



Filey Junior School

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

Newsletter 01 September 2018

Welcome back, everyone! And a very warm welcome to all the new Year 3 parents and children. I hope you all had a lovely summer and managed to find time to enjoy the long sunny days. It's been a whirlwind of a week with lots of very busy and active children finding their way around their new school and new classes. The new Year 3 children have done a super job of settling into their new school and getting to grips with their new routines. I think it's important that we remember what a big step a new school is when you're seven years old - they have all done a wonderful job.

Likewise, our other children are all doing a remarkable job of getting on in their new classes. In particular, the Year 6 children are now having to think about timetables and moving classrooms during the course of the day, but they are taking this completely in their stride.

All of this, of course, is made all the more applaudable by the fact that we have a small army of builders, diggers and dumpers on site at the moment as our new classrooms start to take shape. The build will replace our three, tired portacabins giving the children, and the school, some much needed new space from which to work. We hope to have the build completed by Christmas, but until then, we only have limited playground space and movement around the school is somewhat limited. Once again, however, the children (and staff) are doing a great job of making the best of the situation - well done to everyone.

Homework

At the Governors' Meeting, held at the end of the last term, we discussed homework and how important it is to ensure a consistent approach across the school. As a result, we have reviewed our homework timetable and the following has been agreed and will now be introduced:

Reading - Children are asked to read at least three times a week at home and get their reading records signed by a parent/carer. Please remind your children to bring in their book bags (with reading records and reading books) into school daily and let us know if they are not being returned to you by your child at the end of each day. Please use the Reading Records to let us know any non-urgent messages too.

Reading Comprehension tasks will also be given on a weekly basis. These are short passages of texts with questions that should be completed for the next reading session.

Spellings and times tables will be given out on a Friday and children will be tested on these the following Friday. We have a wide range of resources and 'apps' which children can access on their Chromebooks to make learning these important facts much more fun and interactive.

Mathletics (Y3-Y4) and Manga-High (Y5-Y6) are online, interactive maths games which build children's knowledge and skills in a variety of areas. Children are asked to complete a given range of tasks using these applications each week.

There are opportunities for children to complete homework during school time (at lunches and breaks) and we will soon be launching our Homework Club too. Homework does make a significant contribution to your child's education and helps us to keep you informed of the work your child is doing in school - please take a little time to work with your child on their homework tasks. Children who do not complete homework tasks may be asked to catch-up during breaks or lunchtimes in order to ensure they do not slip behind in their learning.

Keeping in touch (directly or virtually)

Communication between school and home is always the key to a good understanding and a good relationship between you and school. We always welcome you to call into school in person and, whilst we may not always be available immediately, we will make every effort to see you in person or via a telephone call at the earliest opportunity. If you have an enquiry which is not quite as urgent, however, please remember that you can use email, Class Dojo (details soon for Year 3 parents), our Facebook page or our school app. Please keep an eye on Facebook (or the school website if you do not use Facebook) for the latest news and pictures from around school and remember to like our page to get notifications of new posts.

I hope your children have enjoyed their first week back in school but, as always, please let us know if you feel there is anything you would like to bring to our attention.

Mr Harvey McCarthey and staff.