



Noctua
Train • Teach • Lead • Learn



TRANMERE TIMES NEWSLETTER

Friday 14th September 2018

General School Information/Dates

From Mrs Finley:

The second week of the school year has seen our new Reception children join us and it's been lovely to see their excited faces on their first days at school this week. Everyone seems to have settled in very quickly and we are looking forward to getting to know them – and you – as the year progresses.

Although I'm not in school as often nowadays due to my work with the Noctua Teaching School Alliance which involves working with over 50 other schools in Leeds and Bradford, I actively look forward to my 'school days' in Tranmere Park - which this year are Mondays and Tuesdays. Working with other head-teachers is great, but really not as much fun as the exciting things that go on at Tranmere – such as excited 4 years olds on their very first day ever at school!

School Development Work

As always, a new school year brings a new School Development Plan with new priorities we'd like to introduce to school or aspects we'd like to develop further and that we'll be working on over this academic year.

This year our priorities are:

- **'Closing the word gap'** – implementing exciting new research on how improving children's vocabulary can directly impact on their achievement at school. In English, we'll also be extending our **'RIC reading'** initiative into other curriculum areas.
- An **'outdoor learning'** initiative, developing the 'Muddy Puddle' days introduced in the last academic year.
- Developing the **'Knowledge Organisers'** we introduced last year to include maths and English after a helpful suggestion from Parent Forum.
- Actively working on strategies **promoting mental health** and reducing stress – research tells us that children today are more stressed than ever before.
- Revisiting **'maths mastery'** after introducing this new approach 2 years ago.
- We'll also be reviewing our wider curriculum and interventions strategy for children who need a little extra support.

We'll tell you about an aspect of this work in detail each week on the Tranmere Times over the coming weeks. The member of staff leading on that aspect will give you some headlines about the work they'll be leading.

This Week:

'Closing the Word Gap' – led by Mrs Finley

As teachers grapple with the challenge of a new, bigger and more challenging school curriculum than ever before at every key stage and phase, it can feel very daunting to help children get to grasp with all they are required to learn and understand. Research however, tells us that there are 50,000 small solutions to help bridge that gap – words. Research carried out into actively working to develop children's vocabulary has demonstrated that this approach can directly impact on children's success in reading, spelling and writing. Over the year, we'll be helping teachers to understand the vital role of vocabulary in all learning and making small adjustments to promote vocabulary development through our curriculum. The number of words a child has learned and understood by age 11 directly impacts upon their later success in GCSE, A Level and beyond so we need to start early. **Interesting stuff!**

Year 6 National Child Measurement Programme

Year 6 pupils have received a letter this week from the Leeds Community Healthcare Trust School Nursing Team regarding the National Child Measurement Programme. There is nothing to return to school but if a parent/carer wishes their child to OPT OUT of the programme parents must contact the School Nursing Service direct on 0113 8435219.

2018/19 Influenza Programme

This year the Influenza programme is being offered to children in Reception to Year 5 only. This year you are required to complete the online consent form provided by NHS Harrogate and District NHS Trust. The letter explaining the procedure to follow is attached. The form must be completed by the end of September if you wish your child to receive their flu vaccine in school. We anticipate the vaccines will take place before half term.

Some parents who have already tried logging on to the website have had problems.

We have contacted Harrogate NHS Trust and they have confirmed that due to the volume of parents trying to access the site across Leeds, the server has gone into overload! They have confirmed that the code will work and to keep trying. Apologies for this.

URGENT – Drop Off Zone Volunteers

The Drop Off system has reached something of a crisis in that there are not enough volunteers available to continue the service.

When first set up some years ago it was envisaged as being operated by a body of parent volunteers (ideally two per day to operate safely and allow for some flexibility). It was hoped that parents/carers whose work or other commitments meant that they benefited from the facility on some days would find themselves able to assist on others and this was indeed how things worked for some years. Other philanthropic individuals have also always been most welcome.

There has always been a need for fresh blood. As pupils (and families) move on from the school new faces have arrived. This process this year has left just two long standing staff volunteers and our Chair of Governors, Mrs Stout - a state of affairs which cannot be sustained for long.

Could you offer your assistance on one or more mornings this year? The task is regular but not onerous (10 minutes) and makes a great contribution to the safety of the children. Please contact school if you can help.

Parking

Polite Request. We have received a photograph this week of a parents car parked opposite the yellow zig zags and school gates. Can we once again remind parents **NOT TO PARK ON OR OPPOSITE THE YELLOW ZIG ZAGS**, the markings are there to ensure the safety of all the children.

Keyboard Lessons

Places have now been confirmed for those children who have been granted a place. Letters will be sent out to parents next week with details of the payment schedule.

Proposed Dates

Can we please confirm that the Tempest photographer will be in school on Wednesday 7th November 2018 (on the Proposed dates it is out of sequence but it is correct!)

Medical Notice Board – Response required

It is crucial that we have a record in school of any current severe medical or health conditions regarding your child/children. This information is displayed on a notice board in the staff room in order to ensure that all staff working with your child are aware. **A 'Medical Healthcare Plan' form has been sent home in your child's book bag this week. We request that you fill in the form with details of any diagnosed severe medical or health conditions and return it to school as soon as possible (and no later than Friday 21st September). Even if there are no conditions to report we would appreciate this being written on the form and it still being returned to school.** This week Mrs Martin is speaking to parents where we are already aware of a condition in order to update the forms. In this instance, the blank form sent home tonight does not need to also be returned. Thank you for your support with this important task.

Parent Forum

Our Parent Forum group has worked extremely well to feed a parent perspective into all aspects of School Development. We're looking for parents who can spare a couple of hours or so every half term. A forum meeting will take place half termly at 9.00am on a Tuesday mornings in the staff room where ideas are discussed for continually improving Tranmere Park. Ideally we would like a couple of parents from each year group to join the parent's forum so we have a balance of views from Reception to Year 6. If you are interested please e-mail victoriareeve@tranmerepark.leeds.sch.uk expressing your interest or see Mrs Finley or Mrs Hodgson on the playground. Previous Parent Forum Representatives are welcome to re-apply!

The dates have been scheduled for Tuesday 16th October, 11th December, 12th February, 19th March, 21st May & 9th July at 9am.

Letter to Parents/Carers from West Yorkshire Police

The police are asking if you could help reduce the number of missing children by ensuring that when your child's friend stays overnight at your home address, you have personally spoken to the friend's parent/carer/Guardian to ensure they know where their child is staying. Please read the attached letter.

Important Information

School Dinner Money

School meal prices are £2.40 per meal £12.00 per week (no price increase from last year). Please be reminded that meals must be purchased for the full week ahead.

Dinner Money for Years 3-6 for the first half term of the new academic year (Tuesday 4th September to Friday 26th October (39 days) is **£93.60**

Assemblies

Parents are most welcome to attend their child's class assembly/drop-in session at **9.10am**.

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| 21 st September | School Council Intro | Assembly |
| 28 th September | Falcons | Drop-in |
| 5 th October | Doves | Assembly |
| 12 th October | Hérons | Drop-in |
| 19 th October | Harvest Festival | Assembly |
| 26 th October | Wrens | Assembly |

Forthcoming Dates

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| Monday | 15 th October | Themed week – Enrichment Team |
| Friday | 19 th October | Harvest Festival |
| Monday | 22 nd October | Pupil Mentoring Week |
| Friday | 26th October | SCHOOL CLOSERS FOR HALF TERM HOLIDAYS at 3.15pm |
| Monday | 29th October | AUTUMN HALF TERM – SCHOOL CLOSED |
| Monday | 5th November | TRAINING DAY |
| Tuesday | 6th November | EYFS TRAINING DAY |
| Tuesday | 6th November | SCHOOL RE-OPENS TO YEARS 1 - 6 |
| Wednesday | 7 th November | Tempest photographer in school (individual/sibling photos) |
| Tuesday | 13 th November | Open Day for Prospective Parents 9.30 am |
| Thursday | 15 th November | Open Day for Prospective Parents 1.30 pm |

Attendance

Our school target for attendance set by the Leeds City Council Attendance Strategy Team is 97%. The class averages for the week from the 10th to 14th September

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| ROBINS | | WOODPECKERS | 100% |
| BLUEBIRDS | | WRENS | 98.8% |
| EAGLES | 99.3% | FALCONS | 96.2% |
| SKYLARKS | 96.7% | PUFFINS | 100% |
| HERONS | 99.4% | KINGFISHERS | 98% |
| RED KITES | 100% | DOVES | 97.1% |



Special Mention



On Thursday morning we hold a Special Mention Assembly to celebrate achievements within school. If your child has achieved something really special outside of school we would be pleased to announce this on Tranmere

Times. Please e-mail Mrs Reeve on victoriareeve@tranmerepark.leeds.sch.uk

Below are the children who received a Special Mention this week in Special Mention Assembly

There was no Special Mention Assembly this week.



We think Lucy and Red (Wrens class) deserve a very special 'Special Mention' for their fund raising during the summer holidays.

They raised a grand total was £324.14 for Seb's visit to Disneyland Paris once he's further on with his treatment. Amazing job girls, well done!



Extended Services

Attached to tonight's Tranmere Times is the Club Lists for this half term

Guiseley School Music Lesson Tasters

We have instrumental lessons available for most instruments and spaces in our Latin Band, Wind Band, Saxophone Ensemble, Clarinet Ensemble and our new percussion based Perc-Key Musical Theatre Band. Please come along to us on Saturday 15th & 22nd September to try a class. Community music making at its best. We meet at Guiseley School on Fieldhead Rd term time Saturdays 9am - Noon. We are part of Artforms Leeds, LCC.

11th Otley Science Festival

Family Science Fair on Saturday 10th November – a copy of the public programme is attached.

Also see <https://otleysciencefestival.co.uk/festival/>

Kirsten Finley Alison Hodgson
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Headteacher Co-Headteacher



NPQH Leadership Development School
National College
for School Leadership

