

NEWSLINE

North Primary School and Nursery

A Town Centre School with a Strong Community Ethos

January 2018
Issue 1

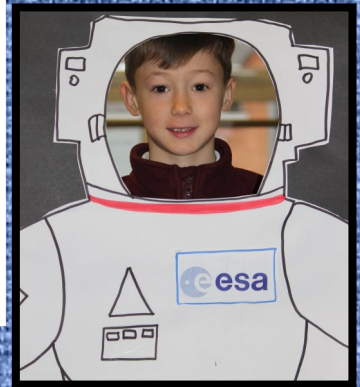


KS1 Launch New Topic Verdict: Out of this World

What skillsets do astronauts need? Well, ask any of the children in Year 1 and 2 and they will be able to tell you because they have all been to astronaut training school. They will tell you that astronauts need to be agile and fit, to be able to solve problems on their own and as part of a team, and to have good knowledge of maths, science and astronomy.

Where is astronaut training school? In the Infant Hall of course. The KS1 LSA team transformed the hall into the training camp and the children loved it. Ramona said, "I am fascinated by space because it never ends." But it was not easy in the training school. There were plenty of challenges and problems the budding astronauts had to face. Liam said, "The obstacle course was tricky because I had to wear a back pack like oxygen tanks." Sophie said, "The trickiest task was when I had to wear big gloves [to complete fiddly jobs]."

The astronaut training school was a great way to launch the term's topic. Final word to Mrs. Spalding: "A big thank you to our wonderful LSA team for creating such a fantastic experience for the children."



New Attendance Policy available on School Website

The new Attendance (and Punctuality) Policy has been published and is available on the school website.

There are some significant changes to the policy which reflect County guidance following a High Court test case and the recommendations made in our Ofsted Report. The key changes are highlighted in yellow.

They include:

No authorised leave will be granted in September.

Registers will close earlier to improve punctuality.

Please read the whole policy carefully. The policy will become active from Monday 19th February.

I will be writing to some families where punctuality is an ongoing problem, explaining the implications of the new

policy if persistent lateness were to continue – i.e. fixed penalty notices would be served. As the policy states:

Poor punctuality is not acceptable. If a child misses the start of the day they can miss work and do not spend time with their class teacher getting vital information and news for the day. Late arriving pupils also disrupt lessons, can be embarrassing for the child and can also encourage absence. Good time-keeping is a vital life skill which will help our children as they progress through their school life and out into the wider world.

From 19th February parents will be expected to complete a form if they arrive at school after the registers are closed, explaining the reason for the late arrival. I will then decide whether to authorise that reason.

Governors welcome your comments on the new policy.



Congratulations to Matthew and Mainak who have made it through to Round 2 of the National Primary Maths Challenge. A number of our Year 6 mathematicians took part in the first round and all did very well in a very demanding test. Round 2 is coming up in February. Good luck boys.

Storyworld



A new after-school club starts on Fridays for children in Y3-5. It is run by playwright Nicola Werenowska and actor Gary Turner, both parents of children in the school. It will be an amazing opportunity for the children to develop their storytelling and acting skills which they will showcase to parents at the end of each term. Nicola and Gary are providing their services for free but would like the parents to make a donation to Free For All. Nicola says, 'We are very excited to share our skills with the children at North and to contribute to Free For All.'

Year 5 got a wonderful surprise when they were told they would all be going to the panto **Snow White** at The Mercury on Friday 12th. The Enchantress cast a spell and was able to get us free tickets for a whole year group. A big "thank you" to Actor Carli Norris who made this happen. A dice was rolled to see which year group would go and Year 5 were the lucky ones. Have a wonderful time.



Starting late January 2018

Sunset Club

Early Session 3.15pm – 4.30pm £5

Late Session 4.30pm – 5.45pm £5

Full Session 3.15pm – 5.45pm £10

To register your interest and receive further information please speak to the staff in the school office.

Menu Changes

Week commencing 15th January

Please note that there will be a menu change next week - the meals served on Thursday 18th and Friday 19th will be swapped and will be as follows:

Thursday - Baked fish fingers or crispy veggie fingers with chips

Friday - Roast beef or Quorn Sausage with Roast Potatoes

Friday 26th January	NSA Disco
Friday 9th February	Last day of Half Term
Monday 19th February	Return to School
Friday 9th March	NSA Craft Fair
Sunday 25th March	Colchester Half Marathon
Thursday 29th March	Easter Parade and last day of term
Tuesday 17th April	First day of Summer Term
Friday 11th May	NSA Bingo Night
Friday 25th May	Penny Race and last day of Half Term
Tuesday 5th June	Return to school
Friday 29th June	NSA Summer Fete
Friday 20th July	End of Term
Monday 3rd September	Year 6 Weymouth Residential

Cyber Safety Letter

This letter was circulated on the 5th. Please read it and do use the links to find out more about this very important subject.

Reminder - Deadline for Primary School Applications for September 2018

If your child is due to start Reception in 2018, the final deadline for applications to be received by Essex County Council is 15th January 2018. If you have not yet applied, please see the Essex County Council website www.essexcc.gov.uk/admissions.