

Ormesby Village Infant & Junior Schools Federation

Headteacher: Mr. Bradley Young



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HEADTEACHER'S TERMLY NEWSLETTER – SPRING TERM 2026

Happy New Year!

Welcome back. I hope you all had lovely Christmas breaks and, like us, you are all looking forward to what events and achievements 2026 will bring. This is quite a short Spring term, particularly the second half of it when we finish for Easter just before the end of March. Please use the items in this newsletter as a good source of information for the term to come.

Our Infant Gates

In the February half-term, our Infant entrance and exit electronic gates are going to be replaced by manually operated ones, similar to the ones at our Junior school. Since my arrival five years ago, the electronic gates have only ever worked intermittently and need continual repair at great cost to our premises budget. Once the new ones have been installed, we will expect all those using the gateways to ensure they are shut behind them on entry and exit to keep everyone safe. Those approved to use the car park, will also need to operate the car driveway gates themselves, shutting them once they are through for the same reason. New signage will ensure there are plenty of reminders about our safety expectations.

Our Expectations for Behaviour

Our Federation of Schools has the highest of expectations for positive behaviour. We know that all behaviour is a form of communication, whether it be positive or negative. Each child is unique in how they have developed to manage their own behaviour and as a result each child is positioned on such a line of development with some children being more advanced along it with their behaviour management and others being less so. There are many other important factors also which contribute to how a child behaves, such as whether they have any underlying educational or medical needs. As professional educators working closely alongside our children each day, our principle challenge is to unpick and understand the complexities surrounding behaviour. By doing this daily, we aim to support all children to develop further and enable each of them to demonstrate greater self-regulation and management. Our supportive approach is even more greatly enhanced through regular training, having STEPS Lead Professionals on staff and by utilising the advice of external specialists. Despite all this unfortunately, behaviour can still fall short of our expectations and be challenging and harmful to others. This is never accepted nor condoned and it is always dealt with accordingly and proportionately. As educators it is our duty within the bounds of the resources at our disposal to persevere with all children to educate them about how to behave and teach them about why behaving positively is important, just as we would dedicate time and effort to get a child to grasp a new concept in a subject they found difficult. Having the support and understanding of all parents is vital for our Federation in ensuring our pupils continue their learning for positive behaviour.

Our Safeguarding Team

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).**

Our Expectations for Attendance, Punctuality and Illness

We expect the highest levels of attendance in school for all children in order to obtain the best possible education. This will always be a priority. If children are not unwell, they must be in school each day and on time. Being late can sometimes happen from time to time, but the accumulation of time for pupils arriving late to school on a regular basis negatively impacts their learning. Not only this, but it is very disruptive to the beginning of a child's day as important, early morning tasks are missed; the dynamic of the class is unsettled by late arrivals and the late children

themselves are more anxious about starting their day. If your child is late, you must bring them to the school office, please do not send them directly to the classrooms. Our schools' attendance team will always address pupils with late and low attendance and we have letters that are sent out reminding families of the importance of daily attendance. We are sure this will be sufficient in ensuring attendance figures continue to remain high. If your child is ill, please notify the school office giving a specific reason for their absence. If a pupil's absence is due to medical appointments, the school may ask for evidence of these. More information about illnesses and their corresponding quarantine periods can be found on our websites.

Please remember that our efforts to maintain the strongest attendance will continue this year with our annual Attendance Award trip later in the Summer term using the eligibility criteria below which was shared with you in September:

- **If a child has had more than one bout of a contagious illness requiring quarantine in accordance with the PHE Exclusion Table AND more than three days of absence through other illness(es) since 3rd September 2025 (this does not include agreed medical absences for appointments and or evidenced surgical procedures);**
- **If a child has had or is going to have any unauthorised holidays for any length of time during term time;**
- **If a child has any unauthorised absences for any duration.**
- **If a child is persistently late, regularly arriving after 8:45am.**

Our Musical Events

It was great to see so many of our families supporting their children, once again, at the pre-Christmas events. The Year 3 Senior Citizen's Lunch, the Key Stage Two Carol Concert and the Family Carol Service at the Church really highlighted the musical prowess of our pupils, through their singing and instrument playing. Furthermore, the Infant Keep Calm! It's only a Nativity performance was equally as entertaining. Our Junior choir will be taking part in a performance at the Gorleston Pavilion in early March, which is something new and exciting. For the fifth time, we are also entering the Norfolk County Music Festival which will see Mrs. White-Joubert working hard this term rehearsing songs with the Infant and Junior school pupils, who wish to participate.

Our Curriculum Celebration Events

Last term, we held our Autumn curriculum celebration events and I was so pleased that so many of our families could attend to look through the books together with the children. There were some very positive comments and I look forward to inviting you back in towards the end of the Spring Term to see further progress and pupils articulating with confidence about their learning. These will be held on 17.3.26 at the Junior school 2:30-3:25pm and at the Infant school on 18.3.26 from 2:15-3:10pm. Please note that these events will end promptly to ensure children are ready for a normal home time.

Our Parent-Teacher Meetings

Nearer the end of the Spring term, we will have another round of parent-teacher meetings. These worked really well in the Autumn alongside our termly report cards and proved to continue to be convenient for our families. The schools are dedicating another week to arranging ten-minute meetings with parents either over the telephone or via Google Meet virtually. Where it is more helpful to the pupil, teachers and parents will arrange face-to-face meetings. Again, these meetings will take place at agreed times beginning on Monday 23rd March 2026. Our SENDCOs will also arrange meetings with parents of children with SEND after this week where more in depth conversations can be had about the children. More information regarding booking appointments via an online link will be released nearer the time. Do not fear! You will be able to see your children's books because our Curriculum Celebration Events (see paragraph above) will take place in the previous week. Please note that any parent is able to have a face-to-face meeting with their child's class teacher should it be required.

Our SATs Boosting

The Junior school will be running an after-school Boosting club for Year 6 pupils in preparation for their SATs that take place in the week beginning **11th May**. These will run on Tuesday afternoons from 3:30-4:30pm beginning on 13th January to 5th May 2026. Information was sent out about this to the relevant year group just before the Christmas holidays. We hope everyone will attend to get a little more confidence and reassurance about any areas where the child feels more help is needed. As always, exemplary behaviour is expected at these sessions.

Our Easter Events

I am pleased to say that there will be a return of our fun Easter events nearer the end of this term. There is a separate Spring Term Calendar of Events being sent out to parents. We are looking forward to an Easter bonnet parade at the Infants, a Decorate-an-Egg competition at Junior school not to mention the Easter Egg raffle we will

hold in both schools using any chocolate egg donations we receive from our non-uniform day on 20.3.26.

Our PTFA Success

The P.T.F.A. or Friends of Ormesby Village Schools Federation is a vital committee to help raise much-needed funds for further school improvement. Once again, the Christmas Colour Raffle raised just shy of £1,000, which is amazing, so thank you all for your generosity. In the coming weeks, the monies already raised will be used to acquire new IPADs for our Infant children to use, because technology moves so swiftly and our current versions are becoming out-dated. Organising events takes a lot of effort from the Chair and a core group of PTFA parents, but the more help received the better, so if you are interested in assisting the PTFA, please contact the Chair, Mrs. Jessica Cleevely at ormesbyvillageschoolspta@gmail.com

Our Visitor Conduct

As always, we are grateful for your continued support and understanding with how our Federation operates. Nevertheless, we expect all stakeholders to conduct themselves appropriately and politely when interacting with our staff or one another either in person, via the telephone or through email. Any rudeness to staff will not be tolerated. Ultimately, we are all working towards the same goal and that is to provide our children with the best possible school experiences.

Our Educational Visits and Trips

We strive very hard to arrange a variety of educational and sporting trips to enhance the learning of our curriculums and provide outlets for the personal and collective achievements of our pupils. Last term, was full of different opportunities across the Federation, which we were happy to organise and offer, however the school, sadly, cannot subsidise these trips and we encourage parents to contribute towards the costs of them. We fully appreciate the cost of living crisis, but without sufficient funds the range of trips we have been offering will need to be reduced. We hope this will not be necessary and both schools can continue to offer such excursions supported by your contributions. This term we hope to send our Year 6 pupils to ENSFC for a renewable energy aspirational workshop and we look to embrace engaging enrichment sessions in Cricket and Glow-in-the-Dark Dodgeball, not to mention two further Virtual Competitions with Premier Sports in Tri-Golf and Ultimate Frisbee.

Our Governors

We had a very rewarding Governor Challenge Day last term, where our Governors visited to speak to staff and pupils about how learning activities enabled the pupils to realise the high expectations within the curriculum and how all the pupils were supported to maintain the highest of expectations for their behaviour and attitudes towards their learning across the Federation. We are looking forward to inviting them in again this term to look at another area of school improvement. It was also pleasing to be quality assured by the Local Authority at our last meeting, proving how accomplished the group are at balancing accountability with support. If they 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.

Our Vision and Values Reminder

At our Ormesby Village Infant and Junior Schools Federation, we have a clear vision for the future which we want all within our family community to absorb and remember. Our Village Schools Federation is a nurturing environment underpinned by strong British values. We are a beacon of inclusiveness; a family community where each child is treated as an individual, and outstanding teaching helps them to discover and develop their unique talents and abilities. At our Infant school, our entire community is always **learning to grow: growing to learn** as it develops how it interacts, learns and plays. At our Junior school, everyone **aspires** to be the best they can be, everyone **acquires** the knowledge and skills to be a valuable future citizen of the world and everyone **achieves** success from the many opportunities they are provided with, no matter what their starting points. Vision Captions: **Learning to Grow: Growing to Learn (INF) & Aspire, Acquire, Achieve (JNR)**

Our Final Thoughts

Our Federation always endeavours to do its very best, but sometimes we will not always get it right. Please contact the school if you realise an error or oversight has occurred or you are simply unhappy about something. We will always aim to resolve issues as quickly and as supportively as possible. However, we cannot do this if we do not know about it. In the first instance, please contact your class teacher, but if you feel the issue is more serious it may require a more senior leader or myself to resolve the issue.

I hope you all have a great term. Bradley Young - **Headteacher**