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Dear Parents/Carers

Can you believe it, we're half way through the academic year! Time flies when you're having fun and the children clearly are through their varied learning opportunities. Learning is the centre of everything we do in school and our hardworking children have continued to improve and impress. With regard to behaviour, children are starting to be much more reflective about their behaviour choices and our conversations with them are developing their awareness of other people's feelings and perceptions. There will always be disagreements, as there are in all schools, however, we feel that we are starting to make real progress with our children gaining an understanding of how these disagreements can be avoided and managed. We would like to also thank you for supporting us with how the children are in school. The way you keep us informed of any issues that your children tell you, ensures that these can be dealt with quickly and appropriately, lessening children's anxiety and improving relationships. Our school is such a happy place and much of this is down to the way in which we all work together for the best of the children. Let's keep this up!

Surfleet Showcase!

Recently, we hosted a federation event where the staff from Pinchbeck East and Spalding Primary schools came to get to know our school. The idea behind the event was for us to show what makes our school unique and to highlight our particular strengths and challenges that we face. During the event, we had child led guided tours, the choir singing and the bank managers presenting to the entire federation staff. I am pleased to report that the staff from the other schools were impressed with both the children and the school environment itself. Many positive comments were received, particularly with reference to the children's clear and confident communication and also the fact that they talked about their school with enthusiasm. Our school staff were incredibly proud of the children who were in attendance, but it is important to remember that these children were representative of the school as a whole so credit needs to go to everyone regardless of if they were there or not!

Uniform (including PE kit)

The federation event showed us all what a great place the school is in now, however, we always want to improve so that are we doing the best we can for all of the children. Part of this drive towards excellence is increasing the children's awareness of the importance of self-respect and self-organisation and we really need your help to make this a reality. One of the main aspects of these areas is for the children to be wearing the correct uniform. We would like to take this opportunity to remind you of what the clear expectations are with regard to correct school uniform. If we want the children to take pride in their learning, then first they must have pride in themselves and this is helped if they feel 'smart'. The school uniform is as follows:

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Girls

Girls' polo shirt or blouse – sky blue
Grey or black skirt or trousers
Burgundy cardigan or sweat shirt
Black school shoes

Boys

Boys' polo shirt or shirt – sky blue
Grey or black trousers
Burgundy sweat shirt
Black school shoes

The following items of clothing are not acceptable: jeans, leggings, trainers, other types of shoes that are deemed unsafe for school, head bands that have extra parts to them (e.g., ears), earrings that are not studs.

The same expectations will apply to PE and swimming kits. The school PE kit is as follows:

Indoor PE: sky blue t-shirt, black/navy shorts, plimsolls, appropriate indoor trainers
Outdoor PE: As above + trainers, warm jumper or tracksuit

Also, worth mentioning is that long hair must always be tied back during PE and jewellery must be removed or taped. We ask that parents provide appropriate tape to avoid issues with allergic reactions. Children should keep this in their bag or tray and will be responsible (with support if needed) for applying and removing.

The following items of PE kit are not acceptable: t-shirts that are not sky blue, clothing that contains offensive or inappropriate text, clothing that is revealing or ill-fitting, astro turf style football trainers for indoor PE, plimsolls for outdoor PE when the ground is wet.

If you find it difficult to supply the appropriate uniform or PE kit for whatever reason, please speak to the class teacher in the first instance. We will always help or give advice where we can.

Clubs

It is pleasing to see that a number of children are attending some (or all!) of the clubs on offer. I hope that you have found these to be worthwhile and providing opportunities to children that they may not normally have. Whilst it is difficult to offer a wide range of clubs due to the size of the school, we try to ensure there's something for everyone on a termly basis. If you have an idea for a club or know of any official groups that have something to offer, please let us know!

As these clubs happen within the school grounds and straight after the school day, we have the same high expectations of the children's behaviour as we would do within the normal school day. Children choosing not to follow the staff's requests, leaving the session without authorisation or being generally disruptive or disrespectful will be removed from the session and their following club session will also be removed. If this happens twice within a half term, then the child will have all of their club places removed until the next term. Quite simply, we do not believe it is fair for the behaviour of a small minority to limit the opportunities for the vast majority. I am sure you will agree with this.

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One final note on clubs: kit and equipment. For many clubs, the normal school PE kit will be sufficient, however, there may be some clubs that need you to provide additional kit and equipment. Good examples of this would be a gum shield for hockey and shin pads for football. If you are unsure if you need to supply any additional kit, please ask at the office or on the door in the morning.

Swimming

Swimming will continue every Monday until the end of the Spring Term (the final session will be on Monday 1st April) for all the children in class 2 and those Y6s who are working towards their end of KS2 expectations. If you would like to know how your child is progressing with their swimming, please ask the class teacher.

World Book Day

World Book Day is on Thursday 7th March and we will be celebrating this with a feast of reading activities! As ever, we are more than happy for the children to dress up as their favourite book character and bring the associated book with them. There will be time during the day for some of these books to be read and it is important that the children have this opportunity to become immersed in the day. However, it is not a non-uniform day so children may still come to school in their uniform if they do not want to dress up. We hope that children will get into the spirit of the day and dress up as a genuine book character. Remember to bring the book to prove who you are!

Attendance

We are all aware of the importance and value of regular and punctual attendance at school. Not only is it a legal requirement for all children of compulsory school age, but regular attendance is essential for children to realise their educational potential. We recognise that children become ill and cannot physically attend school but beyond that, unless you have advance permission, there should not be any reason for your child's absence from school.

In order for the school to address the issue of persistent and unauthorised absence, we will, with effect from the start of the second half of the Spring Term, (25th February 2019) issue parents who choose to take their children out of school without authorisation, during term time, with a Fixed Penalty Formal Warning Letter. Failure to comply could result in a Fixed Penalty Notice from the Local Authority, which could then result in a prosecution under Section 444 of the Education Act before the Magistrates Court.

The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013 removed the reference to holidays during term time. This means there is no right to take children out of school during term time for holidays. Leave of absence requests must be submitted to the school in advance and any such requests will be authorised only if the school considers there to be exceptional circumstances. This is a matter for the discretion of the Head Teacher, with each application judged on its individual merits. If parents claim that a holiday abroad can be afforded only in term time or that a parent is unable to take leave during school holidays (this is a matter between the parent and their employer), it is unlikely to amount to an exceptional circumstance.

If you need any further clarification in this matter, do not hesitate to contact Mr Chipperfield.

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Car Parking

Please can you remember that parking on the yellow zig zags and in the staff parking areas is strictly prohibited during, before and after school drop off and collection times. This is a safety issue and we all have a responsibility to ensure that we keeping all of the children as safe as possible at all times. There are some exceptional cases where some families are allowed to use the zig zags for dropping off their children, however this must be agreed with Mr Chipperfield in advance. Repeat offenders will have their car registration details passed onto the police.

Milk

If your child has turned 5 and would still like to receive milk in school, then you will need to speak to Miss Meek in the office and she will pass on any relative details.

Valentine's Disco

A huge thank you goes out to the dedicated and hardworking volunteers of the PTFA who organised a brilliant Valentine's disco. I'm sure your children thoroughly enjoyed the evening and the grand sum of £224.00 was raised. Thanks for your support once again. It was fantastic that all the places were filled and if we could have offered more, we would have done! Check out the PTFA facebook page or school website for news on future events.

Kind regards

Mr Chipperfield
Head of School

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