



AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the start of another new year at Titchmarsh Primary School. We are already very settled into this new term. Our new Owlets are settling into school life extremely well! The children, as always, are looking very smart in their school uniforms. We are hopeful that this Autumn Term we will be able to share more of our usual events and activities with you and we are looking forward to working with our children, parents, governors and the local community to make this another successful year for Titchmarsh Primary School.

New Pupils



A warm welcome to our pupils who have started in Owlets this autumn. We would also like to welcome Mrs Little, our new Eagle Owls class teacher. Welcome to the Titchmarsh family.

Jeans for Genes



Thank you for your support with our fundraising event that took place on Friday 17th September. We raised an amazing **£205.00** for a very worthy cause. A huge thank you for your generosity!

Harvest Festival



Our Harvest Festival will take place on **Friday 22nd October 2021**, at **9.30am** in the Church. We will send you more information regarding donations nearer the time.

Community Award



We have a new 'Community Award' that will be awarded during our sharing assemblies. This award will be given to children who do something for their local community, for example, a charitable event, volunteering their time to help others etc. Please inform Mrs Toyne if you know of any children you would like to nominate for such an award. You can contact Mrs Toyne at: communityaward@titchmarshprimary.co.uk

Latin Club



Don't forget, we have our Latin Club starting on **Wednesday 22nd September**. The club is run by students from Oundle School, and was very well attended when we were last able to hold the club back in 2019! If your child is in YR4, YR5 or YR6 and would be interested in joining, there are still places available. Please ask Mrs Skerritt for a permission slip. There is no charge for this club.

Tennis Club



Our Tennis Club will be starting again on Wednesday 22nd September, and will run from 3.30pm until 4.30pm. As mentioned in the letter, the club will be based entirely outdoors, so will be weather dependant. If your child is in KS2 and would like to attend Tennis Club, then please ask Mrs Skerritt for a permission slip. There is no charge for this club.

FOTS



FOTS will be holding their AGM on **Thursday 28th September** at **7.30pm**. If you would like to attend the meeting, then please contact Sarah Fortescue at: margotharrell@hotmail.com

Macmillan Coffee Morning



We will, once again, be supporting this very worthy cause by holding our Coffee Morning on **Friday 1st October 2021**. Further details will be sent nearer the time.

Parents' Evening



We will be holding our Parents' Evenings on **Tuesday 19th** and **Wednesday 20th October 2021**, from **3.30pm until 6pm**. You will be able to book your time slot using the ParentMail App. Each time slot is 10 minutes long. You will receive a notification from ParentMail when the booking window is open.





Individual School Photos

Tempest will be in School to take individual school photos on **Friday 19th November**, so please ensure that your child has a clean jumper/cardigan on this day!



Whole School Pantomime Visit

We will be paying a visit to the Castle Theatre in Wellingborough on **Thursday 16th December 2021** to see a production of **Sleeping Beauty**. We will be attending the 10am performance and our coach travel has kindly be paid for by FOTS. Further details will be sent home nearer the time.



Contact Information

A contact information update sheet will be sent home with your child this term. We would be most grateful if you could please ensure that the information that we hold for you and your child is correct. Should amendments need to be made, please return the form with the amendments made to Mrs Skerritt in the School Office. We need to also ensure that we have two contact names and numbers in case of an emergency.



Govilon – YR6 December 2021

Our YR6 residential trip to Govilon will be here before we know it! The trip will be taking place from Monday 6th to Friday 10th December 2021. A payment schedule was sent home before the Summer holidays. Your next instalment is due on **Friday 24th September**. If you need a copy of the payment schedule, please contact Mrs Skerritt in the School Office.



Reception places 2022

If you have a child who **turned 4 before 31st August 2021** it is time to apply for their school place. You can make your application and find helpful tips online at: [-www.northnorthants.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/admissions). **The closing date for applications is the 15th January 2022 at 5.00 pm.**



Open Week – 22nd – 26th November 2021

We will be holding an open week for new parents to the school from **Monday 22nd - Friday 26th November**. If you have a child or you know of anyone whose child is due to start school next year and you would like to make an appointment to look around, please contact the school office. **If you would be willing to display one of our posters at your place of work please contact the school office.**



Secondary School Applications

At the beginning of this academic year, it may feel strange to be thinking about the next academic year already; however, the closing date for secondary school applications is **5pm on Sunday 31st October 2021**. For more information please go to: www.northnorthants.gov.uk/admissions



No Dogs

Could we please ask that you refrain from bringing dogs onto the playground at drop off and pick up times. We appreciate your co-operation with this matter.



Birthdays

I would like to remind you that children are permitted to wear their own clothes to school for their Birthday, **if their Birthday falls on a school day**. If your child's birthday is at the weekend or during the school holidays, this is a treat in itself! Every child receives a Birthday Certificate during assembly to ensure their special day is recognised. I appreciate your cooperation with this matter.



Walking Home

If your child is in YR5 or YR6 and you would like them to walk home from school on their own, if they are able, could you please provide this permission in writing to Mrs Little. You can email Mrs Little using the Eagle Owls email address: eagleowls@titchmarshprimary.co.uk





Home Time Arrangements

If your child is going to be going home with someone other than yourself, or has a play date with another pupil, could you please ensure that the Class Teacher is informed and aware. You can do this by utilising the home to school books, by emailing the Class Teacher or by contacting Mrs Skerritt in the School Office. To ensure the safety of our pupils we will not release your child to another adult without your express permission. We thank you for your co-operation in this matter.



Breakfast and Afterschool Club

Breakfast and Afterschool Clubs are up and running. Please ensure that you pre-book your child's place using ParentMail. If you pay for the clubs using childcare vouchers, could you please ensure that you email a copy of your payment receipt to Mrs Skerritt in the school office. Places are limited at both clubs, so we can only accept pupils that have pre-booked places.

Breakfast Club is available from **7.50am** every morning and **Afterschool Club** runs from **3.15pm until 6pm** every day. Please can you ensure that your child is collected from Afterschool Club promptly at 6pm, so that no further costs are incurred. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

The ParentMail booking system is currently still showing the Afterschool Club session time as 3.15pm – 4.45pm, this is because the system had already accepted bookings for this term, prior to the time change taking place and no amendments can be made to the system once sessions have been booked. The Afterschool Club will definitely be running until 6pm, so please book your sessions as you normally would. The change in time is reflected after the half term break in October, where there will also be a price increase for Afterschool Club, when it will revert back to £10.00 for the full session.



Volunteer Helpers

We are very pleased to be able to welcome back into school parent helpers and volunteers, who provide invaluable help with many tasks, like listening to the children read and many more. If you feel that you are able to offer an hour or two of your time during the week, then please contact Miss G using the Tawny Owls email address: tawnyowls@titchmarshprimary.co.uk



School Governors

We currently have a vacancy on the Governing Body for a Parent Governor. Our parent governors are very valuable members of the governing body. We rely on them to help us to keep in touch with what parents are thinking. Governing bodies are responsible for a wide range of matters. Their duties include management of the school budget, school effectiveness, preparation for Ofsted inspections and formulation of post-Ofsted Action Plans. In your role as a school governor, you will be supported in these duties by other experienced members of the governing body, the Executive Headteacher, the clerk to the governors and the County Council.

The governing body works together as a group, usually meeting once a term. If you are thinking of standing as a parent governor, remember that you will need to attend a minimum of three meetings a year, plus committee meetings during the term. As a parent governor, you will normally hold office for **a period of four years**, even if your child leaves the school during this time. You can, however, resign from the governing body at any time. Parents from ethnic minorities and with disabilities are generally under represented on school governing bodies in the county. The school would like to encourage nominations from under-represented groups in our community.

Anyone who has parental responsibility for a pupil **on the school roll** at the time of the election can stand for election and can vote in the election.

If you feel that you have the time to dedicate to this role and would be interested in standing as a Parent Governor or would like more information about the role, please speak to Mrs Skerritt in the School Office.





Names Please!

Could we please remind parents to **clearly label their child's uniform and PE kit**; we have already had some lost property this term as it has not been named. If you have written your child's name onto the label of their clothing, could you please ensure that you regularly check that it is still legible, as it may fade when washed. Could you please also check that the clothing being bought home by your child is actually theirs – we have had instances where items have been taken home by mistake! We do appreciate your support with this matter.



Health and Welfare

With a new term comes new sickness and diarrhoea bugs and we are revising our policy in line with the recommendations from NHS Choices. Sickness and diarrhoea bugs can spread very easily, so your child should not return to school **until at least 48 hours** after their symptoms have cleared, to reduce the risk of passing it on. More information can be found at <http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/>. Can we also ask you to remain vigilant to the symptoms of COVID-19 and take the necessary steps should you suspect that your child may have contracted the virus.



Parking

As always at the beginning of a new term, parking becomes an issue at peak times for any school. As our school is located in the middle of two busy junctions, the focus on parking safely and sensibly is a priority. Could I, therefore, please remind parents to not park on the corners of busy junctions during drop off and pick times. It limits the places that can be used to cross the road safely, and as some of our older children are now walking to and from school on their own, we must be mindful of their safety. Could I please ask that this message be conveyed to other family members that may pick up or drop off your child on your behalf. Could you please also ensure that by parking your vehicle you have not obstructed access for emergency and utility vehicles. I thank you for your continued support and co-operation in this matter.



Jewellery / Watches

Children are not allowed to wear jewellery or watches to school without permission from the Executive Headteacher, as such items are easily lost or broken. Children with pierced ears may wear small **studs or sleepers**, but they must be able to remove them, **unaided**, for PE. Please provide your child with a small container to keep them safe. The school cannot accept responsibility for any injury, loss or damage caused by wearing them.



Healthy Eating

As a school, we promote healthy eating, which includes healthy lunch boxes. Children are encouraged to bring their own water bottles to school; however, they must contain water only. We have pupils with nut allergies; therefore, school is a nut-free zone. I thank you for your cooperation in these matters.



Pupil Absence

If your child is absent from school, please contact the School Office **before 9.30am** on the morning of their absence. A message will then be relayed to their Class Teacher. All absences should be followed by a letter upon your child's return to school. If no contact has been made by **10.30am**, the School has a duty of care to check on your child's welfare, and the School Office will contact you to enquire why your child is absent from School.



Term Time Holidays

As you are aware I can only grant permission for holidays during term time in exceptional circumstances. Should you wish to request a leave of absence for your child during term time, a 'Leave of Absence Request Form' will need to be completed. Forms are available from the School Office and from our website.



Is your Child Entitled to Free School Meals?

All children that are in Reception, YR1 and YR2 are entitled to Free School Meals under the Government Universal Infant Free School Meals scheme. However, your child may still be entitled to receive Free School Meals in KS2. To check if your family could benefit from this entitlement, please use the following link to the NCC website: <https://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/schools-and-education/free-school-meals>

For every child that is eligible for Free School Meals, from YR3 onwards, the school will receive a Pupil Premium grant. This money is used to further aid the child's learning experiences whilst at school and can be used to aid parents and carers with school trip and residential expenses.





Safeguarding

The safeguarding of our children is of the upmost importance to us and there are 3 members of staff with designated safeguarding roles. Miss G is our Designated Safeguarding Lead, with Mrs Little and myself as the Deputy Safeguarding Leads. Should you have a concern about a child, then please do not hesitate to speak to one of us. You will also find links to more safeguarding information on our website.



School Day

A gentle reminder that the school day begins at 9.00am. The bell will be rung at **8.50am** each day and the school gates will be locked by **9.05am** to enable the school day to begin. The school day ends at **3.15pm**.



Teacher Training Days

The Teacher Training Days for 2022 are: Wednesday 5th January 2022 and Tuesday 19th April 2022.

Thank you again for all the support you give us in so many different ways and we look forward to working with you this year. As always Titchmarsh Primary School prides itself on being a friendly open school and if there is anything we can support you with or if you have a query or need information, please do not hesitate to come in and see me or one of our members of staff.

Yours sincerely,

Mr E Carlyle

Executive Headteacher

