

NEWSLINE

North Primary School and Nursery

A Town Centre School with a Strong Community Ethos

November 2018



Thought-provoking and Informative

Judging by the questions and comments 41 parents found the Visible Learning meeting on the 21st very informative. Educational Consultant Helen Blanchard has been one of a team tasked with leading in-service training for staff over the past two and a half years. She spent the afternoon building on parents knowledge of Visible Learning with a particular focus on these three elements:

1. The characteristics of a visible learner
2. How being a visible learner helps children with their core skills
3. What parents can do to help their children be better visible learners.

The work of Professor John Hattie - who coined the term Visible Learning - was explained. He has looked at years of educational research across the world to identify what works best in the classroom.

And the goal is to grow *assessment capable* learners, who can say what they can do, identify what they need to do next and know how to close that gap. The best learners build resilience and like a challenge.

Helen provided lots of concrete examples to help deepen our understanding and provide practical advice for parents to help their children.

Here are some top tips

1. Promote curiosity. For example, don't ask your children, "What did you learn at school today?" Ask them what questions did they ask.
2. Model your own learning with them - "I haven't made this recipe before, let's see how we should do it..."
3. Encourage competition against self and not others - match and then exceed what you have done before.
4. Use praise carefully.

Parents found these tips helpful. The comments on praise were insightful but also challenging. Helen was very clear that if we are to make our children develop stronger learning characteristics then praise must be linked to what has been achieved and how it happened. "That is really good because..."

Definitely a worthwhile afternoon. If you have a suggestion for a topic that you think would make for a good parent meeting we would love to know. Add this in your parent survey response, or tell a governor at parent consultation evening.



Parents Questions

Q: "Is praising my twins all of the time not a good thing - they need encouragement sometimes."

A: absolutely and it is important to build self-esteem but praise works best when effort has led to success and the praise identifies what is the achievement.

Q: How do you get past the first barrier of, "I can't do it, I won't try"?

A: try another linked activity which may be simpler or take a break from it and come back to it another time.

Q: "How do you encourage a child to do homework when it is such a negative part of an evening?"

A: build up routines that give time for the activity, encourage the emphasis on what is being learnt and not just on task completion and recognise that not every activity is going to be super-whizzy fun for your child.

"When teachers and parents see learning through the eyes of the child and when the children see themselves as their own teachers."



HAVE YOU COMPLETED THE ONLINE SURVEY YET? THERE IS STILL TIME. MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD.



Bingo Night was a cracking success. The hall was rammed. A big thank you to Head of Kitchen Mrs. Shuter who came back to school to cook and to the NSA for organising a great event. Next up - **CHRISTMAS BAZAAR**. Raffle tickets should have been sent home. There are some great prizes so please sell your tickets - there are more in the office if you need them. Non-uniform day on Friday 23rd - please bring in gifts for the bazaar. Many thanks.

GREAT ATTITUDE & COMMITMENT

On Thursday 16th November the Netball team travelled to Lexden Primary School for their next match. A number of the team were new to netball this year and didn't really know what to expect, however during the course of the game they made incredible progress with the last quarter of the game being our best. The movement was a step up and the main difference between the two teams was getting it to the shooters and Lexden converting their shots. The team were fantastic in their attitude towards the game and were really positive throughout. Well done to all the players and thank you to Krista's dad for helping with transport. That same day the football team had their first game of the season against Friars Grove. This proved to be a challenging experience. Early enthusiasm was tested by very good opponents who played terrific football. The players were demoralised at half time but showed great character and spirit in the second half. Their attitude was a credit to themselves and their watching families.



Midday Assistants Required

We have vacancies coming up at lunchtimes.
1-1.5 hours each day.
Parents and Grandparents -
Are you interested?

Please speak to Mrs. Davies in the school office for more details.

TERM DATES

Thursday 22nd November	Parent Consultation Evening	
Friday 23rd November	Non-uniform day - Harry Potter theme optional	
Wednesday 28th November	Parents Meetings for September 2019 starters	6.00pm and 7.00pm
Friday 30th November	NSA Christmas Bazaar	6.00pm
Tuesday 4th December	Nursery Singalong	
Wednesday 5th December	Reception Nativity	9.30am
Friday 7th December	KS1 Christmas Play	9.30am and 2.00pm
Friday 14th December	Year 3 Christmas Play	9.30am
Friday 14th December	Year 4 Christmas Play	2.00pm
Tuesday 18th December	Year 5 /6 Carol Concert	7.00pm
Wednesday 19th December	Last day of Autumn Term	
Monday 7th January 2018	First day of Spring Term	
Friday 15th February	Last day of half term	
Monday 25th February	Return to school	
Friday 5th April	End of Spring Term	
Tuesday 23rd April	First day of Summer Term	
Friday 24th May	Last day of half term	
Monday 3rd June	Return to school	
Wednesday 24th July	End of school year	

Turn North into Hogwarts Friday 23rd November

The school council would like to use this day to hold a Harry Potter competition too. They have been given two lovely HP books from Mrs. Marsh. They have decided to give one to an infant and one to a junior. The books will be presented to the best dressed Harry Potter characters. This is completely optional and will add a bit of fun to the non-uniform day.