketing@norfolk.gov.uk) to have the details sent to you so you can log on through your web browser.

## Parent-teacher meetings

This week, the Local Authority has updated its guidance for parent-teacher meetings. It seems highly unlikely that we'll be able to host parent-teacher meetings face-to-face while this guidance is in place. We will therefore be working to find a viable alternative. Parent-teacher meetings will take place during the second half of the Autumn term and further details will follow once we're worked out the logistics.

## Easy shoes, please

A plea from the staff team: please send your children to school in shoes that they can put on, take off and fasten by themselves. Given that we're unable to use the playground as a playspace at the moment, the children are going in and out from the field, putting on and taking off wellies multiple times. It makes life so much easier for the team (and the children) if they can handle their own footwear independently, without the need for adult support.

## Please observe our safety rules

We're still having issues with a very small number of people on site not following our safety rules. I'm concerned that this minority is making the site more risky than it needs to be for others. I have listed the most important rules again below; if there are still issues with non-compliance, staff will be challenging this. Please don't take offense – we have everyone's safety in mind. Please ensure that anyone else dropping off or collecting your child is aware of the rules too.

1. **Keeping to allotted time windows** – Please don't arrive on site early or late for your slot. Please check the time when you arrive and wait on the other side of the road from the school gates if you arrive early for pick-ups or drop-offs.
2. **Keep to the '1 adult on site' rule** – Please remember that only one adult per family should be accompanying children onto the site.
3. **Maintaining 2-metre social distancing wherever possible** or '1-metre plus' for very short periods of time where 2 metres is not possible. Please remember that, while the children are in a 'class bubble' with each other, the adults are not, so children need to remain distanced from adults not in their household, and vice versa.
4. **Not using mobile phones onsite** – For safeguarding reasons, we have a strict 'no mobile phone' policy on site. This includes while waiting and after you've dropped off your child. Please respect this.
5. **Getting off bikes and scooters** – Even with restrictions in place, drop-offs and pick-ups can be very busy times. Please respect other site users by ensuring that all adults and children (including pre-schoolers) get off their bikes and scooters upon entering the school site.

As always, thanks for your support. Have a great weekend! 😊

With warmest wishes, Mr Bunting (very proud Head Teacher)