



# ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

TERM 3 2023

## Broadening Horizons

26<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a very busy term we have had so far. Firstly, I would like to thank everyone for your assistance with our Ofsted inspection. We were very pleased that we had 72 responses to the parental survey and these can be viewed at the following link: <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/parent-view-results/survey/result/200163/13>. In addition, thank you to those parents/carers who spoke to the inspector directly about their experiences at the academy. We very much appreciate your time and support and I will update you as soon as our report is available.

### **Industrial Action by the NEU**

I am now in a position to provide you with an update on the first day of strike action by the National Education Union (NEU). Our plan is for our academy to be open as normal on **Wednesday 1st February**. Your child/ren should therefore attend school at the usual time. I do not foresee any changes to the normal working day but if the situation changes, please be assured that we will notify you at the earliest opportunity. Further information about the NEU's scheduled strike days in March will follow nearer the time.

### **Curriculum**

There have been lots of exciting events going on in the curriculum this term. EYFS have been learning about 'Wonderful Winter' and they have been very busy exploring habitats in the polar regions. In class, the children have been spotted looking for penguins in the role play area and writing messages in the outside area, to attract the attention of overhead planes!

Years 1 and 2 have been studying 'Great and Ghastly Events' and learning more about the Great Fire of London, by looking at historical sources including Samuel Pepys' diary.

Years 3 and 4 have travelled back in time to learn about the Egyptians and are finding out how Egyptians lived in the past. They have just come back from their residential trip to Rand Farm, where all the children proved to be amazing ambassadors for our school. There are lots of pictures from the farm on our twitter account @RedwoodPrimary.

Years 5 and 6 are learning about the 'Titanic' and everyone is enjoying finding out key facts about the ship and the time period. We are also lucky to have a loan of a 3D printer from Sir William Robertson Academy to use as part of our modelling unit in Computing. Watch this space!

## **Children’s Mental Health Week**

Children’s Mental Health week takes place between the **6<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> February** and offers an opportunity to shine a light on the importance of looking after our own mental health, and supporting others with theirs. The theme this year is ‘Let’s Connect’ and focuses on the importance of the links we make with our friends, family and local community.

At Waddington Redwood, we will be working closely with our local community and are planning to hold some events, such as a cake and coffee afternoon, a ‘dress to impress’ non-uniform day and share a story morning.

## **Attendance**

When your child is registered at school, it is essential that he/she attends regularly and maintains a pattern of good attendance throughout their school career. Excellent attendance is important to allow a child to fulfil their potential.

As parents/carers, you can demonstrate your commitment to your child’s education by not taking holidays during term time. Any child who is absent from school due to a holiday will miss out on important learning and may fall behind with their school work. In each Academic Year there are only a maximum of [190 statutory school days](#) – this allows plenty of time for holidays to be arranged outside term time. Holidays taken during term time will be categorised as unauthorised.

In addition, you can also demonstrate your commitment to your child’s education by organising routine dental and doctor appointments outside of school hours, thereby minimising the impact of absence on your child’s education.

Every single day a child is absent from school equates to a day of lost learning. We expect the majority of our children to attend school for at least 95% of the time. Parents/carers can expect to receive a letter from the academy to highlight when their child’s absence falls below this point. In many cases, this is just an awareness notice to let you know that your child’s attendance is being monitored. This follows our [policy and procedures for attendance](#). We urge you to give your children the best start in life and to make every school day count! The table below demonstrates the impact of absence

100% Attendance	0 Days Missed	Excellent
95% Attendance	9 Days of Absence 1 Week and 4 Days of Learning Missed	Satisfactory
90% Attendance	19 Days of Absence 3 Weeks and 4 Days of Learning Missed	Poor
85% Attendance	28 Days of Absence 5 Weeks and 3 days of Learning Missed	Very Poor
80% Attendance	38 days of Absence 7 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed	Unacceptable
75% Attendance	46 days of Absence 9 Weeks and 1 Day of Learning Missed	Unacceptable

## **Online Safety**

Anyone with young children who like to game will have heard of Roblox. It is one of the most popular video games today with over 150 million users worldwide, mostly amongst younger users.

For parents/carers – a quick fire guide to Roblox

[Roblox A Quick Fire Safety Guide for Parents - Wayne Denner](#)

Internet Matters have produced a guide for parents/carers on video games to play as a family.  
[Guide to Unique and Amazing Video Games | Internet Matters](#)

### **Friends' Association**

The Friends' Association would like to thank everyone for supporting the Christmas Fayre through donations, buying raffle tickets and taking part in the activities/stalls. They are absolutely delighted to report that they raised £945.13 and they will let you know how the money will be used to support your children.

### **Changes to Key Stage 2 Assessment Dates in 2023**

A change to the KS2 test schedule this year will be necessary due to the additional bank holiday in honour of the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III taking place on **Monday 8 May 2023**.

Ministers have considered the situation carefully and have decided that KS2 tests will take place in the same week with tests following the usual order but each taking place one day later than originally planned. As such, the new schedule will be:

- Tuesday 9 May: English grammar, punctuation and spelling (GPS) papers 1 (questions) and 2 (spelling)
- Wednesday 10 May: English reading paper
- Thursday 11 May: mathematics papers 1 (arithmetic) and 2 (reasoning)
- Friday 12 May: mathematics paper 3 (reasoning)

### **Parents' Evening**

The dates for Parents Evenings for the spring term are **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February and Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February**. An e-mail will be sent soon to let you book your appointments.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs F Kent  
Headteacher

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