

Ormesby Village Infant & Junior Schools Federation

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HEADTEACHER'S TERMLY NEWSLETTER – SUMMER TERM 2025

Welcome Back!

We hope that you have all had a relaxing Easter break and we hope you, like us, are all looking forward to what successes and achievements the final term in this academic year can bring. Our Summer Events' calendar has been sent home and is available on our websites, so that you can see what opportunities we have coming up. We are sure you will agree that there are lots of exciting things to enjoy for everyone.

Football Progress

Last term, we got to share how proud we are of all of our pupils who have represented the Years 5 and 6 Boys' and Girls' Football Teams over the season because their endeavour and efforts have enabled the teams to win their respective North divisions and qualify for league grand final matches against the winners of the other South divisions. The girls will face Woodlands and the boys will face Cliff Park. Moreover, the league fixtures have run alongside the cup fixtures and similarly, the girls have qualified for the final against Martham, whilst the boys still have their semi-final to play against Wroughton. We wish both teams all the best for their up-and-coming fixtures.

VE Day Celebrations

On Thursday 8th May, our Federation of schools with the support of the PTFA are looking to host a themed-day of activities to commemorate VE (Victory in Europe) Day. We are asking children to come to school wearing red, white and/or blue representing the colours of the United Kingdom. Pupils will also be able to experience a street party picnic lunch prepared by our Norse caterers. To achieve this, we are hoping to combine both Infant and Junior pupils together at the Junior school where they can enjoy games from that era. If the weather proves to be inclement, pupils will have a street party picnic lunch in their own respective schools. Our Infant and Junior leaders will also be taking part in a small memorial service to mark the occasion.

Honey Bees

After successfully establishing a hive of honey bees last year, we hope to be able to get small groups of children (who have parental consent) taking part in hive inspections over the course of the Summer term (weather permitting). This will provide the children with an interesting and educational experience, which will generate a passion for bee-keeping in the future. Conservation of bees also forms part of our new plan for climate and energy sustainability, alongside reducing our carbon footprint, recycling, composting, lowering food waste and saving water and electricity.

Staffing Update

Mrs. McNulty will be returning from her maternity leave towards the end of June and I am sure she is very much looking forward to finishing off the year with Mrs. Bird and Bumblebee class.

Governors

We will be undertaking another Governor Challenge Day this term, where our Governors visit to observe and to speak to staff and pupils about varying themes linked to our Federation Development Plan. The focus this term will be ensuring pupils with SEND are effectively supported across the Federation and seeing the impact some of our new SEND systems and approaches have had on raising the SEND provision in both schools. After a successful parent-governor application, we are pleased to announce that Mrs. Jane Bennett will now be joining our

Governing Body. I have no doubt she will add to our already effective team. If the Governors can be of any help to you, as parents, please inform the office, who will advise you on how best to contact the Chair of Governors, Miss. Lauren Gardiner.

Statutory Assessments

As is the norm at this time of year, the SATS will be taking place for Year 6. Children in Year 4 will be sitting their multiplication check and pupils in Year 1 will be completing their Phonics Screening Check, along with those pupils from Year 2 who were unable to achieve the necessary threshold from their previous school year. As a result, we will be ensuring the pupils work as hard as they can to improve their understanding and reduce any gaps in their learning. This is still a fantastic opportunity to showcase what the pupils know and will certainly give us areas to work on further with them before they move on in their educational journey. We have spent key moments of our year preparing them for these tests and we have every faith each child will do their very best when the time comes. We have every faith that our Boosting sessions for Year 6 pupils that began at the beginning of the Spring term will reassure and build confidence. A short information session regarding the Year 6 SATS will be held on Wednesday 30th April from 3:00pm for parents.

Year 6 SATS Breakfasts

We are thrilled to be able to offer the Year 6 pupils the opportunity to have free SATS breakfasts each day during their SATS week, once again this year. It is a fantastic way to not only calm the nerves, but to also generate that sense of team spirit and camaraderie. A letter and tasty menu has been sent home to take a look through and we hope pupils will look forward to taking part. We are sure there is something available, which will tantalise their taste buds. If your child is a vegetarian or has a specific dietary requirement this is not a problem, as an alternative will be available. Please inform Year 6 staff, if this is the case. This offer is by no means compulsory, but it would be amazing to see everyone there alongside each other; relaxed and ready to start each day in the right frame of mind.

Residential and Trips

This term, our Year 5 pupils will be attending Whitwell Hall for their residential during the week 12th May – 16th May. This will be enjoyed by all attending and it will be a fitting experience for our pupils before they join Year 6. A briefing after school will be taking place soon for those parents and pupils attending on Tuesday 29th April at 3:30pm in the Year 5 classroom. As has been throughout the year, class teachers continue to organise trips to enhance the learning opportunities open to the children. Keep your eyes peeled for letters regarding future trips.

Ormesby University Graduation

After launching Ormesby University last year, we are hoping children have been busily collecting their signatures for attending different extra-curricular activities and clubs. On Wednesday 9th July, we will be conducting another graduation ceremony for all those pupils who have completed their University booklets in St. Margaret's Church. Final day to collect signatures on will be Friday 13th June and no further will be accepted after this date. This will give the school sufficient time to understand the pupil numbers involved for the ceremony and order the correct number of robes. We are looking forward to seeing all those who graduate.

Summer Fayre

We are hoping to host another Summer Fayre on Friday 11th July 2025 on our Junior playing field. Last year was a true success, despite the rain forcing us to move indoors, and we hope this year will be the same. Please contact our PTFA at ormesbyvillageschoolspta@gmail.com, if you are a business owner or work for a company that could help us, we would like to request donations of larger, more valuable prizes that can be entered into our raffle draw to increase the desire to enter. Smaller prize donations for tombola would also be appreciated.

Norfolk County Music Festival Success

During the Spring Term again this year, we took approximately seventy pupils from across the Federation of schools to take part in the Norfolk County Music Festival at the King's Centre in Norwich to demonstrate how much we love singing and to celebrate their centenary year. The children performed superbly and they were recognised for their efforts coming away with the grade of Highly Commended. We were all very proud of them. Thank you to the families, who were able to spectate and cheer us on. A huge thank you must also go to Mrs. White-Joubert for all her efforts with rehearsal and organisation.

Summer Ensemble of Music

Once more, we will be hosting an evening of musical talent on Wednesday 9th July beginning at 5:30pm in our Junior Hall. Here children can showcase their musical skill and courage in performing in front of a live audience. Last year's event was a brilliant spectacle.

Sporting Enrichment

Premier Sports will be providing further sporting enrichment this term at both schools on Friday 23rd May, this will be Cricket at Infants and American Football at Juniors. We will also be able to take part in our final virtual competition in athletics, so we will see how our schools do against all the other schools participating. We will again be holding our Infant and Junior Sports' Days, where we hope the weather holds out for us all on both occasions.

Attendance and Punctuality

Attendance has continued to be positive year, so far, but our attendance expectations remain high and we desire a figure above the National Expectation (96%). This term, we again wish to see everybody at school, and on time, every day. Please remember, if your child is ill, you must ring the school to inform us. If the absence is going to be longer than the appropriate quarantine period for the more contagious illnesses (a list can be found on our websites under Sickness Absence Information), you will need to phone in again to inform us. If we do not hear from you, our office staff will give you a courtesy call to find out where your child is. Once again this term, letters regarding low attendance (below 90%) or persistent lateness will be sent home as a reminder to families about the importance of ensuring their child is in school. We have a duty to pass information to the Local Authority on all persistent absences, which could lead to further action from them. Towards the end of the Summer Term there will be an Attendance Reward Trip to recognise and celebrate those pupils who have shown consistently strong attendance throughout this academic year. This may be on Thursday 10th July, but more details will be sent nearer the time. Eligibility criteria for this trip was shared at the beginning of the academic year.

Leavers' Assemblies

The Year 2 and Year 6 Leavers' Assemblies will be held on the final day of term on Friday 18th July for each school in turn. The Junior assembly will be held in the morning at 10:00AM at St. Margaret's Church, Ormesby and the Infant assembly will be held in the afternoon at 2:00PM in the Infant school hall. Further details will be released nearer the time. There will also be other Leavers' events, such as BBQs towards the end of the term, where we can all join together to celebrate the children's contributions to the respective schools over their time with us.

Parking, Cycling and Scooting

We know that it gets very busy on the roads outside the schools, but please show consideration towards others. Please do not park on the zig-zag lines, mount kerbs at any point nor block the driveways of houses near the school. Alternatively, you could consider going green (part of our climate plan) and select another method of getting to school other than a car, or simply walk. Please note if you are cycling/scooting to school and wish to leave your bike/scooter in the bike shed, please dismount and push them to the shed to avoid any unnecessary accidents.

Concerns and Issues

May we remind you that if you have any concerns or issues within any area of the school, we cannot help if we do not know about them, so please communicate with us. We will not always get it right, but we do our very best to ensure we do. We will endeavour to the best of our ability to alleviate any concerns you may have promptly. If I am ever unavailable, please also feel free to share concerns with other senior leaders in the schools. As a final note if you have any safeguarding issues, please contact the school to speak to a Designated Safeguarding Lead. These are: Mr. Young, Miss. McMylor, Mrs. Holt (JNR) and Mrs. Vaughan (INF).

We hope you all have a good final term,

Bradley Young – **Headteacher**