

THE FED HEAD NEWS

Somersham, February half term 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are all well and have had a positive start to 2018 despite the cold and the snow!

Welcome to the first edition of the 'Fed Head News.' It is my goal to write to you each half term to share the latest news from school but also to seek your ideas and opinions about school improvement. This is in addition to your regular school newsletter which gives you your regular updates and upcoming dates for your diaries.



An ACE half term!



Time flies when you're having fun as they say, and I can't believe that the end of the first half of the spring term is already here! It's been a fantastic half term here at Somersham, with lots of ACE learning taking place. Every day, I continue to be impressed by the children who demonstrate in their attitudes to their learning, their enthusiasm and in how caring and sharing they are towards each other exactly why our school is a special place to be and learn.

This term we have welcomed back Mrs Anten, who is supporting children with their learning across all classes and providing exciting maths enrichment opportunities, and Mrs Pawsey who is supporting learning in Foxes class.

I talked with the children in assembly this morning about how reaching the end of a half term is an ideal time to reflect on all the wonderful things you have learned and achieved and think about what goals you might like to set yourself for the half term ahead. I look forward to seeing what challenges they set themselves next half term!

**HAVING
ASPIRATIONS
IS NICE.
FULFILLING
THEM IS
EXHILARATING.**

School Improvement

Building Project: We await the final stage of our school building project which will see grass and planting provide those finishing touches to the new outdoor areas. This is due to be completed soon.

Inspiring Reading: Our next project is to revamp our school library. We will also be launching 'Accelerated Reader' which is a great way of motivating children to read, monitoring their progress and helping them to choose books that are at the right level for them...more information to follow on this soon.

New Laptops: We will also be investing in ICT and purchasing some new laptops for the school. We would like to thank FOSS for their kind donation of money towards these.

The School Website: We are currently working hard on a new, updated school website with the aim of this being launched at the beginning of the summer term. It is our aim that the new website will give you lots more information, especially around the curriculum.

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS OF THINGS YOU'D LIKE TO SEE ON THE WEBSITE? We'd love to hear your thoughts! Please do include any ideas on the attached 'What's your view?' sheet, catch myself or Mrs Oldfield around school or email the school office.



As no newsletter would seem complete without a gentle reminder from the Executive Headteacher, I wanted to focus in this edition on attendance. Excellent attendance at school is important to allow a child or young person to fulfil their potential. Here are just some of the key reasons why it is so important children attend school: To learn... To have fun... To make new friends... To experience new things in life... To develop awareness of other cultures and religions... To achieve... To gain qualifications... To develop new skills... To build confidence and self-esteem... To have the best possible start in life...

FAMILY HOLIDAYS

You can demonstrate your commitment to your child's education by not taking holidays during term time. In each Academic Year there are only a maximum of 190 statutory school days – this allows plenty of time for holidays to be arranged outside term time.

Holidays taken during term time will be categorised as an unauthorised.

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS

*We encourage you whenever possible to make appointments out of school hours. Where this is not possible, your child should only be out of school for amount of time necessary for the appointment. We also ask for proof of the appointment as standard. This can be a text message, prescription or appointment card. **Where proof is not provided, absence from school for a medical appointment will be unauthorised.***

Who do I see?

As a federated school, 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 and helpful guide...

Your child's teacher – the best and first person to speak to about your child and usually the best and quickest way of resolving issues. It is preferable 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, SENDCO – Mrs Sizer-James 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 Tuesdays and you can make an appointment to see her via the school office.

Liza Wright, Family Support Worker – Liza is available at Somersham most Thursdays. Her role is to support our pupils and you, their families. She is the best person to see if you or your child needs to talk about any personal worries or if your family is going through a difficult time. You can make an appointment to see her via the school office. You can also drop-in to one of our 'Cuppa Clubs.' The next upcoming 'Cuppa Club' date is Thursday March 8th at Somersham, 2.15-3.15pm.

Mrs Oldfield, Head of School – As our Head of School, Mrs Oldfield is in school every day and is usually on the playground before school and knows all of our pupils well. She is 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 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.

School Clubs

We aim to provide a good range of after-school clubs for our pupils. Currently, at our partner school we have been able to offer a wider range of clubs by using outside providers such as 'Learn Play Grow' (www.learnplaygrow.com) and Premier Sport. We continue to look for other exciting opportunities. These clubs therefore come with a charge of around £3-£3.50 payable on a half termly or termly basis.

Would you be interested in having additional, paid-for clubs at Somersham? If so, for which age groups? Are there any particular clubs you think would be of interest to your child(ren)?

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 or Liza Wright – 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 break and look forward to seeing you back at school on Monday 19th February.

Best wishes,

Mrs E Burgess, Executive Headteacher



Please let us know of your interest using the attached 'What's your view?' sheet...we can only offer these options if there is enough interest from parents as many external providers require minimum numbers of pupils for clubs to run.





My Child's Name _____ Class _____

Parent/Carer's Name _____

My suggestions for the school website:

I would/would not be interested in the provision of paid-for after school clubs. ***Delete as appropriate***

Comment (including any age groups for whom you would be keen to see additional paid-for clubs):

I/my child would be interested in the following types of paid-for after school clubs:

My views on after school clubs