



20th April 2018

Welcome back to the summer term everyone! It's been so uplifting to see and feel the warmth of the sunshine. I couldn't get over how many of the children had visibly grown an inch or so since I last saw them. The children have settled back into school beautifully and we are all really proud of them as they are all so focussed and working hard.

I have begun my Monday visits to Carleton Rode and could not have been made more welcome. It is a lovely, friendly school, much like ours in its ethos and feel and I have already learned a few useful things I can think about trying here, which is great.

We were all sad to have to cancel our Big Sing adventure due to the sudden change of venue and arrangements by the organisers. However, we will make sure that we perform some of the songs for you at a later date. At least we have our exciting Whitlingham experience to still look forward to and we can always sing our hearts out on the coaches!

Consultations and Pupil Progress

It was fantastic to have seen almost every family at our parent carer consultation evenings. We know a few of you weren't able to come along on those dates so please remember that if you want to see us to discuss your child's progress, just ask for an appointment.

I have been conducting my usual in-depth pupil progress meetings with the teachers this week looking at every child's data and discussing their next steps and I am thrilled to see how well they are all progressing! I'm one very happy headteacher at this point in the school year!

FOFS Update and Easter Fayre News

A big thank you to everyone who supported us at Spring Fayre, helping with refreshments, baking, raffle donations and supporting the actual event meant **we raised £525!** Emerald Class were great, parents and carers of this class, thank you for providing prizes for their games.



A thank you also needs to go out to East Of England Co-op (local is at Swan Lane) as we asked them for a discount with the Easter Eggs and they kindly donated them all for free.

We have our next meeting on Monday 23rd April at 6.30pm at the school, everyone is welcome, ideas for new and different events welcome, if you can't make the meeting but are happy to assist at events please let us know. On Monday we will be planning our next event, a Beetle Drive and we look forward to seeing you there, posters will go up soon.

Kindest regards, FOFS Committee

Parking Issues

I have been made aware by staff colleagues who use Facebook that in the last 48 hours several concerns have been expressed by parents and carers about ongoing parking safety issues. I completely sympathise and I really feel for everyone. I would like to re-assure you all that the governing body is well aware of the issue and its complexities and that a great deal of time has been spent trying to find a workable, practical solution to the problem.

To date, several big improvements have been made such as the installation of paths each side of the school, the flashing 30mph/school zone slow-down warning sign and the extension of the yellow zig-zags to cover the lobe. Getting these improvements took a huge amount of work by groups including the Parish Council, South Norfolk Council, Highways and school. Although these help, they do not solve the congestion and they don't prevent some individuals from parking illegally and dangerously at the junction, causing a terrible hazard.

This is what many parents and carers have told me they wish others would do...

- park well away from the junction and not on the zig-zags
- park leaving a sensible gap (not too large) between cars to save space
- lift share wherever possible
- leave as soon as you can after you have dropped off/picked up to provide a space for the next person
- respect neighbours by leaving driveways clear

In the past, offers of money or donated practical help and resources to re-surface the church car park have not been acceptable to the owner and we are given to understand this is not the issue for him. We have an idea as to one small potential help but need to see how this may work before we can trial it. We will keep you posted.

School Dinners

Please may we remind you that all school meals must be ordered on a Monday morning for the whole week. Increasing numbers of people are ordering on a daily basis or changing their minds or choices later in the week. The NORSE kitchen who supplies us is not able to cope with this as it affects their ordering and their timings. This is out of Mrs Burrow's control and puts her in a very difficult position. Please note that from Monday 23rd April, I am afraid that no meal changes or new orders can be made after the Monday until the following Monday. Thank you.

DIARY DATES

April -

May – The month of May is the Year 2 SATS teacher assessment and testing window

Thurs 3rd – Whole-school visit to Whitlingham for an afternoon of sporting adventurous activities (we will return later than 3.15pm – exact time TBC)

Monday 14th-17th is the Y6 SATS week of testing

Mon 28th – Fri 1st June is the May half-term week – school is closed

June

Mon 2nd – school opens after half-term

Week commencing Monday 11th the DFE Y1 Phonic Check will be carried out

July - Tues 24th – School breaks up for summer holiday.