



JAN & FEB 2023 NEWSLETTER

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM ALL

AT REFFLEY ACADEMY

Message from Miss Fendley

Happy New Year to you all, hope everyone had a very enjoyable Christmas break? Most of the children seemed very keen to return to school and get back in their routines, as did most of the adults too! Luckily, the diary for this term doesn't appear to be quite so hectic, so I'm sure we'll all benefit for a calmer start to the beginning of the year and new term!

Improving attendance and timekeeping

Our school is monitored by Norfolk County Council for our overall pupils' attendance and the *desired* level is 95% and above. Punctual timekeeping is also included in the school attendance category too. Poor timekeeping at the beginning of the day is recorded as a late mark. Children who are extremely late to arrive at school, have an 'unauthorised absence' logged on their personal attendance data; however, persistent poor timekeeping can also attract intervention from N.C.C. and in extreme circumstances, could result in a fine. We would like to remind all parents/carers of start and finish times across the key stages:-

Yrs. 1 & 2	start at 8.30 a.m.	finish at 3 p.m.
Yrs. 3 - 6	start at 8.40 a.m.	finish at 3.10 p.m.
Nursery & Reception	start at 8.45 a.m.	finish at 3 p.m.

If you know that your child will be absent from school, we would appreciate notification via a class dojo message or phone call to the school office please. If your child's absence is related to ill-health, such as a cough, cold or sick bug, we would appreciate brief details of their ailment. If you believe your child could be suffering from something a little more serious, such as an infectious/contagious disease, we would definitely need to have details of this as we are required to keep a log in school of harmful transmittable infections. Regarding absence connected to medical appointments, a copy of the appointment letter or card would also be appreciated too.

Extending the school day with wraparound child care provided by Reffley staff

In addition to our very popular Breakfast Club, we are pleased to be able to offer a later afternoon childcare facility at Reffley Academy too. Our afternoon wraparound care will extend the school day up to 5.30 p.m., if needed by any of working parents/carers or even those with vital appointments, etc. Sessions need to be booked in advance and can be booked in slots of either 3 - 4 p.m., 3 - 5 p.m. or 3 - 5.30 p.m. We are able to accept Tax Free Vouchers as payment for this additional afternoon childcare facility. Children attending wraparound care will be made very welcome in the Intervention Room (Yr. 6 corridor, please see attached map) and they will receive refreshments during their extended stay at school. There will be various activities for children to take advantage of, ranging from crafts, board games, colouring, quizzes or even catching up on their reading or any school projects/homework. We have attached separate literature regarding costs involved.

Smart Watches

We know that some of our pupils have been very lucky to receive some smashing Christmas gifts, including some lovely Smart Watches. These are quite expensive items to bring to school; however, if you give consent for your child to wear one at school this can only happen if the watch smart watch can be dis-connected from the internet. Any device that carries an inbuilt camera is not be allowed in class/school.

Avian influenza (Bird Flu)

As with most households within the Reffley area, the school has also received a letter from DEFRA regarding the outbreak and spread of bird flu in our locality. The letter highlights the urgent need to contact the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, if you find any dead, wild birds, such as gulls or birds of prey. Please report any such finds on DEFRA's helpline - 03459 335577. It would also be a good idea to talk to your children about NOT touching any dead birds or even picking up any bird feathers they see.

Please note slight change to SATs dates (particularly affecting Yr. 6 pupils)

We would like to make you aware of a slight change to the dates for our Yr. 6 pupils taking their SATs exams - tests will be taken from Tuesday, 9th to Friday, 12th May. The change is due to Monday, 8th May being declared a Bank Holiday to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III on Saturday, 6th May. Yr. 2 also take SATs too and these tests are usually spread over several days throughout the month of May. Pupils in other year groups, with the exception of Reception, will be involved with taking 'voluntary' testing during the same period.

Numbers Day on Friday, 3rd February

We will be holding a non-uniform day to help raise some funds for the children's charity NSPCC. Children are invited to wear something with a number on it, this could be a football shirt or even their top on inside out, with the size label showing! A small donation would be very much appreciated from pupils joining in with this fun, non-uniform day.

Tuesday, 7th February - Safer Internet Day

At school, during the early part of next month, we will be revisiting the very important subject of safer internet use, particularly by children. We will make more information available to parent and carers regarding the content of this topic in due course.

MARCH PREVIEW AND DIARY DATES

Thursday, 2nd March

WORLD BOOK DAY - children are welcome to dress as their favourite book character (no funds required) and bring the book to school it is from too!

Tuesday, 14th March

Schools Make Music - school choir attending this music festival at the Corn Exchange.