

# Fakenham Junior School

Newsletter 13

24th April 2015

By now you will know that Adam Mason will be Headteacher at Fakenham Junior from September. He will be joining us at school as often as possible this term. We will let you all know when he will be around. Until then here's a short introduction from Adam.....

Having spent two delightful days at Fakenham Junior School, at the start of the spring term, I was honoured and excited to be offered the post as Headteacher from September 2015. I have been highly impressed with the pupils and staff at the school, during my brief visits and my interview days, and look forward to working with them, and you the parents, next year.

I am currently the Deputy Headteacher at Taverham VC CE Junior School, having relocated to Norfolk with my wife and two daughters five years ago, after seventeen years studying, teaching and living in Sheffield. Obviously, I have a passion for learning in the primary stages of a child's development with an expertise in mathematics, however, I am also passionate about books, music, sport, history and cooking to name but a few!

Whilst I am sure you realise that I have a role to fulfil at my current school, I will also be visiting and attending Fakenham on various occasions to ensure a smooth transition for everybody. This will include an opportunity for parents to meet me after a request from your Parents' Forum- please keep your eyes peeled for a date which I will confirm as soon as possible. Until then, I wish you all the best.

Yours faithfully,  
Adam Mason



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# Reminder to all parents & guardians

You will be aware that the law requires all parents to ensure their children attend school regularly. Research has shown that children often do not catch up on work missed, which can have serious consequences for their learning and progress, resulting in them not achieving their maximum potential.

The local authority has introduced a system where any pupil who has an attendance of 85% or less with at least 15% unauthorised absence over a 6 week period or 10 consecutive sessions (5 days) unauthorised absence will meet the criteria for legal intervention, which could be in the form of a Fixed Penalty Notice.

Schools are obliged to refer to the County Improvement Attendance Officer any pupil that meets either criteria, for action to be considered.

If a Fixed Penalty Notice is issued it is a fine of £60 per parent per child, which must be paid in one payment within 21 days, if unpaid a further invoice for £60 per parent per child is issued, both individual invoices would then have to be paid making a total payment of £120 in 28 days.

Failure to pay the total amount within the timescale will result in legal action being taken.

Staff at Fakenham Junior School request that holidays are taken out of school term to ensure that our pupils receive the most from their education, we hope that, as parents, you will support this matter so your children do not miss any opportunities.

**As a result of the number of pupils missing education at Fakenham Junior School we now have to refer for the Fixed Penalty Notice for any unauthorised holidays of 5 days.**

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# PARENT FORUM



Here we are the Parent Forum! We met on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March in Café Scrumptious for our 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting over coffee and delicious cakes. Those at the Forum meeting brought up several issues:

On the top of everyone's list was the new Headteacher.

Once appointed the Parents Forum were very keen that parents/carers have the opportunity to meet them. They were also concerned that children were also given the opportunity to meet the new Headteacher before September.

*In response to this we can report that Adam Mason the new Headteacher is meeting with the Senior Leadership Team very regularly to make plans for September, and to recruit new staff. We will be making a time for Adam Mason to meet with existing parents and with new parents coming in to FJS. Mr Mason has some planned dates during this term when he will be in school and will be meeting with children.*

Some concern was expressed about the closure of the swimming pool and parents were not clear about the arrangements in place for swimming.

*We can confirm that children in Years 4 and 5 will continue to have swimming lessons at Bircham Swimming Pool as part of the PE curriculum.*

Parents expressed concern about the loss of intervention teaching and wondered what would be happening in the future.

*As a result of teacher shortage both at FJS and across the county, it was decided that continuity of teaching in the classroom is the priority. For this reason intervention teaching had to be reduced. This is currently in Year 6 and 1-1 for 1 day a week.*

Parents had a look at the new Homework Diary which included suggestions put forward at the last

Parents Forum. Parents liked the changes and noted that they particularly appreciate it when teachers include in the Homework Diary a brief description of what children have been learning in the classroom during the week.

The next **PARENT FORUM** will be held on **MONDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> MAY at 2pm in CAFÉ SCRUMPTIOUS – PLEASE JOIN US.**

## YEAR 3 & 4 CURIOSITY CAFÉS

Year 3 & 4 Curiosity Cafés will be taking place on the following dates:

Class 3/4T	Tuesday 5th May	9am
Class 3H	Wednesday 6th May	9am
Class 3W	Wednesday 6th May	1.30pm
Class 4CH	Thursday 7th May	9am
Class 4M	Thursday 7th May	1.30pm

We look forward to welcoming you in to our classes.

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# FJS PARENTS AND PUPILS WORKING TOGETHER

## PUPIL PROGRESS MEETING QUESTIONNAIRES

During the Pupil Progress Meetings some parents/carers were asked to complete a questionnaire which asked questions specifically about the Pupil Progress meetings/homework and homework diaries.

Below is an evaluation of the answers we received from 68 parents/carers to the questions we asked.

	Always	mostly	sometimes	rarely	never/first time
1. How often do you attend parents meetings?	67				1 (first time)
2. Do you find the meetings useful?	58	9	1		
3. At the end of the meeting do you feel well informed about your child's progress?	60	8			
4. At the end of the meeting do you feel you know what your child need to do next to improve learning?	54	14			
5. How often do you check your child's Homework Diary?	47	18	1	2	
6. Do you think that your child's teacher regularly sets homework?	64	4			
7. Is the homework marked regularly?	55	11	1		
8. Do you help or observe your child doing homework regularly?	52	11	4	1	

<p>9. Are there any practical sessions, information or guidance that you would appreciate to help you support your child's learning?</p>	<p>comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● sex education</li> <li>● as much information as possible</li> <li>● more 1:1 with teachers, other than just parents' evenings</li> <li>● help with my child's writing and reading</li> <li>● we tend to find that the school guides both pupils and parents as and when required</li> <li>● my child is always well guided and supported</li> <li>● Reading</li> <li>● Any extra sessions for parents/grandparents are always good</li> <li>● new ways that things are taught and maybe practice sheets</li> </ul>
<p>10. Is there any way we could improve your experience of parents' meetings to better aid your understanding of your child's learning and progress?</p>	<p>comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● more time to discuss - can't say a lot in 10 minutes</li> <li>● may be 15 - 20 minutes would be better amount of time</li> </ul>

Following the evaluation the Senior Management Team and the Governors will be considering the results and looking at how best to respond to them. We will feed back to you once this has taken place. Many thanks to all those parents/carers who completed this questionnaire.

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Queens Road, Fakenham, Norfolk NR21 8BN

Tel: 01328 862188 Fax 01328 856678 Website: [www.fakenhamjuniorschool.com](http://www.fakenhamjuniorschool.com)

# Friends of FJS



## SAT's Disco Friday, 15th May

Tickets £2.50

6.15pm—7.45pm



The School car park is for members of staff and authorised users only and should not be used to drop off children at the beginning of the school day nor for pick-up at the end of the school day.



### Housepoint Trophy

17th April - Edwards

## Diary Dates

Yr5 'Happy Puzzle Day'	Mon 27th April	All Day
Speakeasy - Session 1	Tue 28th April	12.30pm - 2.30pm
May Day Bank Holiday	Mon 4th May	CLOSED
Yr5 Cromer Visit	Tue 5th May	9am - 3pm
3/4T Curiosity Café	Tue 5th May	9am
3H Curiosity Café	Wed 6th May	9am
Open the Book Assembly	Wed 6th May	11am - 11.15am
3W Curiosity Café	Wed 6th May	1.30pm
4CH Curiosity Café	Thur 7th May	9am
4M Curiosity Café	Thur 7th May	1.30pm
Off Road Cycling Grp1	Thur 7th May	3.15pm - 4.15pm
Webster Stratton	Fri 8th May	9am - 12pm
Pensthorpe Assembly	Fri 8th May	11am - 11.30am
Newsletter 14	Fri 8th May	
SAT's Week	Mon 11th May	All Week
Speakeasy - Session 2	Tue 12th May	12.30pm - 2.30pm
Off Road Cycling Grp 2	Thur 14th May	3.15pm - 4.15pm
Webster Stratton	Fri 15th May	9am - 12pm
SAT's Disco	Fri 15th May	6.15pm - 7.45pm

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