

# Cringleford CE VA Primary School

*Autumn Term 2018-2019*

## *Newsletter 1*



7<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back to a new school year. I hope you all had a good summer holiday and enjoyed the great stretch of warm weather whether you stayed here or went away somewhere. We are all looking forward to an exciting term and would also like to say a big welcome to our new children across the school and hope they settle in really well at Cringleford CE VA Primary School.

As you know, the school has been growing every year and we are finally full. The school has doubled in size from 210 pupils to 420. Inevitably, this has meant that every year we have had to look at how we do things and make changes to adapt to the fact that, for example, there are no 'spare' classrooms anymore and getting everyone into the hall for special occasions is also more challenging. Attached to this letter is a calendar of key dates and events for the school year, including class assemblies.

Although we have given the dates for Harvest and Easter celebrations for each Key Stage, sadly we now only have space for all the children to be in the hall and there will, unfortunately, not be space for parents to attend these celebrations. Parents are very welcome, however, to attend the class assemblies and the Christmas nativities / assemblies and you will be invited to your child's Reading Café in due course. A copy of the 2018-19 calendar has been uploaded onto the school website.

### **Curriculum meetings**

You may recall in last term's final newsletter that you will have the opportunity to meet your child's class teacher and find out a bit more about the curriculum they will be following. These meetings will be taking place in your child's classroom on the following dates:

Wednesday 12th September (2.45 – 3.15 p.m.) – Year 1

Thursday 13th September (2.45 – 3.15 p.m.) – Year 4

Friday 14th September (2.45 – 3.15 p.m.) – Year 2

Tuesday 18th September (2.45 – 3.15 p.m.) – Year 3

Wednesday 19th September (2.45 – 3.15 p.m.) – Year 5

Thursday 20th September (2.45 – 3.15 p.m.) – Year 6

Parents of children in Reception will have the opportunity to learn about phonics, supporting children with reading and maths and learn about Forest School work on Wednesday October 3rd from 2 – 3 p.m. The session will be repeated from 7.30 – 8.30 p.m. These sessions will take place in the Adult Learning Room – opposite Crackerjacks.

Each teacher will be providing some written information if you cannot attend the meetings.

### **After school clubs and activities**

A new timetable of after school activities and clubs will be uploaded to the website shortly. We will try to make sure that all information sheets and flyers about clubs are uploaded onto the website under the 'Clubs' tab on the home page so parents can download and print forms. Pro-Coach club forms are already on the website.

## **Before School Club (7.50 - 8.50 a.m.) / After School Club (3.15 – 6 p.m.)**

The Before School Club takes place in the school hall each morning and offers safe childcare for those of you who need it, with fun activities, including drama and games, organised for the children. The Before School Club is run by Set Your Sights, the same company which runs the After School Club. Registration forms for both clubs can be obtained from the school office. The After School Club now takes place in the Adult Learning Room opposite Crackerjacks. Parents collecting pupils should use the entrance to Crackerjacks. This means that the main school office will no longer be manned after 4.45 p.m.

## **Early morning arrangements**

We decided at the end of last term that the children in Reception, Years 1 and 2 will be able to come into school as soon as they arrive in the morning. The gates are opened at the normal time of 8.40 a.m. and parents can drop off children between 8.40 and 8.50 a.m. One of the reasons for this change is that we hope that this will reduce some of the parking congestion and also allow some time for any quick messages to be passed to class teachers or support staff. Another reason is so that attendance and dinner registers can be taken promptly at 8.50 a.m. Now that we have had a couple of days to see how the system is working it is worth pointing out that Year 1 pupils should be dropped off at the cloakroom door only (i.e not brought through the library area). We are encouraging all parents to drop the children off there and not actually go into the classrooms. Year 2 pupils should enter the school, or be dropped off, via the library entrance. Again, now that the first two days have passed, we hope that most of the children can do this independently. The best time to try to talk to a teacher in more detail is at the end of the day, even if it means waiting until the other children have been safely collected by parents.

Securing the school site as soon as possible after drop off is clearly a priority for us and we have slightly changed our arrangements. A whistle will be blown at 8.50 a.m. to indicate that all the children should be in class ready for registration. At this point we will keep the main wooden gates open for a few minutes to allow parents to leave the school, but anyone arriving after 8.50 a.m. must enter the school via the main entrance. This is so we can record children's lunch choices and classes are less disturbed by late arrivers. Parents signing in their child in the office should not proceed through the school to classrooms, unless a prior arrangement is made with me or Mrs Barker. Inevitably there will be the odd occasion when a significant number of parents have had delayed car journeys to school due to traffic problems or weather conditions, in which case the main gates might remain slightly longer. Starting next week, I hope everyone will quickly adapt to the new arrangements.

## **Payments for school activities**

Nearly all school activities, such as trips and dinner money, are payable via WisePay. Please make sure that your WisePay account is in credit before ordering school lunches as it is time-consuming to have to send reminders about outstanding amounts. In the near future, when we are sure that the system is foolproof, we will be extending our use of WisePay so parents can make all the menu choices and pay for school lunches at the same time. More details will follow about this.

## **Free school meals**

If you are in receipt of Income Support, Employment Support Allowance (Income Related), Income Based Jobseeker's Allowance, Child Tax Credit (but not Working Tax Credit) or Guaranteed Pension Credit, you may be eligible for free school meals. Registering for free school meals could raise extra funding for the school. This additional money is available from central government for every child whose parent is receiving one of the welfare benefits listed on the form. It is, therefore, important to sign up for free meals, even if your child brings a packed lunch from home. Forms are available from the school office.

## Newsletters

The main school newsletter is sent home fortnightly on Fridays via email. Hard copies are always available from the office and a copy of the newsletter is uploaded onto the school website. We also use text messaging to pass on short messages to you such as school closures, cancellations of clubs etc. Please let the school office know if you change your mobile phone number or email address. Class teachers will also send out additional letters about trips and events, so please check your child's book bag or rucksack on a regular basis.

## Collective Worship

Our assembly theme for this half term is 'Responsibility'.

## Attendance

At Cringleford CE VA Primary School we work very hard to help your child learn and achieve well. To do this we need you to help us in many ways. The most important way to help and support your child is to ensure that he or she attends school regularly and is punctual.

Please let the school office know via phone (01603 454946) or email ([office@cringelford.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:office@cringelford.norfolk.sch.uk)) as soon as possible on the first day of absence, (ideally before 8.30 a.m.), and each subsequent day, to inform the school of the reason for the absence.

Any application for leave of absence will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances and these are clearly listed on the back of the school's 'Leave of Absence' form, copies of which can be obtained from the office or downloaded from the school website.

The Local Authority has firm guidelines regarding regular attendance and Fixed Penalty Notices can be issued for 10 consecutive sessions of unauthorised absence (e.g a 5 day unauthorised holiday in term-time). A letter providing more details about this was sent out at the end of last term. This can also be found on the school website under the 'Newsletters' section.

## PANTS / Safeguarding

All Norfolk Schools have been strongly advised to use the NSPCC's resource pack, PANTS, to teach the children how to keep themselves safe without using any frightening words or pictures. There are a large range of age appropriate and fun lesson plans, and a short video, to present a serious and essential message to the children. Each class will look at the resources during the week beginning September 17<sup>th</sup>. You can watch the video yourself or with your child(ren) by following the link below:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/underwear-rule>

## Reminders

- It would be helpful if all scooters, bicycles are left by the large wooden gates at drop off and pick up times.
- The area within the school gates should be a pet free zone
- The trim trail should not be used at the beginning of the day and parents are responsible for supervising their children / toddlers on the train or boat (morning and afternoon) and on the trim trail (afternoon). The After School Club, run by Set Your Sights, uses the outdoor area so we try to lock the main gates fairly promptly after school finishes so the club members can play freely.
- The light bollards at the front of the school are a poor design and during the defects period we had to ask builders to reinforce the bases. It would be appreciated if you could remind your child / toddler not to swing on these. Replacing each bulb is expensive and repairing a damaged bollard would be costly to the school.

- Please park considerately around the school and do not use the staff car park. The expectation is that parents park alongside the road or, preferably, use the Willow Centre car park.
- Children are allowed to come to school in non-school uniform for one day during the week of their birthday. Ideally, this would be on Fridays when we celebrate birthdays during our Celebration Assembly.
- Children should not have mobile phones in school. If, for any reason, a child needs to bring in a phone, this should be handed into the office during the school day.
- The mobile library is coming to the school on **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September**. Please return any school library books which your child may still have at home.
- Please make sure your child is adequately prepared for all weather as the children are expected to play outside if it is lightly raining.
- When sending in packed lunches from home (including for school trips) please remember that we are a **“nut free zone”** ~ we have children with severe allergies in school.
- A fruit money letter has been given out to each class (Year 3 and above). Please complete and return to the school office.
- Finally, please make sure that all your child’s personal belongings are clearly named. This includes shoes, coats and lunchboxes. We gather a large amount of lost property each term and it is much easier to return things to their rightful owner if they have been named.

## School Uniform

Thank you for ensuring that your child has returned to school wearing smart school uniform. The uniform is practical and supports positive behaviour as well as promoting a sense of belonging and pride in our school. The uniform is based on combinations of red, grey and white. Parents are requested to ensure that, as far as possible, children's dress conforms to the suggestions below. All items are available from Tesco: [tesco.com/ues](http://tesco.com/ues).

### Girls

Grey skirt / pinafore dress or tailored trousers  
 Red or white polo necked or open necked blouse  
 Red or grey cardigan or sweater or school sweatshirt  
 Sensible warm coat or jacket / school fleece  
 Red, grey or black tights, white socks or grey socks

### Boys

Grey trousers or shorts  
 Red or white polo necked shirt or grey or white shirt  
 Grey or red sweater or school sweatshirt  
 Sensible warm coat or jacket / school fleece  
 Grey socks

- Sensible black shoes should be worn – NOT trainers.
- Jewellery should NOT be worn. For pierced ears, simple studs or sleepers only may be worn.
- Children should not wear makeup (including nail varnish) to school. Please make sure hair accessories are kept simple and limited to a basic Alice Band or hair tie.
- Leisure / sportswear, such as hoodies and jogging bottoms, are not acceptable as everyday uniform.

Children who are not wearing school uniform will be reminded of the school standards and expected to address this quickly. Please help your child by ensuring that your child follows the school’s dress code. Where uniform issues are not addressed quickly, we will contact you directly.

## **JONK (The Joy of Not Knowing)**

Last year all of our classes were involved in a project called JONK or The Joy of Not Knowing. The basic concept is that it is good to not know something as this then provides opportunities for the children to find out and persevere with learning, as well as accepting that failure is sometimes part of the learning journey. The whole school community is continuing to work on the promotion of good characteristics of learning, encouraging the children to be resilient, creative, curious, reflective, collaborative and resourceful. Our focus characteristic this half term is being 'resourceful'.

## **Thank you!**

Last year the PTA did a great job, with your support, fundraising for the school. I am delighted to report that the school was able to put £9000 from the PTA towards the school's order for new laptops and a trolley. This new equipment arrived over the holiday and will be in use by all classes very soon. Thank you for all your fantastic support last year.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the curriculum meetings and wish you all a happy start to the autumn term.

Yours sincerely,

***N. Henery***

Mr Neil Henery  
**Headteacher**