



## Laying the foundations for a bright future

Website link: [www.htpfederation.co.uk](http://www.htpfederation.co.uk)

A little note from Mrs FitzGerald...

Oh my goodness, only a week to go until half-term? Already? How did that happen? What a lot the children have achieved in a short space of time!

It was lovely that so many of you were able to make it to our 'share' session this morning linked to National Storytelling Week ~ we do hope you all enjoyed!

We are looking forward to Children's Mental Health Week in the week ahead. The children will engage with lots of related activities throughout the week, (as well as their usual learning for English, Maths etc...) On Tuesday the focus will be 'Want to talk about it?' linked to Safer Internet Day.

Have a lovely weekend ☺

Warmest regards,  
Mrs FitzGerald

A little note from Mrs Barthorpe...

Hi Everyone,

With the increasing demands of our busy outside catering business, I no longer have the time or energy to teach PE at school (and my fingers are worn out from tying little people's laces!) It's time to hang up my trainers and be on my way!

I've had the best time working for the Federation; whilst the financial benefits have been small, the laughs have been great and the rewards priceless!

With Love,

Mrs Barthorpe, Sports Instructor  
Hundon and Thurlow Primary Federation

### STAFFING UPDATE

With this news in mind, please be assured we are seeking a suitably qualified, talented and committed instructor to join the Federation Team ~ filling these trainers will not be easy!

The children's high quality learning in PE will continue with Class Teachers maintaining the provision for both weekly sessions in the short-term. We will be interviewing for the post presently.

I know you will join me in wishing Mrs Barthorpe continued success with their business 'Catering for Suffolk' ~ we will all miss you Mrs B, keep in touch! 🥰

## **ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY**

Attendance and punctuality are central to ensuring all pupils can fulfil their potential ~ pupils need to attend school regularly to benefit from their education. Arriving late and missing lessons leaves children vulnerable to falling behind and can lead to difficulties with anxiety, anger and maintaining friendships.

Many pupils have difficulty maintaining friendships if they have long or numerous periods of absence. It is widely acknowledged that children with poor attendance achieve less in both primary and secondary school.

Please help your children and us by ensuring they arrive at school on time. The morning register is called promptly at 9am. Any child arriving after this time will be marked as late. The register closes at 9.20am, any child arriving after this time will receive an unauthorised late absence.

Please remember any leaves of absence must be taken in school closure periods unless there are rare and strictly exceptional circumstances. You can also support your child's learning and progress by ensuring that non-urgent appointments, for example, dentist, optician, GP, are arranged outside school hours.

Thank you for your continued support in this matter.

## **SEVERE WEATHER**

**Every effort will be made to keep the school open in severe weather. The school would only close if it is no longer safe for staff and pupils to travel to school and be on site.**

**We recognise that it is important that our school remains open so parents are able to work and pupils can continue to learn. Therefore, we will make every effort to prepare for severe weather.**

**Information about school closure will be posted:**

- On local radio
- Via the Suffolk County Council website: <http://schoolclosures.suffolk.gov.uk/>
- Via our Facebook page
- On ParentMail

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS ~ more to follow!**

### **SPRING TERM 2023**

**Monday 6th February to Friday 10th February ~ Children's Mental Health Week including...  
Tuesday 7th February ~ Safer Internet Day**

**Friday 10th February ~ Otters Class Presentation**

**Friday 10th February ~ END OF HALF-TERM**

**Thursday 23rd February ~ Otters Class Trip to Cromer Museum**

**Friday 24th February ~ Butterflies Class Presentation**

## REMINDER ~ Strep A infections

With the recent national increase in notifications of Strep A infections in children as well as rises in Scarlet Fever and related press coverage the following is provided for your information.

Group A streptococcus (GAS) is a common bacteria. Lots of us carry it in our throats and on our skin, and it doesn't always result in illness. However, GAS does cause a number of infections, some mild, like scarlet fever, and some more serious.

The most serious infections linked to GAS come from invasive group A strep, known as iGAS. These infections are caused by the bacteria getting into parts of the body where it is not normally found, such as the lungs or bloodstream. In rare cases, an iGAS infection can be fatal. Whilst iGAS infections are still uncommon, there has been an increase in cases this year, particularly in children under 10, and sadly, a small number of deaths across the UK.

As parents, you should monitor your child for any GAS/scarlet fever symptoms, and take action to get treatment as soon as possible. Symptoms include a **sore throat, headache, fever, nausea and vomiting**. This is followed by a **fine red rash, which typically first appears, on the chest and stomach, rapidly spreading to other parts of the body**. On more darkly-pigmented skin, the scarlet rash may be harder to spot, but it should feel like 'sandpaper'. The face can be flushed red, but pale around the mouth. **It should be treated as soon as possible, with antibiotics, to minimise the risk of complications, and reduce the spread to others.**

### If you think you or your child may have GAS/scarlet fever:

- See your GP, or contact NHS 111, as soon as possible
- Make sure that you/your child takes the full course of any antibiotics prescribed by the doctor
- Stay at home and away from school for at least 48 hours after starting the antibiotic treatment, to avoid spreading the infection
- Notify the school that your child has a suspected or confirmed case

If your child has an underlying condition, which affects their immune system, you should contact your GP or hospital doctor to discuss whether any additional measures are needed

As a parent, if you feel that your child seems seriously unwell, **you should trust your own judgement.**

### Contact NHS 111 or your GP if:

- your child is getting worse
- your child is feeding or eating much less than normal
- your child shows signs of dehydration
- your child is very tired or irritable

### Call 999 or go to A&E if:

- your child is having difficulty breathing – you may notice grunting noises or their tummy sucking in under their ribs
- there are pauses when your child breathes
- your child's skin, tongue or lips are blue
- your child is floppy, and will not wake up or stay awake

Further information is available from the following links:

[UKHSA update on scarlet fever and invasive Group A strep](#)

[Fact sheet covering what scarlet fever is, and other frequently asked questions](#)

[Scarlet fever guidance on symptoms, diagnosis, and treatment](#)

GAS/scarlet fever is spread by close contact with an infected person, and can be passed on through coughs and sneezes, or from a wound. It is therefore important to maintain good hand and respiratory hygiene to stop the spread.

