



SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM NEWSLETTER

MRS PIDGEON

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Nikki Pidgeon
Head Teacher

Jon Watson
Deputy Head Teacher

Sarah Millar
Head of Behaviour, PE
and SEAL

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Head of Assessment,
Specialist Leader in
Education, Leading
Practitioner

Jayne Patrick
School Business
Manager

Another half term almost finished and we find ourselves half way through the academic year. We hope the children enjoy a break and that you find the opportunity for some family time.

School Improvement

We continue to work hard towards our priority objective: *Teaching is outstanding and, together with a rich and relevant curriculum, contributes to outstanding learning and achievement, significant growth in students' knowledge, and excellent attitudes to learning.*

Staff have been involved in some significant training activities delivered by external consultants:

Write Away Together

Our Write Away Together training focuses on how to use feedback to improve writing.

A Write Away Together session involves a dialogue between a child and a trained partner about a piece of independent writing. The aim of the dialogue is to help the child understand how they can improve their work at text, sentence and word level and to embed strategies that will improve children's independent writing. Each session is based on a piece of writing done in the class, which is then celebrated and improved. The writer is then prepared to continue the writing independently, where appropriate.

Numicon

Numicon is a curriculum proof, multi-sensory approach, built on a proven pedagogy that raises achievement across all ability levels.

With problem-solving, reasoning and conversation at its heart, *Numicon* perfectly embodies the aims of the Primary National Curriculum 2014 for mathematics:

- Develops **fluency** by using a visual, practical base to develop conceptual understanding and fluent recall.
- Helps children to **reason mathematically** through the use of concrete objects and **spoken language** to explain and justify.
- Develops children into confident **problem-solvers**

Leadership

A Consultant delivered training on observing lessons effectively in the primary school:

Participants are taught to use structured observation as part of school self-evaluation. The training includes applying inspection criteria to lessons observed, evaluating the quality of learning and of teaching and linking the two, evaluating the pupil outcomes, completing evidence forms, feeding back to teachers, and planning action to bring about improvement. Lesson observation is integral to school self-evaluation.

Parent Consultation

Mrs Patrick will be producing a separate more detailed information leaflet on the outcomes of the most recent parent questionnaire but the headlines are as follows:

- On issues of safety, enjoyment, happiness and security 90%+ see this as a strength of the school.
- Considering all forms of communication together all areas of agreement fell within 90+
- **99% of parents were happy with their child's overall experience at Welton**
- 80% felt the school took account of their concerns and suggestions with 16% neither agreeing nor disagreeing
- The role of the Governing Body is not clear to a significant number
- There was a change in opinion on the effectiveness of dealing with inappropriate behaviour which was scrutinised in more detail. This feedback largely came from one cohort and the context identified.

Potential Industrial Action

I have gleaned from the nation press that there may be more industrial action planned for 26 March. I have had no formal notification from the LA on this matter at present but should it go ahead I may have to partly close the school.

Pupil Progress

After half term we will be holding pupil progress review meetings in school. This enables us to consider the progress of the pupils to date and identify particular successes and areas of concern. Following this we are able to take appropriate action to ensure pupils are supported and challenged in equal measure.

Encouraging reading

The Oxford Owls web site now has books which can be read as eBooks for free! The website is as follows:-

www.oxfordowl.co.uk

MRS MILLAR

“Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new.” Albert Einstein

SEAL

The theme for this half-term’s work on developing children’s social, emotional and behavioural skills will be Going for goals! We will be exploring how children can motivate themselves in their learning and across the school. As part of the theme they will be asked to set their own goals, think about how they learn best and consider how they might make wise choices.

*“The big secret in life is that there is no big secret. Whatever your goal, you can get there if you’re willing to work.”
Oprah Winfrey*

IMPROVING HEALTH AND FITNESS

How much exercise should my child do?

In addition to school formal physical education, children need to be encourage to become more active. Children and young people aged 5 to 18 should do at least 60 minutes (one hour) of aerobic activity every day. This should include a mix of:

- **moderate-intensity activities:** this means your child is working hard enough to raise their heart rate and break a sweat.
- **vigorous-intensity activities:** this means they’re breathing hard and fast, and their heart rate has gone up quite a bit.

As part of your child’s 60 or more minutes, they should also do activities that strengthen their muscles and bones.

You can help by encouraging your child to find activities they enjoy, and by building physical activity into family life. Most children love running around a park or playing in a playground. Live Well has more tips for how to get active with your kids - follow the link below:-

<http://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/childhealth6-15/Pages/Getactivewithyourkids.aspx>

Team sports, such as football, basketball and volleyball, can also be great fun. If your child doesn’t like team sports, there are plenty of other activities, such as dance and martial arts.

This information has been taken from the NHS UK website

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Friday 14 February	Break up for half term
Monday 24 February	Back to school
Tuesday 25 February	Festival of Sport at South Hunsley for Year 5
Tuesday 4 March	Year 2 visit to the Streetlife Museum
Thursday 6 March	Year 1 visit to Magna
Tuesday 11 March	Year 4 dance competition (details to follow)
Thursday 20 March	Sport Relief (details to follow)
Thursday 27 March	Foundation class visit to Cannon Hall Farm
Thursday 10 April	Break up for Easter

There will be several transition events happening for Year 6 children during the next half term, including a Maths roadshow with Liz Russell (AST for Maths Primary Liaison at South Hunsley) and a visit from Tina Beharrell who will be visiting the children to talk about what to expect at South Hunsley School.

Cycle training will also commence for Year 5 children who have booked a place. All children should have received their dates for the training - please contact the school office if you have not received your child’s training date.

MR WATSON

Welton is 'Rich with Rhythm'

On Wednesday 15 January 2014 we were pleased to welcome Jeff Rich into school for a thoroughly enjoyable morning of percussion. Jeff is an amazing drummer and percussionist, most famous for playing drums for Status Quo. Jeff, or 'Worzel' to his friends, shared his passion, enthusiasm and superb ability with KS1 and KS2 pupils. We all had a thoroughly enjoyable time and many people left feeling inspired!

Jeff was 'Rocking all Over the World' with Status Quo from 1985-2000, and also played with other artists such as Def Leopard, Stretch and Judie Tzuke. Since leaving 'The Quo' he has played in many bands and now spends lots of time working with children in schools delivering percussion workshops.

Spending around 45 minutes with KS2 pupils, Jeff gave us a practical history of drums from around the world, with many children getting to play and demonstrate them to the audience. KS1 children then joined the older pupils for a more practical session, when Jeff showed off his talents on the drum kit itself. All children also got an opportunity to play at least one of the many pieces of percussion instruments Jeff brought with him to Welton.

Overall it was a highly successful and enjoyable session – it is not that often you get to see up close a true top professional talking about and demonstrating their talent! Jeff was keen to stress that 'Whatever you want' to do in life, if you want to be successful, it takes determination, hard work, commitment and lots of practice!

ROLL OF HONOUR

The following children were in 'green' throughout the half term and were picked out of the raffle in assembly. All of the children will be invited to Mrs Pidgeon's 'Tea Party' during the next half term. Well done to all of you!

Sadie O'Connell
Bethany Rockett
Vasiullah Shah
Casey-Leigh Ellis
Emily Sawyers
Devon Smith
Phoebe Bevan
Rodrigo Milazzo
Jake Crawley
Dhruv Sanem
Charlie Dawson
Joshua Rockett

Xanthe Edwards-Lindsay
Holly-Marie Greaves
Deetha Karyakar
Lydia Parker
Jensen Hattersley
Amelia Fisher
Emma Squire
Adam Taylor

Look out for your party invitations!

MISS KILVINGTON

Educational Visits and Visitors

Year 2 enjoyed a hands on experience at the Indigo Moon Theatre. The learning linked to their Science topic of Light and Dark. They were lucky enough to watch a shadow puppet performance of The Jungle Book. They were then taught the techniques of shadow puppetry using a large screen. The children practiced performing their own puppet show and used their bodies to create different shapes and movements. The highlight of the day was the backstage tour, which the children enjoyed very much.

The children in Year 1 could not wait to tell us about the wonderful time they had at Eureka! They had a taught session which enabled them to explore the different sounds that can be made from different musical instruments. They then applied this new learning to create their own soundscape. They then headed to the shops to use the money skills they had been learning in Maths. The children withdrew money from the cash machine and used it to scan and pay for food in Marks and Spencer – how exciting! One of the highlights was an exploration of the human body, where they saw and felt a simulated pregnant tummy!

Year 6 enjoyed bread making as part of their transition to South Hunsley programme. The children got to spend the morning meeting and working with teachers from South Hunsley whilst cooking in their Food Technology block. I was very impressed to hear how sensibly they behaved on their visit. Thank you for representing Welton so wonderfully!

As part of their study of coastal erosion, Year 5 braced the blustery weather and visited Hornsea. They took pictures of the sea defences to use back at school and designed their own plan of what measures they would take to prevent further erosion happening on the coastline. They collected some boulder clay to examine its properties back at school. To further their knowledge on this subject, Ali Hubbard from the East Riding of Yorkshire Council Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management section came to visit the children about her work, and the children asked questions that they had prepared for her. She showed them her GPS system which she uses to monitor the effects of coastal erosion along the East Coast. Thank you to Mr Cook for providing this contact - it was great for the children to see how the work the children are doing in class can be transferred to 'real life' jobs.

MRS PATRICK

Parking around the school

We are constantly fielding telephone calls from residents around the estate regarding parking around the school, especially at home time. Please be considerate of residents - do not park on their drives (yes, some people do!), please don't park across drives and please don't park on the 'green' areas near the parks. We, obviously, don't have any jurisdiction outside of the school grounds and refer the residents to the Community Police Officers.

Reception/School Office

The new 'post' boxes are regularly being used and queues seem to be diminishing because of this. We have also purchased a new stand for forms and information that are regularly being asked for eg holiday forms, school meal information, administration of medicine, and Out of School Club information. Towards the end of February we will also be receiving a new Visitor Management System which will be used for signing in late pupils and when pupils are sent home ill or go to appointments. More information will be provided nearer the time. We are also currently looking into the possibility of an on-line payment system. Over half term, the reception area will also receive a coat of paint to brighten it up!

Free School Meals - September 2014

Thank you to parents for completing the questionnaire regarding school meals from September 2014. Over the next term we will be looking at ways we can integrate the increased take up.

School Meal Menu's

The new menu will take effect after half term. If you have not received your copy, please pop into reception where there will be spare ones on the new stand. If your child eats from the vegetarian options, please ask the staff in the office for a menu.

Dogs on the school site

Can I please remind parents that dogs are not permitted on the school site unless they are 'buddy' or guide dogs and the school has given permission.