

Featherstone Primary School

Weekly School Newsletter



24th September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to this week's newsletter.



Building work on school site

We have gained planning permission to carry out the following projects in school over the next year.

- Store building on the school grounds
- Expansion of the school hall

The first of the above will start next week with the building of the store build. The work will not impact on the day-to-day logistics of the school or mean a change to parents' access or pathways. Please, however, be mindful that there is construction work being carried out on school site so take care.

The company that is constructing both of these projects is called Zone Cee Ltd, and they have worked with a number of schools on different building projects.

If there are any changes that we need to make to access routes etc., we will keep you posted.

Parents' evening

I am pleased to let you know that parents' evening will take place this half term on Tuesday 19th Oct and Thursday 21st Oct 2021. A letter will be emailed to you with dates and times for you to select from. This will be the first face-to-face meeting since the start of pandemic so I ask all parents to book a slot to meet with your child's class teacher. If there are any changes in relation to COVID-19 and school, we will keep you informed in how these will be planned.

How do I know if my child is doing well in school?

Children in EYFS will shortly be signed up to Tapestry where you will be able to see the progress that your child is making. More information to follow from Mr. Gravell.

For children in Years 1 to 6, you will receive a snap shot of learning at the end of the Autumn term and Spring term. This will keep you up-to-date with how your child is progressing in reading, writing and maths, against the curriculum which has been taught so far. At the end of the summer term, you will receive their end of year school report.

Don't forget to also follow your child's year group Twitter page.

More information about 'The Featherstone Enrichment Programme'

Earlier on this week, Mr. Douglas sent a letter out all about Enrichment. Here is some more information about it for you, including why we think Enrichment is very important.

At Featherstone Primary School, we do not just want children to succeed academically; we want to build and mould ‘the whole child’ because we recognise that children have many differing talents and abilities; we, therefore, foster knowledge, skills, abilities and understanding development in many non-statutory but highly important areas. In other words, our ‘Enrichment Programme’ is a tailor-made promise, or guarantee, that children at Featherstone will *not* just be skilled in curriculum subjects.

‘The Featherstone Enrichment Programme’ sits side-by-side our delivery of The National Curriculum and offers Featherstone children multiple experiences. This enrichment programme is a promise to: improve, enhance, develop and deepen our learners’ world understanding. Under a multitude of categories, children are guaranteed to undertake a wide range of experiences from Reception to Year Six that meet the objective we have set ourselves – to enrich their world understanding.

The Featherstone Enrichment Programme is child-centred and so in many ways, child-led. The children get the most excited about ‘The Featherstone Championship Award Scheme’ (which is part of our enrichment curriculum) because the Champion Award Scheme inspires, enthuses and motivates children to work towards a self-led yet structured programme of events in seven stages: children undertake volunteering, skills and physical activities to work towards completing a personalised programme which culminates in the final award that they are striving for – Platinum.

Below is a summary of the requirements needed to fulfil the seven stages of The Featherstone Championship Award Scheme. Children take part in the activities of their choosing on a Thursday afternoon (replacing the old-style Golden Time system) but then may, depending on which stage of the award they are working towards, need to complete additional hours outside of the school day, with the support from parents.

1/7 Wood 15 hours of Volunteering, Skills and Values or Physical	2/7 Tin 16 hours of Volunteering, Skills and Values or Physical	3/7 Copper 18 hours of Volunteering, Skills and Values or Physical
4/7 Bronze 24 hours of Volunteering, Skills and Values or Physical	5/7 Silver 32 hours of Volunteering, Skills and Values or Physical	6/7 Gold 40 hours of Volunteering, Skills and Values or Physical
7/7 Platinum 50 hours of Volunteering, Skills and Values or Physical		

During the Enrichment Programme, children will gain a very wide range of skills depending upon the route that they take to complete the programme; ultimately, no two routes will be the same because no two children (and their interests) are the same. Depending on which groups and activities they complete will dictate the types of skills gained. Typically, skills such as resilience, co-operation, communication, risk-taking, motivation, leadership and problem-solving will be enhanced but more niche skills could also be increased depending upon which activities children undertake.

The activities themselves vary greatly also. In the past, we have offered enriching experiences such as life skills, charity work, sewing, orienteering, outdoor survival skills, game making, photography, baking, card making, drama, wildlife food making, sketching, computing, fashion, music, singing and gardening although these offers will change as children progress through the awards.

If you want to hear it for yourselves, just ask our children: *What do you think of Enrichment?!*

Enrichment clubs

Enrichments clubs are now back! These will take place on Thursdays and will be led by our staff (Teachers and Teaching Assistants). Children will have the opportunity to attend clubs in school and the hours that they gain will help them towards their end of year awards.

Parking on Glenville Drive

Access to Glenville Drive in the mornings and afterschool will still continue. Those who have a Disability Badge in their name will be granted access. All temporary passes have now been reviewed and applications for September can be made in September and not before.

Sniffs, sneezes and headaches

If your child is genuinely unwell to attend school, for example they have vomited or have a poorly stomach, then we would not expect them to be in school. However, if your child has a bit of a cold, a sneeze, a snuffle or a headache, we would certainly expect them in school as normal. If you keep your child at home for any of these reasons, it is very likely that we won't be able to authorise their absence. Most children are absolutely fine when they get into school and get on enjoying their learning with their friends. If ever your child was unwell in school, we would contact you. If your child has COVID symptoms, keep them at home and contact us. Thank you for your support.



Lost property

We have quite a lot of lost property at the back of the school under the canopy. If your child has recently lost something, take a look there as it could be in one of the boxes.

Follow us on Twitter!

EYFS	@FeatherstoneEYFS
Year 1	@FeatherstoneYR1
Year 2	@FeatherstoneYR2
Year 3	@FeatherstoneYR3
Year 4	@FeatherstoneYR4
Year 5	@FeatherstoneYR5
Year 6	@FeatherstoneYR6

