



## NORTON SUB HAMDON and WEST CHINNOCK C of E VC PRIMARY SCHOOL FEDERATION



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July 2019

Dear Parents,

We are at the end of another busy year at the Federation. I thought I would write to you to let you know of key events as well as responding to the Parent Champion points that have been raised.

Firstly I really value the meetings with the Parent Champions and have seen this as a really positive way to have direct communication with you as parents. Many items have been discussed and as a result improvements and suggestions have been implemented.

Below are some of the key areas as well as new up and coming developments.

- **Co- Heads**, we are very much looking forward to the new leadership structure in September and Mr Caswell has already visited the school on a number of occasions during this term. Mr Caswell will work 5 days a week across the Federation, teaching for one day in Class 1 at Norton on a Thursday and Ms Stiddard will work 2 days a week. Ms Stiddard will mainly work on a Thursday whilst the other day will be more flexible to allow for the best use of time. We in effect will be able to have more Head Teacher presence across the Federation in the future, and as a result will endeavour for one of us to be on the playground for some mornings each week.
- **Staffing for next Year.**  
**Class 1** will be taught by **Mrs Jaggard** for 4 days and **Mr Caswell** for 1 day a week (mainly Thursdays) supported by **Ms de la Hey and Mr Kenward**, **Class 2 Miss Guest and Miss Brown**  
In KS2 we have decided to have a change around of teachers, this is for a variety of reasons but the over-riding factor is for pupil achievement. **Class 3 will have Mrs Parkinson** and **Class 4 Mrs Byrne**. We feel that Mrs Parkinson's expertise with the older children will benefit the Y3/4 pupils next year helping to set expectations and challenge for all the pupils. Mrs Byrne has knowledge across the full primary age group range as well as working in different schools which brings a breath of experience and new ideas for the upper age group. This will also provide professional development for staff allowing a better understanding of the whole Key Stage. The Teaching assistants will stay with their Class with Mrs Fox in Class 3 and Mrs Brimble in Class 4 allowing some continuity. Although a change for Norton we are very excited about the opportunities that this provides going into the future.
- **Website.** We now have a fully functioning Federation Website this has taken some time to get going due to various hiccups but it is now in place. There have been some comments around the joint Calendar as it is confusing, however there is a tab on the top right hand corner which allows you to choose just Norton and Federation and deselect West Chinnock. This should then make it clearer. The website is specifically designed to look good on a mobile phone or tablet as many parents said this is where they access it, so it may not be as good on a larger device.



- **Social Media.** Posts on Facebook and Instagram have been working well with many positive comments from parents who have found the information interesting and informative. We try to ensure that posts are relatively equal for both schools, after a quick check of the posts there are slightly more for West Chinnock on the Instagram but more for Norton on Facebook. Facebook is used for posts with more information about the event whereas Instagram is mainly a picture with a short comment. There is however no competition between the schools as we are both part of an interactive and equal partnership, sharing ideas, and resources and allowing the children the added benefit of being in a collaborative Federation.
- **School Lunches.** We are very pleased to say that we have secured Fiveways School as our new meals provider for next year. I can vouch for the quality of the meals having visited the school and been treated to an excellent lunch. You should by now have the new menus for your selections. Children will be expected to take more responsibility during the lunch time with collecting and clearing up their own plates as we change the old system into a more modern cafeteria type set up. There will also be a self-service salad bar available every day. You will be invited to a tasting session in the new term to try some of the food for yourselves.
- Following numerous parental requests we have now signed up to **Parent Pay** with a plan for it to be up and running by the October half term 2019. Parents will be able to select and pay for school lunches on the site and we will be rolling out all cash payments to be done through the Parent Pay site which will be found on the website. So no more searching for little bits of cash and envelopes in that morning rush!
- **Swimming,** we will continue to swim in terms 1 and 2 with Class 3 and this year we will also be joining with Y3&Y4 West Chinnock pupils to swim together. The children have particularly enjoyed working with pupils across the two schools and requested that they would like to do more. We will look for more opportunities to join with events.
- The **Monster Points** rewards system is working well across the school and we are going to look at the rewards children earn as there was a request for less plastic.
- **Clubs and activities.** We have a full programme of extra-curricular clubs planned for the Autumn term with a range of sporting and other activities. Following requests by parents for more sport, we have employed another two sports coaches to run clubs allowing us to offer more. By popular demand there will be a Drama club as well as a wider selection of sports activities.

**However we would greatly value some support from willing parents/grandparents who could help out with clubs. We are particularly looking for help with the drama and gardening, you do not have to be an amateur dramatist or a Carol Klein, just have a little bit of time to help out. Please let the office know if you can help it will be greatly appreciated.**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support for the school and stress that we operate an open door policy so please feel free to come and talk to either Mr Caswell or myself about any ideas or concerns you may have, we would like to hear from you.

We finish at 2pm on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July and we look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September for the start of term.

I hope you have a lovely summer break.

Liz Stiddard

