



Newsletter 4

18th December 2019

Robinwood Residential

Our Year 5 children spent three days on residential at Robinwood Activity Centre in Todmorden recently. The children engaged in some amazing activities like caving, zip lining, rock climbing, archery and much more! The children had a wonderful time making Happy Memories. Many thanks to the staff team who gave up their time and worked incredibly hard to make the trip so successful.



PTA Fundraising

Many thanks to our wonderful PTA who have organised a number of highly successful fundraising events this half term. The children had a great time at Neon Disco and we raised over £1200. The personalised tea towels look amazing and have raised almost £450. The Secret Santa Shop this week was a wonderful success! The children just love coming and choosing a surprise for their loved ones that is already gift wrapped and ready to go under the tree. The Secret Santa Shop takes a huge amount of time to organise - shopping for all of the presents and getting them all gift wrapped, as well as running the shop on the day - so a HUGE thank you to the PTA team for their efforts. We are always looking for new members to help out at the PTA events. Let us know if you are interested - we would love to have you on board!

School Meals



Our Catering service have informed us that the price of school meals will be increasing by 10p a day in January. This means meals will cost **£1.90 per day** after Christmas. We are sure you will agree that this still represents great value for money as the children receive a healthy, cooked meal and dessert. May we also take this opportunity to remind you that if your child brings packed lunches they must not bring nuts or products containing nuts as we have children in school with serious allergies. We are also striving to achieve the Healthy School Award so children may not bring chocolate bars or sweets of any kind. A chocolate biscuit is ok (club, breakaway, penguins etc) but no chocolate bars such as mars bars, milky ways etc.



Attendance Procedures

Research has shown that regular attendance and good punctuality are crucial factors in children achieving their full potential in education. This year we want to improve our whole school attendance and have revised some of our attendance monitoring procedures. We are aiming for a whole school attendance of 97% which is above the national average of 96%. We wish to work in partnership with parents and carers and so are seeking your full support in ensuring that your child attends school **every day** and **on time**.



Medical and dental appointments should be arranged out of school time wherever possible.

Persistent Absence

Any child with attendance below 90% is considered to be a Persistent Absentee. We are working hard to reduce the number of children whose attendance falls into this category.

Children who do not attend school regularly are more likely to:

- Fall behind in their school work
- Find it difficult to make and keep friends
- Be unhappy at school
- Misbehave so others cannot see that they are finding the work difficult
- Learn poor attendance habits that follow through into secondary school and employment

Poor punctuality can also disadvantage children in many ways:

- Being frequently late for school adds up to lost learning - for example arriving 15 minutes late every day is the same as being absent for 2 weeks a year
- When children are late they find it harder to settle into the routine of the day
- When children arrive late they often miss key messages and teaching which continues to have an effect on their learning for the rest of the lesson or day
- Poor punctuality disrupts the class and is embarrassing for the child
- Your child being late disturbs the learning of the whole class

Getting here **on time every day** really is important in helping your child to become a happy and successful learner. Every day really does count!

Reporting Absence

If your child is going to be absent from school, please inform the School Office by 8.30am. If we do not hear from you, we will launch our First Day calling procedures. This means you will receive a text to remind you to contact us. If we do not get a response, we will then contact all other contact numbers that we hold for your child. If we are still not able to get in touch with you, we may conduct a home visit. If we are still concerned we may contact other agencies such as the Police or Children's Social Care.

#TeamThackley

Eight of our KS2 children represented Thackley at the Sports UK Sports For All competition. They were an absolute credit to the school and walked away with two sportsmanship awards and a dodgeball award.

Our Year 4 golf team were fantastic at the Sports UK Golf tournament last week. They beat all the other local primary schools and came back to school with the winning trophy! Well done everyone!



Times Tables Champions

We know how important it is to have good times tables skills and are delighted to have a large number of children in KS2 who have earned their Times Table Champion badge which they wear with pride. The government has also recognised the importance of times tables and has introduced a national test for all Year 4 children to undertake in the Summer term. It is expected that all children should have rapid recall of ALL times tables up to the 12 times tables by the time they take the test. Some children are behind expectation in this national target and we are encouraging them to work hard at improving their times tables skills.

We subscribe to TT Rockstars. This is an online resource where your child can log in and have fun while practising their times tables. It can be accessed on PCs, phones and ipads. All KS2 children have a login - please ask their class teacher if they are unsure of it.



Class Assemblies

Each class will perform an assembly throughout the year which you are invited to attend. Class assemblies start at 9am and usually last around 15 –20mins. Here are the dates for the next assemblies.

Tuesday 14th January 2020 - Class 4L Mrs Lang

Tuesday 21st January 2020 - Class 4W Mr Waddington

Tuesday 28th January 2020 - Class 6P Miss Parkes

Tuesday 4th February 2020 - Class 6C Mrs Cutting

Diary Dates

We always aim to give parents lots of notice about school events wherever possible. Here are some diary dates for the Spring Term. We also share dates on the school calendar on the school website. These may change if necessary and if so you will be notified in future

New term begins	Monday 6th January 2020
Y5 Pantomime visit	Friday 10th January
Food Week in School (more info to follow)	Monday 13th January
Y2 Narnia experience	Thursday 16th January
Safer Internet Day	Tuesday 11th February
Save a Heart Day (wear red/pink)	Friday 14th February
School Closes for Half term	Friday 14th February
School reopens	Monday 24th February

And finally... We would like to wish all of our children, staff, governors, parents and friends in the community a wonderful, happy, peaceful Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year! See you all in January!

Yours sincerely



A. Patterson
Head of School



T. Patterson
Executive Headteacher

