



Withernsea Primary School

‘All- Aspire and Love Learning ’

February 2017

Newsletter

Parents’ evenings

A huge, thank you for a good turnout for Parents’ Evening; 85% of parents were able to talk to their child’s class teacher and discuss their learning and progress. It really helps when we can work together to support your child – thank you. We will be looking later this term at some further ideas to develop greater children involvement with these appointments in future and may pilot some projects in different year groups across the school.

Anti-Bullying and Cyberbullying

We have used some advice from the DFE and made a booklet to go with this newsletter; (years 4, 5 and 6 will bring this home). The booklet includes advice and things to talk through with your child/children. We monitor this area carefully and thankfully have very few occasions where it is a problem. However, it becomes more of a problem as children get older - so if they are aware of what is and isn’t acceptable, knowledgeable around the issue and parents know where to go for advice and support hopefully it minimises the chances of it being a problem. In our last anti-bullying questionnaire we did identify pupils with special educational needs as more likely to be vulnerable to internet dangers - they lacked understanding, possibly would be more trusting and had less awareness around the dangers of the internet. During Internet Safety Week we will be targeting groups of pupils to get across safety messages but hope that parents can support this as well.

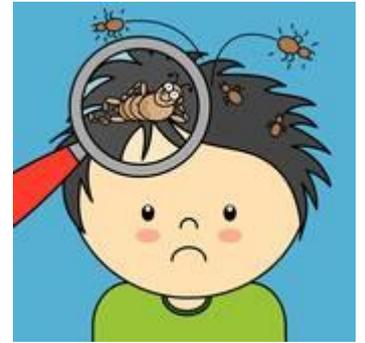
HEADLICE ALERT!

We are currently experiencing a high number of cases of children throughout the school infected with headlice. In order for us to try and keep this problem under control, please continue to check your child's hair on a weekly basis.

If all parents are vigilant and adopt our **'Once a week - take a peek'** moto and treat as necessary, this keeps the problem down to a minimum. However, in order for this to be effective, **everyone** needs to do this.

Please ensure one night each week you have a look at your child's hair in order to avoid getting lots of headlice problems.

Thank you for your support.



Last term we looked at Spelling and RE to evaluate these subjects

English – Report on our Spelling Focus – Autumn 2016

Learning environment for spelling

Where it was strongest- there were lots of resources for children to draw on **and** they were being used by the children. This included a variety of displays but also other resources in addition to dictionaries- resource folders, sound mats, high frequency word lists, diagraph sound sheets, magnetic letters, phoneme frames, tricky words, wow words, posters for spelling rules etc.

Ways forward

- One or two classrooms had displays but they were not being used by the children- teachers may wish to model this or prompt children to ensure their use. Teachers to check they have the best range of resources possible to support children- spelling is a major area of development in the writing criteria for the end of the key stages so is vital we all work on this area so the children can fulfil all the expected criteria.

Children valuing spelling accuracy

This is an area for development. Some children said it was only important if doing a piece of work in your assessment book, another said it didn't matter if it was another subject like maths because that was about numbers.

Some children did place more value in spelling especially over the final draft and also it was important so people could read your work accurately, to do well in SATs and to apply for jobs. Some children did start to talk about visual strategies and if a word didn't look right they might ask their friend or write it several times and look for the best version.



Ways forward

- Have an assembly themed week about the importance of spelling to raise higher expectations
- Teachers to have raised expectations especially in other subjects e.g. in maths still expect spelling accuracy. (This will need a personalised approach e.g. know who is being slap dash and who is trying hard with their spelling – although the national criteria makes no allowances for dyslexia).
- Children do seem to understand the importance in a final draft - but need to stress importance in writing that is not being drafted as an everyday expectation especially where there are many resources available to support spelling accuracy in class. May need to reduce our expectations – less written but of better quality.

Need a growth mindset approach - we can all get better at spelling with practise but also pupils need a good self-awareness and if they know they find spelling difficult - what strategies are they going to employ for themselves to ensure their spelling is of an acceptable standard.

Strategies to support effective learning of spellings

KS 1

Spellings taught through phonics. Phonics helpful to reinforce their knowledge – children like the games. Children used the additional resources well such as sound mats to support them with their writing.

KS 2

Most effective when activities done in class regularly – using strategies as suggested in previous years- rainbows, bubble writing, word searches, cross words, pyramid spelling – the critical point is that activities happen regularly in class and words are practised.

Most children seem to prefer this to the weekly test ‘you get more time to practise them and learn them better.’

One strategy that the children liked was an impromptu weekly spelling test of 5 words off the required spelling lists- informally done so they knew which words they needed to follow up and practise. They didn’t know which words they were going to get.

The children that normally practised at home still did so but many as before continue not to do so which is a shame as that additional practise can make big differences.

Ways forward

- They do need to be able to spot spelling mistakes for themselves- e.g. if a word doesn’t look right – many children do not seem to be able to do this-we can practise this.

Ensure spelling is practised and taught regularly with a variety of activities rather than copied out – at home use look, write, cover, check.

The personalised interventions had an excellent focus on spelling and resources supported the learners well in developing their spelling skills.

There are many positives and some real strengths in school but we need to keep up the focus around spellings.

RE was our other subject for focus.

There were new medium term plans introduced this year so we checked to ensure we were following them and have made some alterations to ensure we have improved the plans to deliver the units.

The other changes included covering a wider number of religions so pupils are aware of different religions and their different beliefs and different practices. RE is about knowing about different religions and beliefs so we can understand those religions- it is not about practising or believing in any particular religion.

Strengths in this area included children's enjoyment of lessons, good understanding of the diversity of religions across the UK.

Improvements we can make in RE – make the work more challenging with greater advancing and deeper learning tasks - ensuring we cover work from all sections of the planning building up a greater coherence of learning.

Attendance for January - We have a school target of 95% overall to reach.

Thank you for good attendance and congratulations to Mrs Todd's class, 2HT (95.7%) for very impressive attendance during the month of January.

Class	Percentage		Percentage
F2CG – Miss C Good	91.1%	3ML – Mr M Lindgren	92.2%
F2AB –Miss A Brown	93.6%	4CC – Mr C Cundy	93.4%
F2SN – Mrs S Noble	93.7%	4CW – Mrs C Wright	88.6%
1TS – Mrs D Thomson / Miss E Smith	91.3%	4FS – Miss F Seager	90.4%
1ST – Mrs E Sansam / Mrs D Thomson	91.2%	5RE – Mrs R Egan	93.9%
1JT – Miss J Teall	94.1%	5JW – Mr J Welbourn	90.4%
2HT – Mrs H Todd	95.7%	5KB – Mrs K Banks	92.7%
2TK – Mrs T Knight	93.4%	6EA – Miss E Atwood	91.8%
2BK – Mrs C Bagnall / Mrs S Kemp	91.1%	6RL – Mrs R Lindgren	91.0%
3LF – Mrs L Feeney	93.3%	6LH – Miss L Harrison	93.0%

Attendance

We are concerned about pupil attendance from the Autumn Term. 70 pupils had attendance of less than 90% which means they missed more than 7 days of learning last term. Hopefully there will be much better attendance for the spring term. It is part of the Ofsted judgements – to maintain our 'good' judgement they are looking that, 'Pupils value their education. Few are absent or persistently absent (below 90%). No groups of pupils are disadvantaged by low attendance.

The attendance of pupils who have had exceptionally high rates of absence is showing marked and sustained improvement.'

If you have problems regarding your child's attendance we do want to work with you to improve it, so please have a discussion with our Home-School team.

Year 6

It is crucial we have excellent attendance for pupils in Year 6 as we are in the last term before SATS!

‘Annie’ rehearsal schedule

The rehearsals will be on a Wednesday in the North hall from 3.20 – 4.30 pm. Your child must attend their rehearsal. After half term the children will receive a new rehearsal schedule.

- Wednesday 1 February – Maids/Servants and main speaking parts
- Wednesday 8 February – Main speaking parts
- Wednesday 15 February – All cast members

If you have any problems, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Knight – thank you.



Dates for your diary

Robinwood Residential visit

Monday 13 February – Wednesday 15 February 2017



WORLD BOOK DAY

Thursday 2 March – World Book Day – children and staff to come dressed as a Book Character.





Withernsea Primary School

Uniform Price List – effective from February 2017

SWEATSHIRTS (with logo):-

Chest size: - 24-32 = **£8.50**

34-40 = **£9.00**



CARDIGANS (with logo) :-

Chest size: - 24-32 = **£10.50**

34-40 = **£13.00**

Sweatshirts, Cardigans and Fleeces can be ordered in larger sizes

FLEECES (with logo):- **can be ordered with payment taken up front** (usually take at least 2 weeks to arrive)

3-4 yrs, 5-6 yrs, 7-8 yrs, 9-10 yrs, 11-12 yrs, 13 yrs. - **£13.00**

P.E. T-shirts (plain sky blue):- can be ordered and cost **£3.00**

WPS book bags – each child is given one upon admission to the school. Replacements can be obtained at a cost of **£4.75**.

Uniform can be purchased or ordered from the South Office.

Term Dates – 2016/2017

Spring Term 2017

Close for half term – Friday 17 February

Re-open Monday 27 February

Close Friday 7 April at **2.20 pm**

Please note the school will be closed in the afternoon to F1 (pm) children on Friday 7 April.



Summer Term 2017

Open - Tuesday 25 April

Close for May Day - Monday 1 May

Close for half term - Friday 26 May

Re-open - Monday 5 June

Close - Tuesday 25 July at **2.20 pm**

Please note the school will be closed in the afternoon to F1 (pm) children on Tuesday 25 July.



Term Dates – 2017/2018



Autumn Term 2017

Open Tuesday 5 September

School closed on Friday 6 October – Training day

Close for half term – Friday 27 October

Re-open – Monday 6 November

Close – Friday 22 December at **2.20 pm**

Please note the school will be closed in the afternoon to F1 (pm) children on – Friday 22 December.



Spring Term 2018

Open Tuesday 9 January

Close for half term – Friday 9 February

Re-open Monday 19 February

Close Friday 23 March at **2.20 pm**

Please note the school will be closed in the afternoon to F1 (pm) children on Friday 23 March.



Summer Term 2018

Open - Tuesday 10 April

Close for May Day - Monday 7 May

Close for half term - Friday 25 May

Re-open - Monday 4 June

Close – Friday 20 July at **2.20 pm**

Please note the school will be closed in the afternoon to F1 (pm) children on Friday 20 July.