

9th February 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

Here is a reminder of key dates for this next week:

	<b>Talbot</b>	<b>St. Peter's</b>
Monday 12th February	<b>HALF TERM</b>	<b>HALF TERM</b>
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>HALF TERM</b>	<b>HALF TERM</b>
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>HALF TERM</b>	<b>HALF TERM</b>
Thursday 15th February	<b>HALF TERM</b>	<b>HALF TERM</b>
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>HALF TERM</b>	<b>HALF TERM</b>

Key dates for your diary

	<b>Talbot</b>	<b>St. Peter's</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> March	DEVA Roman Experience for Years 3 and 4	DEVA Roman Experience for Years 3 and 4
4 <sup>th</sup> March		<b>PARENTS' EVENING</b>
7 <sup>th</sup> March	TSA Bakes and Books	<b>PARENTS' EVENING</b>
11 <sup>th</sup> March	Non-Uniform Day for TSA chocolate tombola Warwick Castle Trip Reception Y1 and 2 <b>PARENTS' EVENING</b>	Warwick Castle Trip Reception Y1 and 2
14 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>PARENTS' EVENING</b>	Easter Church Service at 2pm
22nd March	TSA Easter Parade and chocolate tombola	
W/C 25 <sup>th</sup> March	Easter Holiday	Easter Holiday
8 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	INSET - School Closed	INSET - School Closed
21 <sup>st</sup> May	INSPIRE Trip for Years 3 and 4	INSPIRE Trip for Years 3 and 4
W/C 27 <sup>th</sup> May	HALF TERM	HALF TERM
22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2024	INSET - School Closed	INSET - School Closed

### Special Notes:

- I will always try to see you at short notice if at all possible. If your issue is urgent and I am unavailable, I will ensure that another senior member of staff is made available to you. For non-urgent meetings, you are welcome to telephone the School Office. Mrs. Hill and Mrs. Delaney-Lewis manage my diary and will be more than happy to make you an appointment at a mutually convenient time or you can always drop me an email ([jfarrington@woodlandsfederation.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:jfarrington@woodlandsfederation.staffs.sch.uk)). Alternatively, you can catch me on the school gate where we can easily make an arrangement to meet.
- My weekly newsletter is accessible via Dojo and is uploaded to the school website. If you would prefer an email version, you can log on to the school website (following the NEWS AND EVENTS tab and then NEWS/LETTERS) and enter your email address to sign up. In the same way, if you would prefer a paper copy of the newsletter, please let the School Office know.
- Please note that OFFICE HOURS are 8am - 4pm.
- After the half term break, the after school club activities at Talbot will be as follows:

Monday	Craft Night!
Tuesday	Talbot Choir
Wednesday	Gym Club using the apparatus
Thursday	Multi Sports with Jack

- After the half term break, the after school club activities at St. Peter's will be as follows:

Monday	Construction
Tuesday	Sports with Jack
Wednesday	Crafty Club!
Thursday	Singing Hands
Friday	Yoga and Mindfulness

For those that have already booked Wraparound Care for the next half term, there is no need to book into these clubs as they form part of our Wraparound Care. If you have not already booked in and would like your child to take part in these clubs then book in the usual way via the school office. **Don't forget - under the new WAC terms and conditions, there will be a charge applied for late bookings.**

THANK YOU to everyone who managed to attend the meeting last night with Jared Eccles from The Moorlands Primary Federation. It was an extremely positive and informative meeting and I know that many parents felt reassured by Jared's presentation. Questions that had been submitted via email were addressed during the evening along with questions from the floor. If you weren't able to make the meeting, there was no powerpoint to share with you but Mrs. Duddy, Talbot's Parent Representative, took notes throughout the evening and I am attaching those to this newsletter. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to let me know and I will try and answer the question for you or pass your query on to Jared.

- The children have been extremely busy completing assessment tasks during our SHINE WEEK. These assessments inform us of the progress that your child is making and help us to plan the next steps in learning. Outcomes of these assessments will be discussed at the forthcoming PARENTS' MEETINGS.
- Today we are sending home a letter giving you information about your child's attendance for this half term since Christmas. The cut-off for this data was close of play yesterday, Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February. Don't forget that this half term's data is based on a 5 week half term which is extremely short - 8<sup>th</sup> January - 8<sup>th</sup> February.

GREEN: 96 - 100%

AMBER: 90 - 95.9%

RED: Under 90%

We fully recognise that everyone gets ill from time to time and needs time off from school. Since Christmas, St. Peter's attendance has been badly affected by the wave of scarlet fever. It may well be that you find that your child has dropped into the RED bracket this half term. With consistently good attendance for the rest of the year, this will bring your child's attendance back into green.

- Thank you for any expressions of interest in helping to run our Peter Pan Toddler group. I am meeting with Thelma today to begin discussions so WATCH THIS SPACE!

It was a sad day at St. Peter's yesterday as we saw the old tree felled adjacent to the playground. Unfortunately the wind damage had left the tree in an unsafe state and we had no choice but to let it go. However, the tree has been recycled and has provided

the new trim trail with chippings to ensure a soft landing. The other good news is that we can now all use the playground safely again!

- The private MUSIC LESSONS are going really well! We have now found a DRUMMING Tutor who would be willing to give **one to one** private tuition in school. If you would be interested, please let the office staff know. If you already indicated that your child would like drumming lessons, the office staff will be getting in touch to see if you would still like to book these lessons.
- Please use the half term holiday to check your child's uniform to make sure that each item is named. Understandably, parents get upset when expensive items of uniform go missing but it is extremely challenging to trace a lost item if it is not named.
- After the half term holiday, please ensure that your child comes to school each day with their water bottle. Water bottles are kept in the classroom and the children are able to freely access them as they wish.

### GET INTO SCHOOL ON TIME AND BEAT THE LATE GATE!

#### Some interesting facts:

Being 5 minutes late every day for a year adds up to the equivalent of 3 days missed.

Being 10 minutes late every day for a year adds up to the equivalent of 6 days missed.

#### REMEMBER - Being late can:

Cause embarrassment for your child.

Make it harder for them to settle.

Cause disruption to the class.

- We all recognise and understand that children end up with lumps, bumps and injuries whilst playing at home! If your child has suffered an **out-of-school injury**, please be sure to let a member of staff know when they are dropped off in a morning.
- HOMEWORK is an important aspect of school life. It provides the opportunity to apply and consolidate learning that has already taken place. Please support your child to complete these weekly tasks in order to give them the best chance of success.

I thought that Winter may have arrived yesterday but we got away with just a lot of rain! However, February and March are wintry months so to ensure that we are all prepared, please be clear on our snow procedure:

In the event of SNOW, school will remain open wherever possible. Closure will be a last resort and will depend on a number of factors:

- ❖ The availability of meals for the children
- ❖ The temperature in school
- ❖ The condition of roads and pavements on route to and from school
- ❖ The availability of staff.

In the event of necessary closure due to snow during the day, a message will be sent to you via Dojo asking you to make your way to school as safely as possible to pick up your child. In the event of heavy snow overnight, a decision will be made as early as possible on the following morning and a message will be sent out to you on Dojo. The closure will also be posted on our school website. PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOUR CONTACT DETAILS ARE UP TO DATE and that we have more than one contact for you.

**PLEASE REMEMBER that we are a NUT-FREE SCHOOL. I have been made aware of nut products coming into school this week and this poses a real risk to the children that we have who suffer from NUT ALLERGIES. Please check that any food sent into school adheres to our NUT-FREE policy.**

- Please help us to remain smart by keeping to our agreed uniform standards. If for some reason, your child is not able to come to school in the expected uniform, they will be challenged by Staff unless you have already made us aware of the reason. Please remember that if earrings are worn, this should be a small, plain stud. Please remember to remove earrings on PE days. Don't forget that we are not allowed to remove earrings for safeguarding reasons and our policy does not allow covering pierced ears with plasters. **PLEASE REMEMBER** - If you are considering having your youngster's ears pierced, please consider that this is done in the summer holiday as earrings cannot be removed from newly pierced ears for at least 6 weeks and this will result in them having to miss at least 12 PE lessons. In the same way, in line with our uniform policy, hair must be tied back and no jewellery is permitted.

- Please ensure that if you haven't already booked an appointment for Parents' Evening, that you contact the school office to book a slot. It is important at this point in the year that you are aware of the progress that your child is making and to discuss whether they are on track to meet their end of year expectations. Please note that the appointment slots are limited to 10 minutes. If you feel that you have issues or concerns that you would like to discuss at greater length, please contact the school office to make an appointment to see your child's teacher on a different day.
- Due to technical issues, all charges for Wraparound Care and Nursery will be on Parent Pay as done previously.  
They will be inline with the new terms and conditions that were sent out.  
These charges are for services used during JANUARY.

READING AT HOME - Please try to read with your child every day. When you read with your child, please write in the reading diary or for the older children, support them in writing in the diary themselves. Please ensure that your child's reading book and diary is in school every day. Reading every day makes a REAL DIFFERENCE!

Don't forget that our TALBOT TODDLERS group runs on a Wednesday morning in the school hall. Come and take a break for a couple of hours and enjoy a chat and a cuppa!



- St. Peter's - Please remember that gates will close **promptly at 8.30am** each morning to safeguard all children. No vehicles will be permitted to enter/leave the carpark during the period of 8.30am - 9.10am. PLEASE NOTE that the carpark is intended for **STAFF use only**. Could I please ask that Parents/Carers do not use the carpark - your vehicle will not be insured if a bump takes place on this carpark.
- Talbot - Please don't park on the zigzag lines outside of school when dropping off in the morning - the road can become very congested and emergency vehicles would not be able to make their through if needed.

#### STAFFING UPDATE

Miss Allen remains absent from school. After the half term break, we are welcoming back Mrs. Lovat who will cover the class, supported by Mrs. Chatfield, until Miss Allen's return. A huge THANK YOU to Miss Brown who has covered the class brilliantly whilst Mrs. Lovat was away.

Mrs. Holden remains absent from school. Miss Davies will continue to cover the class, supported by Mrs. Dwyer, Mrs. Fowler and Mr. Morgan.



## ATTENDANCE FOR LAST WEEK:

Attendance this last week has been badly hit at St. Peter's due to a lot of illness.

Talbot	St. Peter's
Class with best attendance: Miss Davies' class with 98.3% Well done! This meets and exceeds our school target and National Expectations. You get to look after Tiny Ted for the week!	Class with best attendance: Miss Beynon's class with 93.5% This falls below National Expectations and does not meet our school target.
Whole School attendance this last week: 97.93% Well done! This meets and exceeds our school target and National Expectations.	Whole School attendance this last week: 90.89% This falls below National Expectations and does not meet our school target.
Please note that leave of absence will not be granted for holidays during term time unless there are <b>exceptional</b> circumstances. Amendments to the Education Regulations 2006 removed references to family holidays as well as the threshold of ten school days and the criteria is now extremely tight. <b>Please remember – because we are small schools, a week's holiday from one child is sufficient to take the school below national expectation. Where unapproved holidays are taken during term time, it is likely that a PENALTY NOTICE will now be issued.</b>	

- We had all sorts of CRAZY hair at St. Peter's today! Thank you to FOMS for organising this exciting event. Also a big THANK YOU to the TSA for organising warm drinks and a cake at the end of a wet and cold day!

Both FOMS and the TSA are a very small group of VOLUNTEERS who work really hard to raise money in order to provide additional experiences for our children. These special events don't just happen and their fun events and financial contributions would be very much missed by all of the school community. A big THANK YOU to all the volunteers involved. **FOMS and TSA are in REAL NEED of some new volunteers to join the group or simply to help out at some events.** If you are interested in finding out more, please speak to Mrs. Hill or Mrs. Delaney-Lewis in the School Office who will



be happy to pass on your details! Please try and help out if you can - sometimes it's just some extra energy that's needed for a particular event!

This week's ROLL OF HONOUR for certificate winners is as follows:

<u><b>The Woodlands Federation Certificate Winners</b></u>				
<b>Certificate:</b>	<b>Talbot:</b>		<b>St Peter's:</b>	
<b>Pen Licence</b>			Aimee	
<b>Presentation Award</b>	Willow:	William, Charlie	Ash:	Lauren
	Maple:	Summer, Emily	Birch:	Harriet
<b>Maths Award:</b>	Willow:	Olivia	Ash:	Raija
	Maple:	Elijah	Birch:	Jack
<b>English Award:</b>	Willow:	Noah	Ash:	Lucy
	Maple:	Leo	Birch:	Nancy
<b>Star of the week:</b>	Willow:	Charlotte	Ash:	Ivy
	Maple:	Ellie	Birch:	Florence O
<b>Golden rules/value award:</b>	Willow:	Harry	Ash:	Oliver
	Maple:	Jack	Birch:	Orla
<b>Headteacher award:</b>	Willow:	William	Ash:	Ronnie, Cooper
	Maple:	Alex	Birch:	Eliza
<b>Out of School Achievements:</b>				

Talbot:	St Peter's:
<p>Rubie - <i>Gymnastics Certificate of Achievement</i></p>	<p>Clara - <i>All Star Gymnast</i></p> <p>Olivia Stanley -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Uttoxeter Gymnastics Club, All Star Gymnast</i></li> <li>• <i>Swim England, 25 metres Rainbow Distance</i></li> <li>• <i>Swim England, Learn to Swim level 5 (+badge)</i></li> </ul> <p>Lucia Ford -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Uttoxeter Gymnastics Club, All Star Gymnast</i></li> </ul> <p>Huxley -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Jiu-jitsu Student of the Week</i></li> </ul>

WELL DONE to all these children!

This half term has flown by! I hope that you all have a happy week - make sure to recharge your batteries!

W.J. Farrington

## **Moorlands Academy Parents Meeting Notes – Talk given by Mr Jared Eccles**

[The Moorlands Primary Federation | TMPF](#)

### **About the academy**

Mr Jared Eccles is the CEO of the federation, he is a National Leader of Education, has previously been a school teacher and head in schools. To parents and staff, he like to be called Jared, to children in all schools he is Mr Eccles.

This was not grown to be a company, they started very small and schools have joined them along the way. All schools in this academy are smaller like Talbot and St Peters, some with similar class structures to ours some with mixed year groups. Schools are a mixture of C of E and non C of E schools. Some of the schools have nursery settings like ours.

Mr Eccles knows our schools as has worked with us in the past, before we even looked at joining their federation, so knows staff and governors.

All the schools in the federation have a leader or head teacher. Some schools are like ours and go to Year 4, some go all the way to Year 6. They do not have a pathway onto any particular schools and are happy to work with parents on the pathway they want their children to move on when leaving their schools.

### **What's going to change?**

"Very little"

The federation works with schools on an individual basis, each school is unique. They do not change names, uniform etc, we keep our individuality.

As a trust they do send our questionnaires to gain feedback from all schools, periodically and parents will have contact details for the trust and Jared if they wish to speak to them directly.

Leadership will be shared by the 2 schools as it is now with a Head teacher working across both schools and a senior teacher in each school. The schools' numbers mean a leader in each school is just not possible.

Numbers in the future will determine if schools go up to 3 classes split, St Peters is nearing those numbers, Talbot is a lot smaller.

Support that comes into school for young people, music lessons etc will stay the same.

The schools will choose their priorities moving forward and work with the federation on these.

There are no plans to combine both our schools, we are not the smallest in the trust!

Wraparound at all schools will stay, if changes need to be made this can be voiced in the federation questionnaire that comes out.

### **What are the benefits of going to this trust?**

*Jared Eccles*

*"I have never been pro academisation, but I am really passionate about collaborating together"*

All schools in this Federation are Good

They have good attainment records with the best teachers and best curriculum.

Being part of this federation means schools can share good practice, share what's working well, support one another like a family.

Teaching staff and support staff are held accountable to the trust to ensure a high level of education. But with this comes great support to our staff from the wider federation, sharing lesson plans, guidance, ideas etc.

All safeguarding policies, protocols are federation wide

The federation has a policy in place that is to be followed to ensure all staff wellbeing is met.

Jared takes time to get to know all staff on a first basis, all staff should feel valued for the great work that they do. Over all school's staff retention is really good. Opportunities for staff to progress internally in the federation are available.

Jared in staff absence, sickness will cover lessons if needed and enjoys keeping a hand in with the children.

The Federation staff already have a good relationship with the federation and Jared. Moving forward staff will have a family of support from the others school and will work together on curriculum and lesson planning, sharing the workload ensuring they have a work/life balance. The trust invests in their support staff to help deliver intervention support for children struggling or those exceeding to ensure in mixed aged classes all needs are met.

Staff from all federation schools come together regularly for training, either in person or over teams. They will be spotlighting subjects together on a 4-week session to improve and gain knowledge from each other.

### **Funding and central services**

Majority of funding comes from central government and goes to the individuals' schools, its not in one pot.

The federation does have central services like HR, catering, estate management etc that we can use if the school felt they wanted to or they can keep using who are already in place, that is our school's choice.

### **Time Scales**

The aim is to join the Federation from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024, us as parents and our children will not notice any changes on a day to day basis. Mr Farrington and the Governors will keep us posted if this date gets changed.

*These notes are a snap shot from the meeting held last night at Talbot School which I was asked to take and share with you, I feel by the end of the meeting as a group we felt reassured and positive with this move going forward. I am happy to answer any questions about these notes if you have any. Please find me at the gate at drop off or pick up.*

*St Peters, I know you had some parents there who can probably answer any questions but am more than happy to chat if you wanted to contact me. If you leave your name and number with the office, I can give you a call.*

*Amy (Tegan's Mum & TSA Chair)*