



MAGDALEN GATES PRIMARY



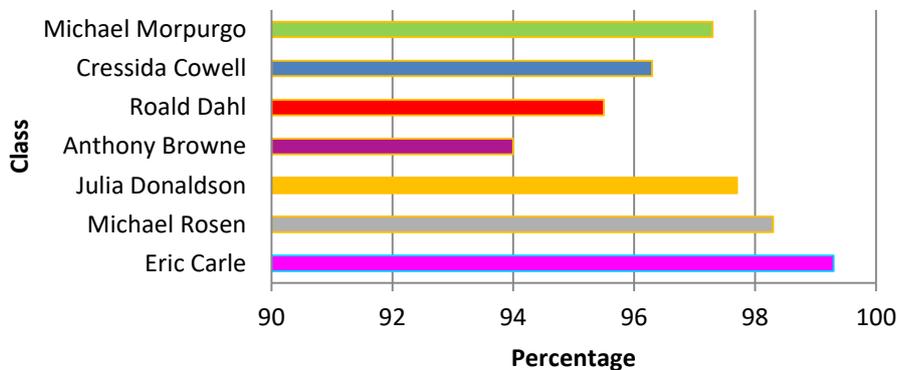
Weekly Newsletter

07/01/2019

Well done to EYFS class who received the £10 in assembly today. Whole school attendance for dates 07/12/18 to 03/01/19 was 96.9%

Bar Chart:

Weekly Attendance Percentage



Welcome Back and Happy New Year

A warm welcome back to school and Happy New Year, I hope everyone had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year break. Many congratulations to Hannah Collison who happily surprised us all by getting married to her partner Chris during the festive break. I am sure you will all join me in sending Hannah and Chris our very best wishes.

Home Tapestry Challenges - HOMEWORK

For the last 100 years or so, experts have been trying to work out if it is beneficial to give homework to children in primary schools. In the UK, the government says it's up to the head teacher to decide whether or not their school will set extra work like this. I am constantly reviewing the best way to do this.

My expectation is that all Teachers post a home learning challenge linked to class learning every Friday on Tapestry for children and parents to complete over the weekend – these are not onerous tasks and not planned to take over family time but they do reinforce class learning and provide an opportunity for parents to support their child's learning at home. The response and completion of these tasks is very variable across the school.

I am urging and asking parents to please support this each week and hopefully in a future newsletter I will be saying there has been a BIG improvement – thank you for your support with this.

Welcome Stacy

We are delighted to welcome Stacey Howes to our staffing team. Stacy will be working as part of our EYFS Team.

Term Dates 2019-2020

Please be aware that Governors will be approving school term dates for 2019-2020 at our next meeting in February – these will be shared with parents ASAP. There is the possibility that these dates will NOT follow the Norfolk County Council model. The decision on when INSET dates are taken is always based on the needs of the school and our whole school priorities.

Midday Supervisor - Vacancy

We currently have a Mealtime Supervisor position available. The working hours are 1 hour 15 minutes a day between either 11.45-1pm or 12.15-1.30pm. The post is currently being advertised on the Norfolk Schools vacancy site for further information and an application form.

Young Carers Charter event

Here is a picture of our AMAZING Harvey and Misty at the launch of the Carers Charter at Norfolk County Hall, held just before we broke up for the Christmas holidays. The photo shows them receiving a specially made cake as a thank you for all the school's contributions in helping with the new Carers Charter.

They were a credit to Magdalen Gates and fantastic ambassadors for raising awareness of young carers across Norfolk and beyond.



School Fund Account

Recently Governors on the Finance committee approved the School Fund account, which had a balance of £9,100. We wanted to thank all those who took part in, but especially those who organise, the many fundraising activities over the last year which have contributed to the School fund. This money enables Magdalen Gates to continue to offer whole school trips like the Yarmouth Hippodrome free of charge, and helps support other school trips throughout the year. Whilst much our work focuses on the overall school budget, which we know is under pressure, the generosity of all who support our school in many ways is highly valued by the Governing body and we are very appreciative of those efforts. We wish everyone a very happy New Year - Richard Bearman – Chair of Finance.

Tapestry Christmas Challenge



Well done to everyone who has completed the Christmas Tapestry challenge so far – we have had pictures of the amazing Wymondham display and Winter Wonderland at Centre Parcs. The deadline for pictures to be posted is THIS Wednesday 10th January so we can present certificates and prizes in assembly on Friday.

Year 3 Assembly

Special well done to Year 3 for a great class assembly before the holidays linked to all their learning both in school and as part of the residential trip to How Hill.

Change of lunch menu

On Thursday 17th January please note there will be change to the lunch menu as advertised on Schoolmoney. Instead pupils will be offered “Fab4 Fabulous Feast” (please see flyer attached). **All** pupils who have a school lunch on the Thursday will have the opportunity to **win** cinema tickets!

WOW Achievements



To the left, looking very proud of herself is Kacie-Mae (Yr1) who received a certificate for completing her 6-week tennis course – Well done Kacie, Wimbledon beckons.

We also heard that just before Christmas, Trinity in Yr3 received a merit in her tap exam and a distinction in her ballet exam. Trinity also participating in a fantastic ballet show at the Open youth venue, where she danced beautifully.



The picture on the right is of Joe (Yr5) who spent an evening collecting money for St Martins charity. We hear that Joe collected over £21 in just a few hours – which was by far the most anyone had collected that evening!

We really enjoy showing off the many fabulous talents our children have in clubs and their achievements out of school, so don't forget to drop me a note or fill in one of the forms available from the office. The children love to see their names in the Newsletter and their WOW bricks on the wall. Miss Fahy



Join the KS2 Football Club

If your child would like to join the KS2 football club, held after school on Fridays from 3:15 to 4:15pm, please come and collect a consent form from the office by Wednesday of this week. After school football club will start on Friday 18th January.

Forest School Visit - Governor Hayley Dawson

I was delighted to attend a forest school session at the end of last year. The students were so friendly and happy to share what they had been doing over a number of sessions.

From my brief observations it was clear that there are many benefits to the pupils that experience the forest school environment. The atmosphere was very relaxed with all the pupils creating their own unique names related to nature that were very creative. I was particularly impressed with how the staff managed the pupils as they took on more responsibilities. Pupils learn to assess risk and are encouraged to make sensible and informed decisions about how to deal with unfamiliar and unpredictable situations (such as exploring or climbing trees, using tools to build shelters and dens).

Learning from experience outdoors is such a positive way to build confidence and independence and I look forward to visiting again soon.

Governor Spotlight – Hannah Robinson

Hello! My name is Hannah, I am one of the newer Governors at the school, I joined in July 2018.



I have been working in Education for quite a few years, at the moment my job is in Teacher Training and I work with schools and new teachers to run a Leadership Development Programme. Before this I used to work at the UEA on summer schools and mentoring projects for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds.

I wanted to become a Governor to give something back to the community I grew up in (I lived just off Angel Road) and also to use and develop some skills whilst hopefully helping the school. I am on the Safeguarding and Curriculum & Standards Committees and so far I've had the chance to meet pupils and look at their work. I am always impressed by the pupils and like the welcoming Magdalen Gates Community!

Pupil Survey Results



Before the holiday, children from Year 1 to Year 6 completed a pupil survey. Mrs Huggett has been busily collating the results for us all to analyse and act on. We were pleased to see that there were many positive outcomes of the survey some of the highlights are as follows:

- I am proud to be a pupil at MGPS - Yes 80% Sometimes 16%
- Our school is fun and exciting - Yes 76% Sometimes 20%
- I have some good friends at school - Yes 80% Sometimes 15%
- The staff at MGPS are kind - Yes 77% Sometimes 22%
- My teachers show me how to improve my work - Yes 82% Sometimes 13%
- I have the chance to learn in lots of different ways inside the classroom - Yes 75% Sometimes 20%
- My classroom is fun and exciting Yes 71% Sometimes 25%

Some of the areas that scored lower were:

- When I have my homework, I usually know what to do - No 17%
- I enjoy the school dinners - No 15%
- I enjoy assemblies - No 12%
- I have enough equipment and activities to keep me from being bored at break times - No 9%
- I am given many opportunities to learn outside the classroom - No 11%

The school parliament will now meet to discuss the outcomes make next steps. Excitingly extra playtime equipment has already been bought and was put out before Christmas and our Forest School sessions are beginning to be rolled out so we are pleased to be already tackling some of the areas the children feel needed improving. – Mrs Humphreys

Diary Dates

Wed 9 th	Yr6	3:30-4:15pm	Yr6 Boosters
Thr 10 th	Yr5	1:30-3pm	Bridewell Museum visit
Fri 11 th	All	8:30-9:15am	Tapestry Parent support. For any queries, problems or log-in issues please pop by at the office where Mrs Welch will be happy to help/advise
Mon 14 th	Yr5	9-10am	Yr5 Café
	Yr6	3:30-4:15pm	Yr6 Boosters
Tue 15 th	Yr6	3:30-4:15pm	Yr6 Boosters
Thr 17 th	Yr3	10-3pm	Egyptian workshop at Castle Museum
Fri 18 th	All	8:30-9:15am	Tapestry Parent support
Mon 21 st	Yr6	3:30-4:15pm	Yr6 Boosters
Tue 22 nd	Yr4	2-3pm	Yr4 Café
Wed 23 rd	Yr6	3:30-4:15pm	Yr6 Boosters
Thr 24 th	Yr1	2-3pm	Yr1 Café + Read Write Inc
Fri 25 th	All	8:30-9:15am	Tapestry Parent support
Mon 28 th	Yr6	3:30-4:15pm	Yr6 Boosters

Tue 29 th	Yr2	2-3pm	Yr2 Café
Wed 30 th	Yr6	3:30-4:15pm	Yr6 Boosters

Attachments

Stevensons Uniform Information
Fab4 Fabulous Feasts flyer
Solihull flyer for information