

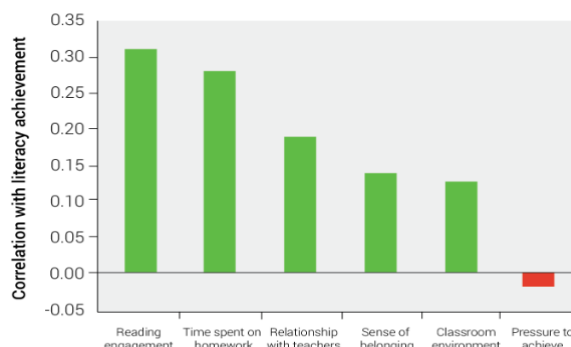
The importance of Reading over Christmas

First of all, Happy Christmas – I hope you all have a restful break after what has been an incredibly busy autumn term. I know the last few weeks, in particular, have been difficult with the levels of absence through ill staff and pupils extremely high, but hopefully this is now out of the way ready for Christmas.

Whilst a two-week break is perfect for returning everyone's (maybe not parent's) energy levels back to normal ready for the spring term, for skills such as reading, two weeks out of the normal habit of nightly reading can have a really negative effect. This can be worsened by the inevitable increase in time online during the holidays with an average 8-10 year-old expected to spend over 6 hours a day on an electronic device.

Therefore, if we can ask for one present this Christmas, please try to keep up your child's habit of at least 15 minutes reading a day. We are often asked by families 'how can I help my child' and there is nothing that comes close to establishing a habit of daily reading. It is by far the easiest way to support, but has the greatest impact on their education with those reading daily for at least 15 minutes estimated to be exposed to 5.7 million more words by 16, than those who do not read. So, thank you to the PTA for funding a book for all pupils this Christmas.

Reading engagement is highly correlated with literacy achievement



Welcome back to Mr Russell and goodbye to Mrs Penston

Known to many of the older children as Billy, we are really pleased to welcome back Mr. Russell to the school in the role of Sports and Well-being Teaching Assistant. Having worked as a coach in the school for a number of years, he is really familiar with the importance that we place on physical activity and we are excited about the energy and expertise that he will bring to this.

Unfortunately, we are sad to say that Mrs Penston will not be returning to the school after Christmas as once hoped as she continues to care for her daughter. Mrs Penston has been a hugely positive member of our teaching staff and we wish her our best for her future pursuits.

Parent Awareness Sessions

Thank you for the great response to our first parent awareness videos with our Mathematics and English videos having almost 100 views. The links for Geography and History have been included in an email sent out today.

Exiting from Activity Clubs and Extended-Care

From January, we are changing our release for those that stay at the school beyond 4:00pm. We are aware that the area beyond the 'Tesco' gate is very dark and uneven. Therefore, we will be releasing all clubs from the 'bike shed' gate at 4:15pm and release all extended care from the main office gate. This is manned until 4:00pm and then we would ask families to call as normal.

Parent Teacher Association

The Christmas fair was a fantastic success with over £1800 raised. We were very grateful to have so many members to help and have such a fantastic turnout. The PTA is really pleased to have funded the children's Christmas books this week and is beginning to seek tenders for a major PTA project, turning the pond area into a more useable sensory garden for those who want a quite place during lunchtime. We would like to have this completed this year.

Diary Dates

JANUARY			
7th	Tuesday		Children return to school
13th	Monday	10:00 - 11:30	KS1 Active Kids Festival - Lynnsport - Selected children
13th	Monday	16:00	Activity Clubs Open for booking via Tucasi
14th	Tuesday	9:30 - 12:00	Elder class - Additional PE Session
15th	Wednesday		Maple class last swimming lesson
15th	Wednesday		Reception application round closes
16th	Thursday	9:30	Reception Hearing and Vision check
20th	Monday		Activity Clubs start
21st	Tuesday	9:30 - 12:00	Juniper class - Additional PE Session
22nd	Wednesday		Year 5's start swimming lessons (10 weeks)
28th	Tuesday	9:30 - 12:00	Fir class - Additional PE session
FEBRUARY			
3rd-7th	Monday-Friday		Children's Mental Health Week
4th	Tuesday	9:30 - 12:00	Cedar class - Additional PE session
11th	Tuesday	9:30 - 12:00	Pine class - Additional PE session
11th	Tuesday	15:30 - 18:30	Parent Teacher Meetings
13th	Thursday	16:00 - 19:00	Parent Teacher Meetings
14th	Friday		Love West Norfolk Heritage Day - Non Uniform
17th - 21st	Monday - Friday		Half Term
24th	Monday		Children return to school
25th	Tuesday	9:30 - 12:00	Oak class - Additional PE session

