

ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

TERM 2B 2020

Broadening Horizons

20th November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

In the present climate it can sometimes be hard to see the light at the end of the tunnel so in this newsletter my aim is to bring you a little sunshine by sharing with you some of the academy's highlights.

Your children have settled well into school life; they have become much quicker at the daily handwashing/sanitising routines, adapted well to the staggered breaks and taken advantage of the additional space that is available to them for play. Lunchtimes are working well with many children reporting that they really enjoy eating in their classroom, as they can listen to a story or watch a favourite programme. Everyone loves the new MUGA (Multi-Use-Games-Area) and children in reception have benefited from the climbing and play equipment on the playground.

On returning to school in September, we have prioritised children's mental health and well-being. We work with children via our assemblies and our Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) curriculum. In addition, all children participate in a daily mile or a daily active session; not only is this a fantastic opportunity to participate in daily exercise but it also gives children an opportunity to talk to one another or the teaching staff in a relaxed environment. In addition, there is a 'Time to Talk' box in each classroom where children are encouraged to write down anything they want to talk about. Children's feedback has been extremely positive.

This year, we have introduced a new scheme for maths called Power Maths. Power Maths is a UK curriculum mastery programme designed to spark curiosity and excitement and nurture confidence in maths. It is built around a child-centred lesson design that models and builds resilience in maths. The focus is on helping all children to build a deep understanding of mathematical concepts. So far we have seen very positive results from reception to year 6 but most importantly, I have heard children talking about maths as being 'fun' and 'challenging'.

After the disruption of the summer term, the teaching of reading has also been a priority. As you know, reading is integral to children's learning and we know that it is the key to academic success. In reception and key stage one children learn about phonological awareness and learn to decode, and in key stage 2 we build on this so that children become fluent readers, developing their communication, vocabulary and language skills. In reception children have daily phonics lessons and the work that they do in phonics is incorporated into all the areas of learning.

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Waddington Redwood Primary Academy is part of The Priory Federation of Academies Trust

In key stage one, all children are receiving two daily phonics sessions and this is supporting any gaps in learning that have been identified. Year 2 children are scheduled to take their phonics screening checks on the week beginning **Monday 30th November 2020**. In key stage 2, children are also being taught reading on a daily basis using an approach adapted from John Murray's Reading Explorers. There are lots of additional reading sessions taking place and children throughout the academy have opportunities to read for pleasure and to listen to stories.

If you want to know more about how you can support your child with reading at home, follow the link to the Book Trust website for some top tips.

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/tips-and-advice/reading-tips/>

Furthermore, we have now introduced our new curriculum; this has been designed by our subject leaders. We have made sure that it is progressive and builds on children's knowledge and skills over time. You can view our curriculum map on our website at the following link:

<https://www.redwood.lincs.sch.uk/page/?title=Curriculum+Long+Term+Breadth+Maps&pid=109>

We are currently following the sequence for Year A.

We now have a legal duty to provide remote education to children who are self-isolating. The platform that we are using is Microsoft Teams. If your child is self-isolating and not unwell, work linked to the curriculum will be posted daily and the expectation is that this is completed and uploaded for marking. Although the vast majority of children access homework through this platform, there are still a small number who are finding it difficult. Mrs Newbould has collated all your feedback and is in the process of contacting you individually to offer support. Thank you once again for your endeavours with this. If we did have to close classes, we believe that we can now continue to successfully teach your children remotely.

Fundraising

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our fundraising for Children in Need. We really enjoyed a very active day and managed to raise a whopping £326.24. This is £45 more than we raised last year!

In addition, our Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal raised an amazing £178.18. This is incredible. Thank you to everyone – we know how difficult times are and we appreciate your generosity.

Academy Video

I hope you have all had a chance to see our latest video. You can find it on the academy website at the following link: <https://www.redwood.lincs.sch.uk/page/?title=Video+Tour&pid=112>

Our aim is to show parents/carers the journey children take through school, the range of facilities on offer and the warm, caring relationships between children and staff. I was so proud of all the children and the staff – I think that they did a splendid job and many thanks must go to the local media company, Wallbreaker, for their inspiration and creativity.

School Admissions 2021 – Waddington Redwood Primary Academy

If you have a child whose date of birth is between **1st September 2016** and **31st August 2017**, you will need to register your child for school for **September 2021**. Please contact us to as we are hosting a Microsoft Teams meeting on **Tuesday 24th November at 5pm** and in optimistic fashion, we are taking bookings for short tours mid-December 2020 and January 2021.

Please remember that all applications for school places are made online and opened on **16^h November 2020**. See

<https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/2597/going-to-primary-school-in-lincolnshire>

for further information, or contact the admission team at schooladmissions@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

Christmas

You will be glad to know that Christmas activities this year are still on our calendar and although these will be different from other years, we will still ensure that it is a special time for everyone. I am sure you will have already realised that there will be no performances this year due to the current restrictions. However, we still intend to have Christmas parties and activities; these are scheduled for the week beginning the **14th December** so children will be invited to wear their party clothes if they wish. More details will follow nearer the time.

On **Friday 11th December**, we will be taking part in Christmas Jumper Day 2020 in aid of Save the Children. Please do not feel that you have to buy your child a Christmas jumper, an old jumper or t-shirt that has been customised with drawings or tinsel can be more effective. Our Friends' Association will be sending out more information about this soon.

We are asking that children do not bring Christmas cards into school this year but rest assured, we will still be making cards in classes and using this as a learning opportunity to investigate how we can share our goodwill and season's greetings via technology.

And now for some sad news.....

Staffing News

It is with regret that I inform you that Mr Silk will be leaving Redwood at the end of December 2020. Needless to say his resignation was a shock to everyone; Mr Silk has been with us for 6 years and joined our team in the early years of his career. He is not only an inspirational teacher but he is also caring and compassionate, and very passionate about school sport. I would have loved Mr Silk to stay with us forever, but he feels that he needs a break from the demands of the profession for personal reasons. His final day will be sad for his class and the entire academy, but I can only thank him for his dedicated and committed service over the years; it has been a huge privilege to work with him. On behalf of the entire Redwood Community, I wish him every success for his future.

Miss Belcher will teach our Year 6 class from January 2021. Miss Belcher has more than twenty years of teaching experience and has taught in UK and international schools. Miss Belcher knows the school well as she is currently carrying out supply work in the Year 5/6 team.

At the end of last term, we said goodbye to one of our lunchtime supervisors, Mrs Moira Tocock. Mrs Tocock decided that under the current climate it would be better if she were able to spend more time at home. We had a small send off and it was lovely to see the children wishing her well. Needless to say, there were a few tears and although we will miss her, we will still be able to keep in touch.

And finally....

Schools are places that evolve, we never stand still. We teach, challenge, support, guide, listen, laugh and cry. Every day, we have the joy of working with young children and I would like to thank the people who create a very special and safe environment for your children – the Redwood Team. A huge thank you to them for doing a brilliant job and also a massive thank you to all our families for all your kindness and support over the past year.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs F Kent
Headteacher

