



THE ACORN NEWSLETTER

Issue 158
20.10.22



Mighty oaks from little acorns grow

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we end this half term, I would like to extend my thanks to the whole school community for welcoming me to the school. I have thoroughly enjoyed my first half term and it was lovely to talk to so many of you as you visited school for parents' evening last week. I hope that you found this opportunity to talk to your child's class teacher useful and thank you very much for contributing your views and ideas about the school. To date, we have received 69 forms back to school.

Similar to the staff and pupil views, that I gathered earlier in the term, there seemed to be many common themes in the responses. I would like to share with you some of the main views:

What makes the school outstanding?

Many of you commented on the following:

- 1) The passion and enthusiasm of our excellent teaching staff;
- 2) The varied and rich curriculum;
- 3) The grounds and high standards within the school environment;
- 4) The nurturing care provided by staff;
- 5) The high standards of work and behaviour across the school;

It was also lovely to read that many of you had commented how happy your child is at our school.

What could be resumed following the lifting of Covid restrictions / what the school could do better?

- 1) More trips – many of you commented on the fact that you would like to see more trips offered. This is something that staff are keen to provide. However, since September, bus prices and availability have made this more challenging. A recent quote for one key stage group to make a visit to a historic site was nearly £2,000 just for the bus cost. This would work out at around £20 per child, just for the bus. We are very aware of the financial pressures on families at the moment, with rising fuel and food bills so we will try and gauge your thoughts on trip costs prior to booking visits or paying deposits. We are very lucky that the Friends of the School have kindly agreed to pay £10 per child towards any trips or enrichment activities for every child in school this year. Thank you to the Friends of School and for the support they receive from our families.
- 2) More opportunities to come into school – this included working with your child, having lunch with your child and looking at your child's work. After half term, we will look at how we can invite parents and carers into school for more events.
- 3) More clubs and sporting events – we will look at the range of clubs and events that we offer through school and how we can increase these opportunities for pupils.
- 4) Parking – many of you mentioned about problems with parking. This included not enough parking but also a concern about the inappropriate and dangerous driving and parking of adults at drop off and pick up time. I will be seeking advice from Suffolk County Council about measures we could take to reduce the safety risks at these times.

Thank you very much for sharing your views about the school. We will endeavour to listen to the ideas provided in order to further build on the strengths of the school.

We hope that you have a safe and enjoyable half term holiday and look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 31st October.

Kind regards
Holly Marchand
Headteacher



ARTSDAY



The year six pupils attended an Arts Day at the Sir John Leman High School last Friday. The theme for the day was Africa. Children were split into groups and did activities which culminated in a performance shared with parents. Children studied Tingatinga art and created paintings of African animals, wrote film scripts based in Africa, acted out some of the Anansi stories in drama and composed music to tell the story of animals living in Africa. It was great!

A request from the Teachers...

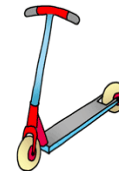
Please could you stand in sight of your child's classroom door at the end of the day to assist with matching children to their parents and carers. Thank you.

Family Group Photos

Friday 4th November, 8.00am
If you wish to have your child(ren) photographed with siblings from another setting, please remember to return your slip to the school office so that we know how many families we are expecting.

Scooters

Thank you for your support in not allowing bikes and scooters to be ridden in the playground and on the pathways around school. This is for everyone's safety.



Dogs

Please be reminded that dogs are not allowed on the school premises. Thank you.



Diary Dates

Thu 20 Oct - Last day of the half term
Fri 21 Oct - PD Day
Mon 24 Oct - Half Term Week
Fri 4 Nov - Individual School Photos
Thu 17 Nov - Y6 Crucial Crew
Fri 18 Nov - Children in Need Day
Fri 2 Dec - Christmas Foodbank Collection
Thu 8 Dec - Flu Immunisations Mop-up
Thu 8 Dec - Y1/2 Performance 9.30am
Thu 8 Dec - Y1/2 Performance 5.30pm

Fri 9 Dec - Christmas Lunch/Christmas Jumper Day
Mon 12 Dec - Y3/4 Performance 2pm
Mon 12 Dec - Y3/4 Performance 6pm
Tue 13 Dec - EYFS Performance 10am
Tue 13 Dec - EYFS Performance 2pm
Wed 14 Dec - Y5/6 Performance 2pm
Wed 14 Dec - Y5/6 Performance 6pm
Thu 15 Dec - Christmas Party Day
Fri 16 Dec - Last Day of Term
Tue 3 Jan 23 - PD Day
Wed 4 Jan 23 - Pupils Return to School



Safeguarding

If you have any safeguarding concerns about any pupil at our school, please contact one of our designated safeguarding leads: Mr Brown, Mrs Jennings, Mrs Warnes, Mr Marchand or Mrs Gill.