



# January Newsletter 2019

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Headteacher- -Debbie Dismore/ Mike Hooper - Acting Head

Welcome back and we wish you all a very happy and healthy 2019! By now you should have received a year group newsletter and outline curriculum information for the half term. This is always quite a quick half term but as always there will be plenty to keep us all busy. Keep an eye on Class Dojo and the newsletters throughout the term for different opportunities to get involved.

Thank you for your generous donations before Christmas. St Martin's House were overwhelmed by your generosity, we collected nearly 200 bags of sugar for Sugar for Shelter and there was a fabulous response to the Foodbank collection – you definitely made a difference to the lives of many this Christmas. In addition to this we raised nearly £250 for Save the Children.

## Collection of winter clothes

Have you got any spare winter clothing you no longer need? The British Red Cross is collecting **adult** jumpers, coats, scarves, hats and gloves to distribute among refugees who have recently arrived in Norwich. The clothes will be given to the British Red Cross Norwich shop which has created a clothes 'shop' at their refugee support centre, which is set up so that people can come in and select what they need free of charge. Mr Rose-Brown is collecting donations up until Tuesday 22nd January and will drop them off at the UEA at their free event to celebrate one year of being a University of Sanctuary the following day. There will be a box in reception for any donations. Many thanks for your support.

## Improving our playground

This spring we will be looking a little closer to home with supporting our own campaign to improve our playground facilities; the trim trail is very popular but is now 10 years old and in need of expansion and improvements. We will send more details in February but are hoping to have a whole school activity based sponsored event. If anyone has any contacts with companies or firms who may support us in our efforts to raise this money we would love to hear from you; this type of equipment is enjoyed by all the children but it is expensive!

## Looking after ourselves

As part of our School Development Plan this year we have a focus on the well-being of the whole school community. January can sometimes be a time when we see people, including children, struggle with their wellbeing. Our pastoral team are available to discuss any concerns or worries you may have about your child, at any point through the year, and Lauren Gislam, our PSA is also here as a support for parents. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you or your child requires any support. We are also very pleased to welcome Catherine Cator to our pastoral and teaching assistant team this term. Many of you will know Catherine from her previous role at Recreation Road School and we are delighted to welcome her to our team.

Looking after wellbeing includes our staff too. I have been looking closely at ensuring the demands that are put on our teachers are acceptable and that their work life balance is improved. We are very fortunate to have such caring and dedicated teachers and I am very keen they remain healthy, happy and full of energy to teach your children! I will be posting a survey on the website next week to find out your views on the communication we currently have with you including reports, parents' evenings and other forms of teacher communication. Please do take the time to respond as it will give me a very good view of the communication you find the most useful/would find the most useful and this may also help to reduce the burden on teachers on reducing workload in those areas which you feel have little impact.

We look forward to another good year of working together. We hope to see you at the open mornings if not before.

## January & February Dates

February 5<sup>th</sup> – Safer Internet Day

February 7<sup>th</sup> 4pm – 5pm – Sex and Relationships Education talk for parents

February 8<sup>th</sup> PTA discos: 3.30 – 4.45 pm Years 3 & 4 5.00 – 6.30 pm Years 5 & 6

Open Mornings – come in and see the books and join in with some activities

Years 4 & 5 Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 9 – 10.30

Years 3 Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February 9 – 10.30

February 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> School closed for half term

February 25<sup>th</sup> – School reopens for pupils.

February 26<sup>th</sup> – Y6 SATS information evening 6.30 pm & a chance to look at children's work

## Advance notice

Thursday March 7<sup>th</sup> – World Book Day (Non Uniform Day/ Book Character dress up optional)