



Filey Junior School

**Widening horizons and reaching our potential whilst respecting the world and each other,
within a happy, healthy and positive learning community**

Happy New Year everybody! It seems like we've been back for quite a while already doesn't it? We're all working hard to ensure that this year will be just as successful as the last and I am excited to be able to share some of our initiatives and key ideas for the coming year in this Newsletter. As always, of course, this is not a one-way process and we very much encourage you to share with us your ideas and contributions so that we can develop and improve on every aspect of school life. We hope that some of the ideas we will be putting forward will help you to do this and that 2018 can be our best year yet.

Diary

Tues 23rd January 3:30pm -	Year 6 SATs meeting for parents.
Monday 5th February 3.30pm -	Box.2b.fit and Skip.2b.fit Training for parents & pupils
Tuesday 6th February 9:05am -	E-Safety tips for parents (everyone welcome. Free coffee!)
Tuesday 6th February 1:30pm -	Year 5 Production: Panto Pandemonium + Year 5 Merit Awards
Tuesday 6th February 3:30pm -	Parents' Reading Workshop
Thursday 8th February 6pm -	Year 5 Production: Panto Pandemonium
Friday 9th February 3:30pm -	School Closes for Half-Term
Monday 19th February 8:45am -	School Opens

Filey Junior School APP - Available now!

I hope you've had the opportunity and time to have a look at our new website. Hopefully, the site will give you plenty of information and updates on the life of our school. We are really excited to now launch our very own Filey Junior School App for smartphones and tablets. Once again, we are one of the very first schools to introduce this technology and we hope that it will further develop communication between school and home. The App is still in its infancy, of course, and more content and features will be added as it develops. For now, however, you can use the app to check on school dates, access letters and permissions, update contact details and report your child's absence. The app will also provide you with notifications (please make sure you enable these when installing) of news, events and other important information. The app is available for both Android and Apple devices now! Please note, a password is required to access the app and you will receive further details of this in a separate letter. We are happy for you to share this info with other family members or friends, but we are not, at this stage, opening the app to members of the public. Please install this app on your devices and let us know what you think.

Facebook

Since the launch of our Facebook Page in 2016, we have seen the use of this method of communication become more and more popular. As a result, we added a Sports Page last year as a way to celebrate all the achievements of our very successful sports teams. We are now launching two new Pages to focus on academic achievements and advice in the form of Filey Junior School Literacy and Numeracy Pages. These pages will be populated over the coming weeks with a range of ideas, tips and advice of how to support your child in the home. We hope you find them useful and informative - don't forget to 'like' them in order to receive notifications of new content. Our main Facebook Page is easy to find through a basic search or by using: <https://www.facebook.com/Filey-Junior-School-383623651796211> This page will contain links to the other content.

Reading Workshops

We really appreciate all the work you do with your children at home and, as studies show, this has a huge, positive impact on children's academic achievement and success. In order to further develop this crucial part of your child's education, we will be holding some workshops to give you all ideas and suggestions as to how you can help your child even more, particular as they become better and more independent readers. We will be holding our first workshop on Tuesday 6th February from 3:30pm. If you have any topics you would like us to cover, please let us know.

Parents in School

And following on from the above, we would also like to invite you into school to see how we work with children (including your own) within a taught reading session. This will be a good opportunity for you to witness, first hand, the teaching techniques, questioning and tasks which we provide for children, allowing you to continue this within the home. Initially, Mrs Butler and I will be trialling this initiative, but we hope to open it up to the whole school in the very near future.

Progress Reports

You are all familiar with our annual reports to parents and the termly Parent Evenings which give you the opportunity to discuss your child's progress. We've listened to suggestions which you have made and, as a result, we will be launching a termly progress report which will give an overview of your child's progress in the core subject of Reading, Writing and Maths. These will provide you with information regarding your child's attainment against age expected criteria along with an indication of the progress your child has made against their targets. We hope you will find these useful and informative, but they are not, of course, a replacement for communications with your child's class teacher and if you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact school. We will also be holding parent and teacher interviews in the week beginning 26th February 2018.

Internet Safety

Tuesday 6th February is Internet Safety Day. To mark this national event, we will be holding a week of e-Safety learning opportunities within school, including an open invitation to parents to come into school to have a morning coffee and meet with PCSO Tony Bate regarding children and parent's online safety. This will also be an opportunity for you to ask any questions and generally share your experience/concerns/success around e-safety. The date and time of this event is Wednesday 7th February at 9:05am - please come straight into school when dropping off your child and you can have a coffee and a biscuit.

Messages and Arrangements

We appreciate that there are times when arrangements for picking up, after school clubs, social events etc. can change throughout the day and give rise to the need to pass a message to your child(ren) through the school office. Recently, however, we are dealing with a high volume of calls and requests to remind children of events and pass on messages which could, perhaps, be avoided. The school office is an extremely busy place and passing messages, whilst appearing a trivial task, often takes more time than you may expect and obviously takes office staff away from their other duties. Obviously, there are times when this is unavoidable, but could I please ask that you try to bear this in mind and, whenever possible, make children aware of after school arrangements in advance? Thank you.

Parent Governor

We currently have a vacancy on the Governing Body for a Parent Governor. This is a great opportunity to become involved with the leadership of the school and to help shape its future direction. Becoming a parent Governor is an exciting, but demanding, role which involves attending six meetings per year (one per term), but more than anything, requires a desire and commitment to 'get involved' in the daily life of the school. If you feel that you would be able to commit some time and energy to this very worthy cause, please let us know (by email, telephone or calling in) and we will be happy to give you some more information and assistance. Applications must be received by 3:30pm on Friday 9th February 2018.

Curriculum Maps

You will receive a Curriculum Map from your child's teacher(s) this week (also available on the school website and other digital sources). This will give you details of the main areas your child will be studying this half-term. The information is meant as a guide only and further details will be available from your child's class teacher if you request them. As it is quite a short half-term, there may be elements of the curriculum that your child will not access this half-term - these will be covered in the second half of Spring Term.

I hope you will find these new initiatives and forms of communication both useful and informative. As always, please do not hesitate to get in touch if you would like to make any comments, raise a concern, or give a suggestion.

Mr McCarthy and Staff.