



Featherstone Academy's Newsletter - Week Ending 13/01/2023

A Message from the Headteacher

A great first full week of term at Featherstone Academy. A really lovely start to the series of Books and Biscuits events; the new sports clubs got off the ground really well and were even able to be outside; an incredible performance with great support at Young Voices; another litter pick in the local area; some great contributions to the Art competition and much more to compliment the normal, ongoing, high quality learning. Thank you parents for all the continued support and I would like to take this opportunity to thank my staff team for making these kind of weeks happen and for this to be the norm that our children receive week in, week out.

Key Dates

Upcoming dates for your diary

18th January – **Reception & Year 1** Parent Phonics Workshop - 3.45pm

18th January - **Little Learner's & Nursery** Books & Biscuits

19th January - Children's University Assembly - Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 (parents welcome 2:45pm)

19th January - **Year 1** Books & Biscuits - 2:30pm

20th January – Chinese New Year Celebration – **EYFS**

20th January- Chinese New Year School Meal - Change to menu

24th January – **Little Learners & Nursery** Open Morning. 10.00 - 11.30am

25th January - **Year 2** Books & Biscuits - 2:30pm

25th January – **Year 5** trip to Tudor World

26th January - **Year 3** Books & Biscuits - 2:30pm

1st February - **Year 4** Books & Biscuits - 2:30pm

2nd February - **Year 5** Books & Biscuits - 2:30pm

7th February – Safer Internet Day - **Whole School**

8th February - **Year 2** Arctic Explorers Day (see below)

9th February - **Year 6** Books & Biscuits - 2:30pm

9th February – **SEND** coffee morning - 9am

10th February – Children’s Mental Health Day - **Whole School**

13th February – Parents Forum 5pm- details to follow

2nd March – World Book Day - **Whole School**

6/7th March – Parents Evening **Reception to Year 6**. 3.30pm – 5.30pm

7th March – Parents Evening **Little Learners & Nursery** 3.30pm - 4.30pm

17th March – Comic Relief - **Whole School**

13th March – British Science Week - **Whole School**

20th – 24th March – Parents ‘Look into Learning’ Week (info to follow).

21st March – World Down Syndrome Day – ‘Rock Your Socks’ - **Whole School**

29th March – Easter Bonnet Parade – **Little Learners and Nursery** 9.30am

30th March – Easter Celebration led by Year 3 and 4 – 9.30am - (Year 3/4 parents welcome to attend)

Year 2 Arctic Explorers Inspiration Day

On Wednesday 8th February, Year 2 will be taking part in an ‘Arctic Explorers Inspiration Day’. On this day, children are invited to come into school in their own clothes, dressed up in any explorer themed clothing.

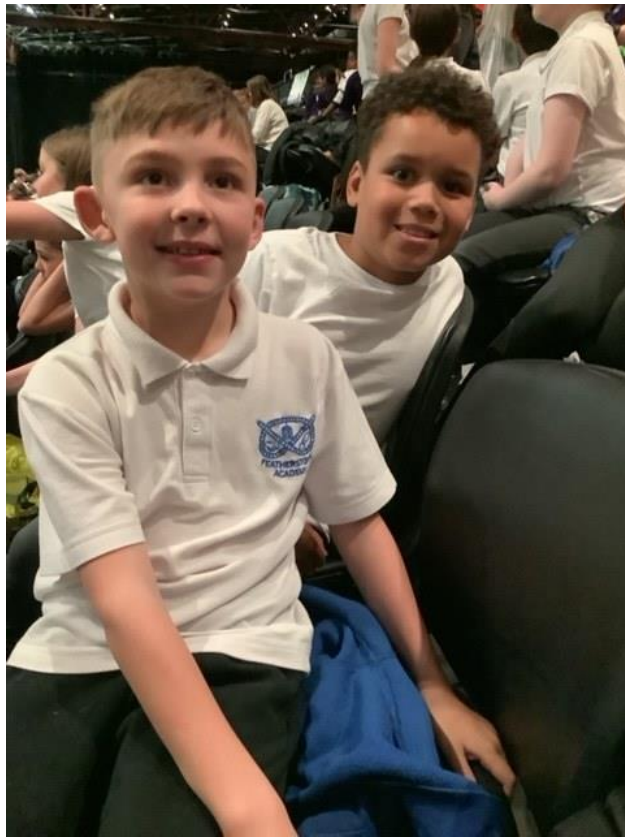
The children will be taking part in various explorer themed activities throughout the day. We will be inviting parents in during the afternoon to work with their children. More information on this will follow.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask Miss Tkaczuk.

Young Voices

Well done to all those involved in Young Voices 2023! We are so proud of all the hard work Year 5 and 6 choir put in to learn all the songs for the concert held at Resorts World in Birmingham this week. 1000's of children attended the concert, singing and dancing their hearts out. It was a huge success and children, staff and parents thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The children were a credit to Featherstone Academy. Thank you to all those involved; it was a night they will never forget.





Balance-ability Bike Course

Over the Spring and Summer term, we have been able to secure Balanceability sessions for Reception, Nursery and Little Learners, through Progressive Sports. Working with Progressive Sports, children will be learning how to balance and gain the skills to confidently ride a bike. Bikes will be provided on the course and fully funded by the school. Parents will be notified when it is their child's turn to take part.



New to Nursery & Reception - September 2023 Reception admissions close Sunday 15th January

We welcome prospective parents to visit school for a tour with Mr Gatrad. Please email: headteacher@featherstone.uwmat.co.uk to arrange a convenient time. Please pass this on to families you may know with children due to start Nursery or Reception next September. We look forward to welcoming you.

KEY DATES:

Nursery applications for September 2023 is now open. [NURSERY ONLINE APPLICATION LINK](#)

Reception 2023 - click on the link to apply for a Reception place for September 2023. **Applications close Sunday 15th January 2023.** Parents will be notified on Monday 17th April 2023. [Citizen Portal - Sign in \(staffordshire.gov.uk\)](#)

Morning Snack Purchases - Year 3, 4, 5 and 6

Children in Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 are able to purchase a snack and drink during morning break, from the school kitchen. There are a variety of drinks which cost 40p and various snack items costing 30p. Items are limited to one of each per day, and purchases are recorded by our kitchen staff. These are charged weekly to your MCAS account and we would ask that payments are made weekly to avoid debts accruing. Please note, snack charges are not linked to school dinner balances, they will show on your outstanding payments as an order. If you do not want your child to purchase snack, please let the school office know and we can make sure the kitchen are informed of your wishes.

Milk - Years 1 and 2

Parents are given the chance to purchase a carton of milk for their child to drink at snack time. The milk costs 25p per day and is calculated on MCAS for the term. Please let us know if you would like to

purchase the milk for your child, but also let us know if your child no longer wants milks and we can delete the payment on your MCAS and take them off our list.

Head Lice and Nits

We have unfortunately had several children in school over recent weeks with head lice and nits, although this is common in schools please follow the advice to stop lice;

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>

Chinese New Year Dinner Menu 20/01/2023



1 - We will be celebrating Chinese New Year on Friday 20th January, during the celebrations children will have a special Chinese dinner in school. Please see the full menu attached.

There will be a change to the lunch menu on Friday 20th January as Miss Hayward will be cooking an amazing Chinese menu. We look forward to celebrating Chinese New Year!

Books & Biscuits

We are excited to be able to host our first 'Books & Biscuits' afternoons for all of our families. We would like to invite parents, carers, guardians or grandparents into school to enjoy some quality reading time with your child in our recently revamped library! Your child's teacher will be on hand to answer any questions you might have surrounding reading and supporting your child. There will also be some sweet treats on offer to make that reading time with your child even more special.

If you would like to join us, please arrive at the main office from 2.30pm on the day for your child's year group. Dates are as follows:

Wednesday 18th January - **Little Learners and Nursery**

Thursday 19th January - **Year 1**

Wednesday 25th January - **Year 2**

Thursday 26th January - **Year 3**

Wednesday 1st February - **Year 4**

Thursday 2nd February - **Year 5**

Thursday 9th February - **Year 6**

We look forward to welcoming you into our library.

We had our first session this week for Reception and had a great turn out.







Attendance & Punctuality

Thank you to all our families for supporting our attendance policy. Our aim is to work in partnership with you to ensure that your child reaches their full potential. Our whole school aim is 96% and we are currently at 93.4%, which is an improvement on last month of 0.6%. We would really appreciate everyone's effort in continuing with this upward trend. We understand that children do get ill and appreciate that you keep communicating with school when your child is absent for any reason.

We are monitoring attendance and when a child's attendance falls below 90%, it will trigger communication from school. Persistent absence is defined by the Government as attendance below 90%. This equates to 19 days or more of absence over a school year. We ask that any appointments, such as dental, are outside of school hours where possible. You are always welcome in to school to discuss how we can support you to improve your child's attendance.

Can we also emphasise the importance of being in school on time as there have been numerous incidents of some families routinely being late for morning registration. Children need to be in their class at 8:50am promptly. Children who arrive late are greatly disadvantaged because they miss starting the day with their peers and beginning of lessons. This means that they are often unsettled and confused about tasks and many will miss vital phonics lessons.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Volunteers

We have 5 volunteers currently in school and their support is invaluable. Please can I encourage more to go through the process and offer some time if they can, you will even have the opportunity to have lunch with your children in school on those days!

Parent Committee

This is now being set up and is in the initial stages with 8 parents who have come forward, including the offer of a Chairperson. We will soon be meeting in school to see how this can be a successful addition to school, watch this space! If anyone would like more information or would like to join, please contact the school.

Facebook Page

While all communication does come through this newsletter, please do sign up to our Facebook page for additional reminders and most importantly, photos and updates every day of what is happening at school.

[FEATHERSTONE ACADEMY FACEBOOK PAGE](#)

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