



School Lane, Heslington, York, YO10 5EE

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Friday 13th April 2018

Headteacher Update – May 2019

Congratulations, Miss McCormack!

Today, we informed the children that Miss McCormack is seventeen weeks pregnant and has a due date of 3rd November. This means that Miss McCormack will start maternity leave around October half term and we will therefore have to recruit a maternity cover teacher to work alongside Mrs McKenna next academic year in Year 2. I am sure you will all join me in congratulating Mary, her partner Andrew, and of course big brother Alexander on this wonderful news. We are all delighted for them!



School Attendance

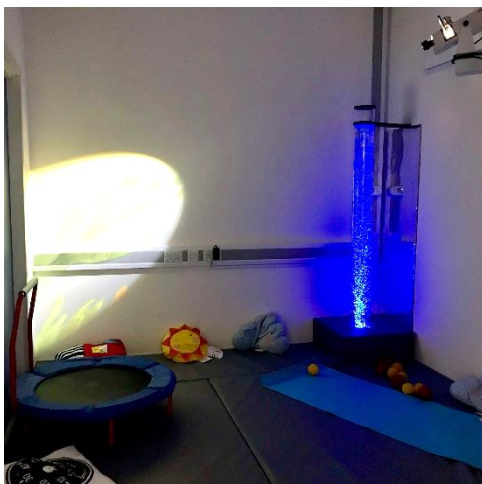
Please help us to keep our school attendance figures as high as possible. We have set ourselves a target of 98% this academic year and are currently around **97.23%**. It is therefore important that you avoid taking family holidays during term time. We are legally obliged to mark them as unauthorised. Attendance update letters will be sent out early next half term to all parents/carers of children with attendance below 95%. This is another statutory duty. Thank you for your understanding.

Road Safety

Please can we politely remind everybody about road safety during drop-off and pick-up times. We are still hearing reports from concerned parents and local neighbours of people parking illegally outside the school perimeter. Not only do we want to avoid children getting hurt but City of York Council are clamping down on such issues throughout the city, regularly visiting school areas and issuing fixed-notice penalties. Do not run the risk of being fined. Thank you for your cooperation.



Sensory Room



I am pleased to be able to tell you that our new sensory room is up and running. This area is designed to provide all children with a safe area in which they can relax, calm down, reflect or burn off energy. The room comprises of soft furnishing and flooring, a lighting projector with different effects and patterns, a multi-coloured bubble tube, sound system and mirror walls. It is a wonderful addition to our inclusive school and has been made possible thanks to the generosity of the PTA and my predecessor, Mrs Sheena Powley, who gave all her leaving present donations towards the project.

Outdoor Environments

Our new Phase 1 area has been installed and it is truly wonderful to see the children enjoying it. Some further improvements will be made over the next few weeks so watch this space. In addition to this area, the children love the artificial grass and seating area. We are still awaiting information on our National Lottery bid for our playground gazebo so I will keep you updated about this when we hear from them.



To help improve the playground further, the PTA have kindly donated £4,000 towards a new £9,000 trim trail which will hopefully be installed within the next few weeks. This will be located on the small grass area opposite the Phase 1 area.



Over the next term, we will also be installing seven raised beds (one for each class) alongside picnic benches outside of the Key Stage 2 classroom doors. This will be the start of developing this space into an ecological and agricultural learning area.

School spaces

Although we are at near full capacity as a school, with a large waiting list for next year's Early Years class, we have early indications that twelve of our children will be most likely leaving us at the end of this academic year. If you know of any families who are interested in joining us next year (in year groups other than Reception), it is vital that they contact us (01904 553890) and City of York Council (01904 551554) as soon as possible as places do tend to be snapped up early in the autumn term when they become available.

Wishing you all a wonderful half term break,

James Rourke
Headteacher