

THE FED HEAD NEWS

October 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to first edition of the 'Fed Head News' for this school year. The six weeks since we started back at school at the beginning of September have flown by, and as always both schools have been busy and exciting places full of learning opportunities and fun!

Our new reception pupils at both schools have made a fantastic start and settled in brilliantly whilst our oldest children have been away on one-week residentials – the perfect opportunity to develop that ACE skill of independence as they begin their final year(s) of primary school. A wide variety of other activities including Harvest celebrations at our local churches; trips to places such as Framlingham Castle and Ipswich Museum; sports tournaments and mornings, various clubs and bikeability have meant a fun-packed start to the year! And all of that before we even begin to consider the ACE learning that's been going on in our classrooms!

We hope that the parent information sessions we have offered along with our 'Cuppa Club,' 'Tea and Tissues,' 'Meet the SENCO,' parents evenings and regular newsletters/bulletins have kept you fully informed and supported at the start of the term.



School Improvement

🌟 This term we are tackling spelling at both of our schools with our new 'no-nonsense' approach in Years 2-6! No-Nonsense spelling is a complete spelling programme designed to meet the needs of the National Curriculum. It follows on from the phonics teaching in Reception and Year 1. The focus of the programme is on the teaching of spelling, which embraces knowledge of spelling conventions – patterns and rules; but integral to the teaching is the opportunity to promote the learning of spellings, including statutory words, common exceptions and personal spellings.

🌟 We are continuing to improve our libraries by adding lots of new books to keep children enthused with their reading and their accelerated reader quizzes!

🌟 The new 'Hub' at Bramford is working well and providing a range of support for children at different times of the day including first thing in the morning...we are hoping to launch something similar in the New Year at Somersham!

🌟 Our Somersham Foxes and Otters are enjoying their learning in the newly organised classrooms and outdoor area and we will keep on improving and adding to this as the children grow and progress.



What is Accelerated Reader?

Accelerated Reader is a programme which helps us to monitor your child's reading in years 2-6.

At the start of the Autumn Term (and then a further 5 times across the year) your child takes a STAR reading assessment of their reading comprehension and skills. This identifies a reading range (called a ZPD) for your child e.g. 2.1-3.8. They can then find books within this range to read – this means the books are at the right level for them: neither frustratingly hard nor very easy.

Once they have read a book, your child can take a quiz about it. The quiz has between 5 and 10 questions. This shows how well they are doing and how much of the book they have understood.

🌟 Our website continues to be an ongoing project and we are aiming to launch more pages with lots more information for parents as the year progresses.

If you have any great ideas about the website or how you think we could improve our schools further then please do let us know!

Our ACE Particles...

These are the values we celebrate with our weekly ACE Awards. They also form a key part our behaviour policy. The full policy is available for you on our website. You can also read our 'Vision and Values' page for more information about ACE!



Positive attitude
Achievement
Responsibility & Respect
Try and try again - persevere
Independent Learner
Creativity
Live, learn and laugh
Everyone working together
Sharing & caring

has been ACE this week because

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Who do I see if..?

As a federation of two schools, we have a slightly different staffing structure which can make it a little confusing about who to see and when they are available. Here's a quick guide...

Your child's teacher – the best person to speak to about your child and almost always the best and quickest way of resolving issues. It is best to chat to your child's teacher at the end of a school day or arrange an appointment as mornings are busy times when they are preparing everything for the day of learning ahead.

Mrs Sizer-James, SENCO – Mrs Sizer-James, our Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator oversees provision for our pupils with special educational needs. She is very knowledgeable and experienced and the best person to see if your child either has, or you think they may have, special educational needs. She is available at Somersham most Mondays and Bramford most Wednesdays and Thursdays. You can make an appointment to see her via the school office.

Liza Wright and Vashti Davies, Family Support Workers – Liza is available at Somersham most Thursdays and at Bramford most Mondays and Fridays. Vashti is available at Bramford most Tuesdays. Their role is to support our pupils and you, their families. They are the best person to see if you or your child needs to talk about any worries or if your family is going through a difficult time. You can make an appointment to see them via the school office. You can also drop-in to one of our 'Cuppa Clubs.' Upcoming 'Cuppa Club' dates are Thursday 1st November at Somersham and Tuesday 13th November at Bramford. Please visit the 'Family Support Worker' section on our website for the latest Cuppa Club flyer and for more information.

Mrs Oldfield and Mrs Lea, Heads of School – As our Heads of School, Mrs Oldfield and Mrs Lea are in school every day and are usually on the playground before school. They know all of the pupils well. They are the best person to see if you are worried about something and do not feel it is either appropriate to speak firstly to your child's teacher or your concern is about an aspect of school life beyond the classroom. You can make an appointment to see Mrs Oldfield or Mrs Lea via the school office.

Mrs Burgess, Executive Headteacher – If you have been unable to resolve your concern, are still worried or feel your concern is too sensitive to discuss with anyone else, then you can make an appointment to see myself. My time is divided between Bramford and Somersham meaning I am not in school every day. However, you can leave a message for me with the school office and I will always endeavour to see you or get back to you as soon as possible.

Bramford Staffing Announcements

Mrs Lea, our Bramford Head of School, will be leaving us at the end of this term to start her exciting new role as the headteacher of Bucklesham Primary School in January 2019. We are sad to see her go and will miss her unwavering positivity and enthusiasm but are happy to see her fulfilling her aspirations. We thank her for all she has done in her time with us at Bramford and wish her every success for the future.

**Farewell
and
Good Luck**

We also said a fond farewell to Mrs Cooper, teaching assistant in Reception and Year 1 at the end of last week as she is relocating. We will all miss her. We thank her for all that she has done in her time with us and wish her all the best for the future.

Please be assured that we are already busy planning our staffing for the Spring Term and will update you further as soon as we can.

Pupil Health

Attendance matters but please be reminded that in order to minimise the risk of transmission of infection to others, in cases of diarrhoea and/or vomiting, the recommended period for a child to be kept away from school is 48 hours after the diarrhoea and/or vomiting has ceased. It would be appreciated if parents could keep to these guidelines.

Further guidance to help you when deciding whether your child is too poorly to go to school can be found on the NHS website. **A link to this is available in the 'Pupil Health' section of our website.**

SAFEGUARDING AND PREVENT

If you ever have a concern about the safety or welfare of your child, or a child you know, act without delay. You can talk to any of the following people:

Mrs Burgess, Mrs Oldfield, Mrs Lea, Liza Wright or Vashti Davies– Designated and Alternate Safeguarding Leads
Mrs Rita Palmer – Safeguarding Governor
Mrs Sarah Keeble - for e-safety concerns or issues

I wish you all a very happy and healthy half term...let's hope the glorious October sunshine is here to stay for a little bit longer!

*Best wishes,
Mrs E Burgess,
Executive Headteacher*

