



RECREATION ROAD INFANT SCHOOL

Recreation Road, Norwich, NR2 3PA

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www.recreationroad.com

Head of School: Denise Mattock ♦ Executive Head: Michael Bunting ♦ Assistant Head Teachers: Susanna Manrique and Sheree Brock

Creative, Caring, Collaborative, Resilient, Reflective, Problem-Solver

October 2022 Newsletter

Dear Families

Firstly, I would like to thank you all for the warm welcome I have received. I have enjoyed getting to know you all on the school gate and am gradually beginning to remember names! We have lots of exciting things coming up this term for you to get involved with. Watch this space....

Miss Mattock

Mr Bunting's Federation Update

The first days as Executive Headteacher of our Federation have been a whirlwind, but an exciting one! It's been a pleasure to build relationships with children, staff, parents and carers who are new to me and to get reacquainted with some I'm seeing for the first time in a different environment.

An important goal for our federation this year is to bring the school communities closer together. We have already begun to address this by mixing staff for part of this year's first Learning and Development Day. This will be the first of several federation joint ventures this year, some of which will involve parents and children. Please keep an eye on future newsletters for more information.

This term's main federation improvement focus will be writing. We know that the pandemic has significantly affected writing confidence and outcomes, so the "federation family" will work together to address this. We will seek the views and ideas of parents, along with the children, to ensure that we all work together as one to improve the learning.

While our Heads of School will be responsible for day-to-day school operations, I will be in both schools throughout the week to ensure that the children are happy, safe and learning well. I hope to squeeze in the odd gate duty now and then - if you see me around, I'd love to chat!

Communication between home and school



Communication between home and school is really important, to ensure that we are working together for your children. We use the following communication methods:

Office Email / Telephone: Please email or telephone the school office to report an absence, arrange a meeting, send a message to a member of staff, etc. These are usually picked up during office hours.

Class Email: For non-urgent messages to class staff. Please use the class email address. These will be responded to within three days.

Speak directly to us: Members of the Senior Leadership Team are out on the gates each morning and class teachers are available for a chat at the beginning and end of the day.

We also share information in a number of ways. Look out for our regular newsletters, Facebook posts and information on our website. If you have any issues accessing these, please let us know.



Building strong foundations for a lifelong love of learning



Reminders and Thanks

- Thank you for your support with reminding children to dismount from bicycles and scooters within the school grounds. This has made a huge difference to safety of our whole school community.
- We understand that parking at peak times is a challenge. However, we do ask that for the safety of others, please find alternative parking away from the zig-zag lines or the school / sports centre car park. The reason for this is to ensure that pedestrians using the pavement and other users of the sports centre, notably those with additional needs, are kept safe.
- Thank you for making calls and text outside of the school site. We have asked you to do this for safeguarding reasons and expect the staff to do this also to ensure pictures and videos of children are not taken without the correct permissions.
- A polite request from the office team. There have been many requests for children and adults to use the toilets at the beginning and end of the school day. This requires the office staff to escort people to the toilet at their busiest time of the day, when they should be helping families at the front desk. Please support the team by ensuring your child has used the toilet before leaving home. If you are early there is a public toilet in Heigham Park or local cafes at Earlham Shops may also allow access.
- **We are a nut and sesame free school.** Please do not include any items containing nuts or sesame in packed lunches (this also includes humous). Special diets can be catered for by the kitchen.



Diary Dates

Harvest Celebrations in classes at 2.30pm

Reception – Tuesday 18th October

Year 1 – Monday 17th October

Year 2 – Friday 21st October



HCF Wear Red Day for anti-racism– Friday 21st October

Show and Share in classes at 2.30pm

Reception – Friday 4th November

Year 1 – Wednesday 2nd November

Year 2 – Thursday 3rd November

Parents evening week – WB 7.11.22. More to follow.

All key dates can always be found on our school website, www.recreationroad.com

School Day

Our school day begins at **9am**. Please make sure your child is at school on time. Arriving late means missed learning for your child and disrupted learning for others.

Our gates open at **8.45am**. Classroom doors open at **8.50am**.

If you arrive after **9am**, please enter via the school office to minimise disruption in classes.

Gates will remain open for families to exit after dropping off but not for entrance.

This will also ensure site security once most children are on site.



Pick up time is **3pm**. Gates are open from **2.50pm**.

Late pick ups can be distressing for children that are left in the classroom after their peers have gone home.

Climate Classroom Update

Thanks to all of the fantastic fundraising last year, we can finally announce that we have teamed up with CapCo the people behind Bewilderwood. They have got some amazing plans so watch this space....

Safeguarding

Safeguarding children is central to everything that we do at Recreation Road Infants.

The Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) in school are:

Denise Mattock (Head of School) – main DSL

Alternative DSLs:

Susanna Manrique (Assistant Head – Pastoral)

Sheree Brock (Assistant Head – Learning)

Sharon Winterbone (Family Nurture Practitioner)

Michael Bunting (Executive Head)



If you have any safeguarding concerns or worries about a child, then please do ask to speak to one of us so we can help.

PTA Messages

Thank you to the PTA for your support with the coffee morning. It was great to see so many of you there and very useful to hear your suggestions.

Cake Sale – Friday 14th October on the playground. Please bring any cakes for sale in on the day.

AGM – The PTA Annual general meeting will be held at Recreation Road Infant on Tuesday 1st November at 6.30pm. All welcome.

Your PTA needs you!

Recreation Road's PTA do a great deal for the school, and we would not have such wonderful things as our upcoming climate classroom without them. They are currently looking for new members to continue to support the amazing work that they do. This is also a great opportunity for you to meet new people and enjoy the social side of being a part of the PTA.



TREASURER NEEDED

My first job as President of the PTA, is to ask for your urgent assistance. Our fantastic treasurer Charlotte has decided that now is the time for her to step down. I would like to thank Charlotte for her hard work and offer **an exciting opportunity for a new treasurer to take over**. The role would include monitoring incoming and outgoing funds and helping to continue the important voluntary fundraising work of our PTA. Charlotte will leave the accounts in good order, so it will be a case of looking forward and not back.

If you would like any further information on **joining the PTA** or taking on the **treasurer** role, please contact recroadpta@gmail.com

Special thanks to:

Suz Hinchcliffe who gave up her time to come in to talk to staff about speech and language. We have taken away lots of ideas as a staff team which we will be able to use to support all pupils across the school.

PE

This year, we have embarked on an exciting new PE journey with real PE. Find out more about this at <https://realpe.co.uk/>

As part of this new approach, we would ask you to **supply your child with a pair of plimsolls or trainers (no laces please)** that they can change into for PE lessons. This will ensure the health and safety of your child.

Eco-Club Volunteers

Mrs Martin has restarted Eco-Club for the year.

They are working on lots of exciting outdoor projects from gardening to maintaining the pond.

Eco-Club would love to work with more volunteers.

Eco Club is on a Thursday afternoon.

If you, or a family member wishes to volunteer, please either see Mrs Martin or contact the school office.



School Dates

Autumn term

Children in school: Tuesday 6 September - Friday 21 October 2022

Half-term holiday: Monday 24 - Friday 28 October 2022

Children in school: Monday 31 October - Friday 16 December 2022

Christmas holiday: Monday 19 December - Tuesday 3 January 2023

Spring term

Children in school: Wednesday 4 January - Friday 10 February 2023

Half-term holiday: Monday 13 - Friday 17 February 2023

Children in school: Monday 20 February - Friday 31 March 2023

Easter holiday: Monday 3 - Monday 17 April 2023



Summer term

Children in school: Tuesday 18 April - Friday 26 May 2023 (Monday 1 May is a Bank Holiday)

Half-term holiday: Monday 29 - Friday 2 June 2023

Children in school: Monday 5 June - Friday 21 July 2023



Attendance

Research and Government guidelines on school attendance show that:

Children that attend every day that the school is open, except in a small number of allowable circumstances such as being too ill to attend get the most out of their school experience, including their attainment, wellbeing, and wider life chances. The pupils with the highest attainment have higher rates of attendance compared to those with the lowest attainment.

We understand that children are sometimes unwell and that it can be tricky as parents and carers to get children to school on time every day but please talk to us if you are experiencing any difficulties so that we can support good attendance for every pupil. Please note, no holidays should be taken during term time; these will not be authorised and may attract a fine.

Learner Values

In assemblies this term we have been thinking about our six learner values. So far, we have talked about collaborative, creative and resilient. Next, we will think about caring, reflective and problem solver. Why not talk to us about these values at home.

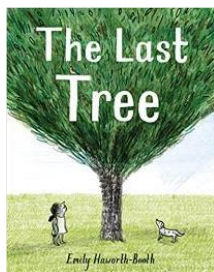
Learner Values spotlight on... Collaborative

A key learner value in the autumn term is Collaborative. We have all been working hard on getting to know our new classmates and being collaborative to work together, showing great levels of teamwork. For each Learner Value, each year group chooses a 'Champion' – a person or organisation who models the value in a way that helps the children learn about it at an age-appropriate level and links with the curriculum. As a result of this approach, the children get to explore the six Learner Values at least three times and in three different ways during their journey through our school. This helps them to develop a richer and more nuanced understanding of each value.

Collaborative Learner Values Champions 2022/23



Reception – Percy the Park Keeper



Year 1 – The Children in 'The Last Tree'



Year 2 – Elton John and Bernie Taupin Lyricist

Explore some Percy the Park Keeper stories at <https://www.percytheparkkeeper.co.uk/pages/stories>

Explore the story of The Last Tree at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qQEUvk6CEJY>

Find out more about Elton John and Bernie Taupin at [https://kids.kiddle.co/Elton John](https://kids.kiddle.co/Elton_John) and [https://kids.kiddle.co/Bernie Taupin](https://kids.kiddle.co/Bernie_Taupin)

50 Things to do Before you Leave Rec Road Update

Reception have been working on number 9 - ride a vehicle through an obstacle course



Year 1 will be working towards number 18 - looking after a local green space, by completing a tree survey in and around the area.



Year 2 have already begun work towards number 28 - choose the school's Charity of the Year, and plan ways for the school to raise money for it and number 45 - cast their vote in a school referendum. They have voted to choose the World Land Trust as our charity this year. Year 2 have also begun number 32 - have swimming lessons in the school pool.

