



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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Dear Parents,

Lots of things happening in the last two weeks of this half-term. Please keep an eye on our website calendar and our app for any updates and changes. With Internet Safety Day coming up on 11th Feb, it's a good time to remind ourselves - and our children - of Article 16, the Right to Privacy. Keeping themselves safe online and their information private is a key message for us all to reinforce with them.

Rights Respecting Week - 10th-14th February

We will launch our annual Rights Respecting week on Monday 10th with a whole school assembly outlining our activities during the coming week. Our focus this year is Article 31 - The Right to Play. During the week each class will focus on different Rights from the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The whole school theme will link both to our work on e-safety and our outdoor play and learning project - hopefully launching our field area, including new stage and sandpit!

We would like all children to come to school on Monday 10th with their team-coloured tops to work in teams during the morning session. On Friday afternoon, we are also planning a celebration event - looking at the work we have been doing all week and sharing our successes and reminding everyone about the importance of internet safety. Parents are invited to join us at the assembly at 2.30pm. Please respond on the app if you would like to attend.



Half-term holiday activities with Thrills and Skills - 19th and 20th February.

We are delighted to welcome back Chris from Thrills and Skills to offer two days of adventure and activities during the February half-term break. The sessions will run from 9am until 3pm and will cost £15 per child. If you would like your child to attend, please complete the form on the app and make payment through Schoolcomms. You will also receive confirmation of their place via the app.

Outdoor play contributions

Thank you! We have had an excellent response to our request for 'stuff!' to set up our outdoor play and learning activities. We are currently sorting and organising everything so that we can really get going during Rights Respecting week. Keep sending things into school though - the nature of the play is that things will break and/or wear out, so we will always want more.



Have you seen our new sand pit? This was one of the main activities the children asked for and we have been busy getting it sorted....and now we need to ask for your help again. **Do you know a man (or woman) with a wheelbarrow that could spare an hour for us next Wednesday?** There are 10 tonnes of sand being delivered to our car park and it needs transferring down to the sand pit! Mr. Marshall and Mr. Lazenby are already earmarked but it would be amazing if 2 or 3 helpers could join in - it's a mammoth task!

**ROAD
CLOSED**

Head lice - please check!

We have had some outbreaks of head lice in school and I do understand how frustrating it can be as a parent to having to keep treating children. However, we can only control outbreaks if everyone is really diligent in checking hair - preferably on a weekly basis - and treating thoroughly if needed. Please make an extra effort to check your child's hair this weekend.



Road Closures due to water mains improvements

I have been informed by NWA that the road at Cleves Avenue will be closed to traffic, commencing week beginning 10th February. This will undoubtedly cause huge issues for parents who use this road when dropping children off by car. I'm afraid there is no alternative, but I do want to please remind you that the safety of the children is paramount. Please **do not use the school gates entrance** to turn vehicles around at anytime. Kindly also consider our neighbours when parking in the school area.

School timings

We do understand how busy mornings can be at home and know that there are occasions when lateness is unavoidable. However, the importance of children arriving at school on time cannot be underestimated. Missing just 5 minutes on a morning regularly all adds up. We do need to monitor both attendance and lateness closely and should we see regular patterns emerging, we will contact you to arrange a discussion meeting to see how we can support you moving forward. If you do have any current concerns, please don't hesitate to get in touch.



Sri Lanka twin school visit

Mrs. Hilton and I are delighted to be teaching again at our twin school in Sri Lanka week beginning 10th February. Our children have been working hard again putting together lots of information about Ferryhill and our school for us to share with the pupils and teachers in Sri Lanka. I know that we will be bringing lots of information back with us too. Look out for our pictures on twitter!



Valentine Disco - Wed 12th February

Our Year 6 pupils (with a little help from staff!) are organising and running our our annual Valentine Disco this year on Wednesday 12th. It will run from 6.00pm - 7.30pm. Entry is £1 and refreshments will be available. Younger brothers and sisters are welcome as long as parents stay to take care of them!



Year 1 Class assembly - 9.30am 6th Feb

Parents and friends are invited to join us on the morning of 6th February so that we can share with you everything that we have been up to so far in class. We look forward to seeing you!

Reading - at home and school

I hope that you know already what huge importance we place on reading here at school and we thank you for supporting your children with this at home too. We are constantly looking at ways of improving our practice and, after consultation, research and debate, we have created some new guidance for you that reflects changes in our approach. Mrs Claydon, our English lead, has put together a letter that sets out the details you need. Please take a few minutes to read through it and of course, if you have any questions at all, just contact your child's class teacher.

Reception Class Stay and Play Thursday 6th February 1.30pm - 3.00pm

Reception parents are invited to join us for the afternoon of 6th February to share our activities and let us show you how busy we are in class.

Nursery Stay and Play - Thursday 13th Feb am and pm sessions

Come and join your children in nursery - but be prepared, you might get messy! It is lovely to share with you all of the great activities that we enjoy everyday.