



Fleggburgh C of E VC Primary School

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Wednesday 17th January 2018

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Currently our whole school attendance is

93.4%

Please help us reach our target of 96% plus.

Welcome back to the new term! I hope you will find our fortnightly newsletters interesting and informative. We want to ensure we maintain really good communication with parents and we hope the newsletter will help do this. Our school newsletters will be an opportunity for you to find out what has been happening within school during the previous two weeks, as well as informing you of up and coming events. The dates section at the back will include any relevant information about when events are happening and any updates will be highlighted so you can clearly see where additional events have been put in or any alterations have been made.

This term you will notice a change to head's role within school: From 1st January I will be sharing the Executive Headteacher role with Maureen Burns. I will be working Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday; Maureen will be working Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, across both schools in the partnership. Previously I have been based at Freethorpe but I look forward to meeting you as I spend more time in Fleggburgh now.

The newsletters will be sent out on a Wednesday, once a fortnight, so you know when to expect to find them in school bags. If for some reason you miss a copy please contact the office and they will be able to give you another copy.

Mrs Robbie Houghton

Meet the staff:

Each newsletter we will introduce members of the school team to you, so you are able to find out a little more about their roles and interests. For the first newsletter I felt it was appropriate to introduce myself as I am new to my role at Fleggburgh Primary.

Robbie Houghton – Interim Executive Headteacher

I have been teaching for 16 years, working with classes from Year 1 to Year 6. I completed a teaching and music degree at the University College of Ripon and York St John, where I thoroughly enjoyed four years of teaching practises in a wide range of locations: from inner-city Middlesbrough to Rotherham and small North Yorkshire villages. Alongside my teaching I continued with the music aspect of my degree which included regular performances with the choir and orchestra in venues such as York Minster. Music has been a fantastic way for me to see, and play in interesting venues such as the Festival Hall and the Royal Albert Hall.

For my final year my focus was solo performance so I spent a lot of time practising and playing my cello, carrying it up and down the stairs to my top floor flat! I have continued my interest in music and spent many hours rehearsing with children at Freethorpe for end of year productions such as Bugsy Malone, a wide range of musical events and concerts, as well as teaching the ukulele.

My role as a teacher has changed over time: I have been the Assistant Headteacher at Freethorpe for a large number of years now but my role has also seen me working around the county supporting other head teachers and helping schools to develop and improve. I have previously covered the headship during periods of absence and maternity leave at Freethorpe. The day to day variety of my job is part of what I love about it.

I have a five year old son, Noah, and when I returned from maternity leave my working hours altered to 3 days a week. On a Thursday and Friday it is lovely to be able to be on the other side of the fence, being the parent doing the school run at the end of the week!





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Christmas Production – Bethlehem’s Buzzin:

Although it feels a very long time ago now, in terms of time at school there are not very many days since the Christmas festivities were taking place. It was fantastic, as always, to see the children taking part in the in the Christmas production. The singing was fantastic to hear and I am sure many of the children will still be humming one or two of the songs even now! Thank you to everyone for all the costumes which really helped to make the performance. I am sure that you were very proud of your children and thoroughly enjoyed the show.

Christingle Service:

It was lovely to see the church so well attended for our annual Christingle Service. The children always enjoy this service which celebrates Jesus as the Light of the World. It was a magical moment when the Year 6 pupils lit the candles on their Christingle during the Advent period in the lead up to Christmas.

Penny Loaves:



The school are very grateful to the Burgh and Billockby Trustees of the Poor who provided the loaves for the children.

The Great Yarmouth Mercury reported on the event and if you have not seen their coverage in the paper you are still able to look online and see the photographs and read their article.

Last week the children had an assembly led by Diamond Class where all pupils received their own Penny Loaves: a local tradition that dates back over 500 years.



Friends of Fleggburgh:

Hello folks and welcome to a new term for the school and Friends of Fleggburgh. I'll aim to keep you updated now in this newsletter since it will be frequent and who wants to be swamped with paperwork? So if you have anything you want included, do let me have it. After the hectic run up to Christmas we now need to think about our fundraising for this term and all the Easter activities that we can be involved in. It would be great to get together to chat through ideas, so I suggest we have a meeting fairly soon. Let me know on the Facebook page what days are best, but I think Monday suits most people. And do encourage others to get involved. Everyone has something to offer and everything we do is for the benefit of our children and school.

Thanks for all you do. Daniel

Uniform and PE Kit:

Despite the weather being quite cold at this time of year, the children will still be taking part in outdoor PE lessons. Therefore please can you ensure that they have suitable clothing for PE lessons, which includes a pair of tracksuit trousers and a change of top. It is also very helpful to ensure all items of clothing the children have in school are named as this will help reduce the amount of lost property generated and minimise the number of items children misplace. The children are able to bring a bottle of water in to school but please try to do this each day so that they have a clean, fresh drink.



Attendance, Holidays and Leave of Absence:

Punctuality:

Most of our pupils arrive at school in good time. We have very few pupils who are late on a consistent basis. However, lateness has a negative impact. Being late can disrupt lessons, affect achievement and embarrass/upset your child. Some recent research shows that being late adds up to loss of learning: 5 minutes late every day adds up to 3 days lost each year, 10 minutes adds up to 6 days lost each year. If you were 30 minutes late every day it would add up to 19 days lost each year - being late means missing out!

Why is regular attendance at school important? Regular school attendance will mean that your child has a better chance in life. Your child will achieve better when they go to school all day, every school day. They learn better. They make friends. They are happier. They have a brighter future. Missing school means missing out! Schools are expected to have an overall attendance of 95% or above. Research published by the Department for Education (DfE) suggests that children with poor attendance are more likely not to be in education, employment or training when they leave school.

Holidays and leave of absence:

Our school policy about requesting leave of absence has been in place for a number of years now but we have copied the key information below as a reminder of how the process works within school:

In line with Government expectations **headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.**

- Service personnel returning from / scheduled to embark on a tour of duty abroad.
- Where a period of leave has been recommended as part of a parent's or child's rehabilitation from a medical or emotional issue. Evidence may be requested from qualified professionals, such as a doctor.
- Attendance at the wedding / funeral of a close family member.
- A short break as a family, due to the fact that employer commitments mean that this cannot be taken in **any** school holiday (including Half Terms) – evidence may be requested from an employer

Other times when permission could be given include

- approved educational activities such as music exams
- religious observance
- or approved higher level sporting competitions (eg County or national representation).

The school **cannot** accept as an exceptional circumstance the fact that a holiday is cheaper during term time, or for birthday treats.

Applications for leave of absence will be looked at on a case by case basis.

If you do need to take your child out of school during term time, we would ask that you please respect these new regulations under which we must now work and **make very clear on the 'Leave of Absence' form how the circumstances are exceptional.**

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Diary Dates: (updates have been highlighted)

Monday 22 nd January	Diamond Class Road Safety Training
Tuesday 23 rd January	Emerald Class Road Safety
Thursday 1 st February	Parents Evening 2:30pm to 8pm
Tuesday 6 th February	Cluster Speech festival
Wednesday 7 th February	Cluster Speech festival
Friday 9 th February	Year 6 STEM and Maths day at Acle Academy – details to follow
Friday 23 rd February	Cluster Rugby event
Monday 26 th February	Emerald Class Time and Tide Museum
Thursday 1 st March	Cluster multi-skills activity – Year R, 1 & 2
Mon 5 th -Wed 7 th March	Holt Hall Trip – Year 5 and 6
Tuesday 13 th March	Year 6 Music day at Acle Academy – details to follow
Wednesday 14 th March	Cluster Great Egg Race
Thursday 22 nd March	Cluster Country Dance Party after school
Monday 26 th March	Key Stage 1 Cluster Football
Tuesday 27 th March	Year 6 Easter Egg Hunt – Acle Academy, details to follow
Wednesday 28 th March	Cluster Film Festival
Monday 14 th May	Year 6 SATs week
Thursday 7 th June	Year 6 Tea Party at Acle Academy, times tbc
Thursday 14 th June	Cluster Open Concert
Tuesday 10 th July	Year 6 Parents Information evening at Acle Academy

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2017/18 Term dates:

Friday 9th February	3:30pm School closes for half term
Monday 19th February	8:45am School opens for Spring 2
Wednesday 28th March	3:30pm School closes for Easter holidays
Monday 16th April	8:45am School opens for Summer 1
Monday 7th	May Bank Holiday
Friday 25th May	3:30pm School closes for half term
Monday 4th June	8:45am School opens for Summer 2
Tuesday 24th July	3:30pm School closes for summer holidays