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Toftwood Infant and Junior School Federation
Executive Headteacher - Mrs Joanna Pedlow

23rd November 2017

Newsletter 5



Attendance Award

We are looking at the classes with the top attendance in each class each week.

Week beg 13th November

Infant School

100% Miss McTavish

Junior School

100% RL5



Children in Need

We would like to thank all the children and parents who helped make Children in Need successful. The Infant school raised £303.96 and the Junior school raised £373.82. A special well done to Joshua who raised £20 on the day by staying silent throughout the day whilst still carrying on with his learning! Thank you also to Kailan who sat and counted all of the money at the Junior school for us, it was a great help.



Neatherd Roast Dinner Day

Ten children from year 2 and year 6 went to Neatherd for their annual roast dinner day last week. They were so impeccably behaved and we were so proud of how they interacted with the other invited guests too. We were treated to a full roast dinner and fruit crumble. Delicious!



Christmas Lunch

Christmas Lunch is fast approaching for the children! Thank you to the parents who have returned their child's lunch form, but there are still some slips outstanding. Please can all slips be returned by Tuesday 28th November with online payments made for those at the Junior school. All bookings **MUST** be received by this date, as the food has to be ordered.

If your child is bringing a packed lunch we still need the form back so we know everyone has responded.



Mrs Chapman's Class Assembly

Mrs Chapman's class are having an assembly for their parents on the 29th November and we would like all slips returned before this date so we know who is attending. We look forward to seeing you there.



Salvation Army Nativity Festival

The Salvation Army are holding a Nativity Festival at their base in St Nicholas Street, Dereham on Saturday 25th November, 10am to 4pm. The federation have sent some Nativity artwork along for display, so do go along to have a look if you are able to. There will be refreshments, a cake stall, Christmas goods and a children's craft table. Thank you to all of those children that contributed and represented our federation.



Parent Support Adviser

Just a reminder that Mrs Thompson, our Parent support Adviser is available on Friday mornings especially for families in the federation. You can call the Infant School to make an appointment or ring Mrs Thompson on 0793 0609168 or email alisonclusterpsa@dereham.norfolk.sch.uk She can help and advise on areas such as sleeping, behavioural issues or any issue that may be affecting your family at home.



Car Park Gates

Please keep the gates to the school car park entrance in William Cowper Drive clear at all times. This is for emergencies. We have had a recent incident of a car parked across the entrance, blocking it. We appreciate your co-operation.



Children's University - Autumn Graduation

On Monday 20th November, 9 children from Toftwood Infant School and 13 children from Toftwood Junior attended the autumn graduation. This took place at Gressenhall Rural Life Museum. The children took part in a Victorian school lesson before receiving their certificates.

In total, the children from Toftwood Junior School collected 42 certificates. This means that the children have taken part in over 1260 hours of out-of-school-hours learning and activities. The children from the Infant School collected 16 certificates, amounting to over 480 hours.

Congratulations to all our graduates.



Tag Rugby - Juniors

On Thursday 16th November, 10 pupils from Years 4-6, entered into the West Norwich and Dereham Schools Partnership, Tag Rugby Tournament. The morning was focused on drills and tactics, run by pupils from the local high school. The afternoon was then spent competing against other schools in 8 minute matches.

Our competitors showed excellent sporting qualities, cheering each other on, motivating one another and working as a team. They were courteous to all and listened well to instructions. They played 6 matches against some tough competition and although didn't win them all, showed determination and team spirit through-out.

They did themselves proud, and all agreed they had a great day and hope to improve upon their skills next year.

Thank you to Mrs Hamilton-Duirs for taking the children and to Mrs Pease for helping yet again to enable the visit to take place.



Christmas Plays

Year 2's Christmas play this year is Sleeping Beauty. Tickets for this will be going out on Monday 27th November in your child's book bag so please keep an eye out for these.

Reception & Year 1's play is 'Baubles'. Tickets for their play will be going out on Monday 4th December.

Each ticket gives you entry for 2 Adults only, with no younger children allowed. If you have no one to have your younger child and would like to see the play, please do contact the Infant School office as we can arrange for you to bring them along to the dress rehearsal. Please note this is not an additional ticket, but a replacement one.



Christmas Charity Collection

The Infant School always have a charity collection for their Christmas plays and this year we are collecting for **Scotty's Little Soldiers**.

Our charity collection is always aimed at supporting local charities, or charities who have offered support to our children and families through difficult times.

Scotty's Little Soldiers is a local military charity dedicated to supporting children & young people who have lost a parent whilst serving in the British Armed Forces.

Inspired by the experience of Army widow Nikki Scott following the death of her husband Cpl Lee Scott in Afghanistan in 2009, the charity is currently providing assistance to hundreds of bereaved Forces children around the UK.

Support offered to the children includes fun activities such as holiday breaks and group events, personal development assistance through educational grants and access to professional bereavement counselling.

We thank you in advance if you are able to make a donation to this worthy cause. Collection boxes are available at the end of the performance or you can bring in a donation before the end of term if you would like to contribute.

If anyone else would like to contribute, you can send in a donation to either school office in an envelope marked 'Scotty's little soldiers'. Please do this by **Wednesday 13th December**.

We are sure they will be grateful for any support to help the children affected in this way.



Vocabulary Ninja

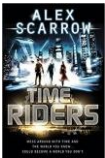
The children in the federation are using 'Vocabulary Ninja' which introduces a new word every day to develop their vocabulary.

This helps the children to learn new and interesting words to use in their writing.

Please do take some time to look at this with your child and share in their learning with them.

The website is <https://vocabularyninja.wordpress.com/> or you can follow them on Twitter.

There are words for KS1 and KS2 and although Year 6 use a slightly different system, it is useful for all children.



Author Visit

We have secured a visit from the author Alex Scarrow on Tuesday 28th November for the children in Year 5 and 6. He has written many books in the Time Riders series.

He will be selling copies of his books at £5 each, instead of the retail price of £6.99. If your child would like to buy one or more of these then please send them in with money on the day in an envelope marked 'Alex Scarrow book sale.' Please mark it with the amount they have brought with them. They can then take this and purchase the books if they wish to. Please remind your child that they are responsible for the money and keeping it safe.



PE kits

Please could everyone check that their child has not brought home a PE kit or any clothing in error. A PE kit has gone missing in Year 3, in a Nike bag that came into school but cannot be found as well as a black hoodie and other items. Items do go missing and we cannot put out a plea every time an item is lost, so we ask you now to label all items and when you wash your child's items they bring home, please do check that they are theirs and return any that may belong to anyone else. We cannot be held responsible for items that go missing but we do ask everyone to be vigilant and ensure all children have the correct items.



Friends of Fred Nicholson School - Christmas Fayre

On Saturday 2nd December between 2pm - 4pm Fred Nicholson are holding a Christmas fayre. Come and meet Father Christmas! There are stalls, raffles, face painting, refreshments and lots more! Please go along and show your support if you are able to.



Lunch money at Juniors

Thank you very much to all of those parents and carers who have made sure they have paid their lunch money in advance of their children having the meals.

There are still some families that we are having to chase, which takes up a considerable amount of time in the office unnecessarily. All lunches must be paid for in advance, we wouldn't go to Macdonald's and ask for a meal and then pay for it a couple of days later or not at all! The staff in the office are able to take payments over the phone if you are unable to access the system and you can pay in advance for several days or weeks at a time.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joanna Pedlow', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Joanna Pedlow