

SUMMER 2 NEWSLETTER 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! I hope you have all had a good Whitsun break and enjoyed the good weather!

Attendance

Our attendance for the Summer first half term was 94.93%. We are still aiming for it to be at least 96% in line with Government expectations. Whatever their age, it is so important for children to be in school as much as possible in order for them to achieve the best they can. Can I remind you, of the fact that if your child has 90% attendance over an 11 year period, they will miss over 1 year's education. For this reason we ask you to consider carefully every absence your child has.

Safeguarding

May I remind you that the Governors, Head teacher and staff of Redcastle Family School, through the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy (held in the School Office), endeavour to ensure that all child protection issues, or where there are reasonable grounds to suspect an issue, will be dealt with appropriately including reporting to the duty social services officer, who will act on the concern. We are legally bound, in our duty of care, to make referrals. Do let us know, for any reason, if your child is upset or distressed when s/he comes to school.

GDPR

Thank you to all parents who have returned their forms. Please ensure these are returned to the School Office at the earliest opportunity. Unfortunately we will be unable to take birthday photographs at our school parties due to taking account of individual preferences.

Reception and Year 1 & 2 Children

The safety of all the children is of utmost importance to us, and therefore we would just like to remind you that all Reception, Year 1 & 2 children must not be left unaccompanied in the playground in the mornings. **An adult must stay with them until their Class Teacher collects them from the playground at 8.40am.**

Hometime Arrangements

On Fridays, the children from Years 3, 4, 5, 6, are often on the top playground. Parents are not allowed on the playground whilst the children are being taught / playing games. Can I also remind you that all children must be collected on time at the end of the school day, by the designated parent/carer. Please ensure your child is aware of hometime arrangements, i.e. if they are to wait for an adult to collect them, or they are to go home alone or to go to the after school club. You **MUST** contact the school office if there is a change, i.e. another adult will be collecting your child – we will not let your child go home unless we are notified.

Mobile and land line phone numbers

If you have changed your contact number please let the office know A.S.A.P. I cannot express how important this is especially if we have to contact you in an emergency.

Mobile/Internet Safety

As your children become more and more reliant on the Internet for both school work and entertainment, we must all, as a community, be more aware for the need to monitor the sites your child visits. In school, through classroom activities and discussion, we highlight positive uses of technology, but also ways in which we can all keep safe through responsible use of the internet, our mobile phones and social media (e.g. WhatsApp, Facebook etc...). At home you can ensure the security systems on your computers, tablets and mobiles are up to date and also, please talk to your child about the dangers of accessing unfamiliar sites, or giving parents' e-mail/Facebook/Twitter etc.... details to strangers.

Food in School

We continue to plan timetabled cookery lessons for all children. Several younger children get upset when they have not got their containers in school so can I please remind you to provide a container with your child's name so they can bring home their food to share with you.

Parking

Please be considerate about where you park your car when children are being dropped off and collected from school. It is important that we remain vigilant about the children's safety and considerate of the local residents.

Smoking

Please do not smoke outside the school gates. There are signs there to remind you.

Behaviour Policy

Our Behaviour Policy is available on our website. Please talk to your children regularly about being good ambassadors for their family and school.

School Council

The School Council have held several meetings and have held discussions to prioritise issues raised. Their role is to be ambassadors for our school.

Governors

We would like to thank several Governors who joined in with our school trips. We appreciate their continued involvement this year.

I will continue to be available most mornings in the playgrounds to talk to parents. Do let me know what we can do to make Redcastle Family school the best it can be. We now have a Suggestions box in the main entrance for you to leave comments. Similarly, teaching staff are always willing to talk to parents about any matters you may have concerning your children. If, on the very rare occasion, a teacher cannot see you, e.g. as they have to attend afterschool training or meetings, an appointment can be arranged at a mutually convenient date and time. Teachers may also on occasion request to meet with parents to discuss your child(ren).

Dates for Your Diary:

- 4th June** - **Start of Summer Term 2**
- 11th June - Year 1 Phonics screening check week
- 20th June - Sports Events pm
- 21st June - Sports Day pm
- 25th June - Book Fair until 28th June
- 25th June - Art Day activities for Reception Years 1, 2, & 3
- 26th June - Art Day activities continues for Years 4, 5, 6
- 28th June - Year 6 trip to Thorpe Woodlands
- 3rd July - New Reception class open evening
- 4th July - Parents & children Summer Fun Event pm (including the opportunity to celebrate your child's work)
- 5th July - Years 3, 4 & 5 School trip to Colchester Zoo
- 6th July - Year 6 Leavers Assembly
- 10th July - Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 School trip to Banham Zoo
- 10th July - New Nursery class open evening
- 11th July - Reading Café Year 4
- 12th July - School Discos
- 13th July - Bacon roll sales - fundraising for school
- 19th July - Nursery & Reception parents invitation to discuss Learning Journeys
- 20th July - Nursery Summer party
- 24th July - 100% Attendance awards
- 24th July** - **School finishes for Summer holiday**

After School Clubs will end on 6th July

Premier Sports Clubs every day before school, during school and after school on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

6th September - Start of Autumn Term 1

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me by email or phone. I also welcome appointments to meet in person. Finally, thank you for all your continued support.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs Liz Russell
Acting Headteacher