

Northwood Primary School

Newsletter – April 2023



A Message from Mrs Beach, Executive Head Teacher

Welcome back to the start of the last term at Northwood this academic year. We hope you had a fantastic time with your children during the holidays. Due to changes in my role in the Trust, I am now no longer involved in Heathfield Primary School, which means I will be permanently based at Northwood, alongside carrying out my school improvement role across other schools in the local area. I am really excited to be back full time in school and are looking forward to continuing to 'grow success' for our children, the families and our community.

A Message from Mrs Wassell, Head of School

Welcome back to all of our children and families. We hope you had a wonderful Easter break and were able to make the most of the very mixed weather.

I can't quite believe it is the Summer Term already! We have lots of exciting opportunities planned for the children over this half-term, as well as lots of important dates for your diary linked to national statutory assessments. If you haven't done so already then please download the Marvellous Me app so you can receive updates from your child's class teacher and also important letters and messages.



Year 6 SAT Tests

During the week beginning 8th May the Year 6 children will be sitting their SAT tests. As there is a Bank Holiday on the Monday, the tests will take place Tuesday to Friday. All Year 6 children across the country will be sitting these tests on the same day as the timetable is set by the government. Tests are then sent off to be marked and school will find out the results in July. It is extremely important that children in Year 6 are in school every day during that week and that they are on time. To help with this, parents will receive communication soon inviting the Year 6 children to come into school earlier and enjoy breakfast together so we know they are ready to shine brightly during the day. The children and staff have worked exceptionally hard over their time at school to be ready to take this opportunity and really show off all they have learned. We wish them lots of luck and know they will be amazing.

Year 2 SAT Tests

The Year 2 children in school will also be sitting some statutory tests during this half term. These tests are less formal than the Year 6 ones, however, they are a really important opportunity for the children to show off their skills. Children have already had a go at some practice papers, so they will be well prepared to answer the questions. The papers are marked by the class teacher and used along with information gathered across the year to show the progress children have made. These outcomes will be shared with you when you get your child's end of year report. These tests will begin the week beginning 15th May and will continue into the following week. Although there is more flexibility with these tests, we do still need to report outcomes to the Department for Education so it is really important that children attend school every day and on time.

Coronation Project: 'A moment in time, making memories forever.'

From the 3rd to the 5th of May, the whole school will enjoy carrying out a range of activities linked to the Coronation of King Charles. There will be an opportunity for children to write about what they would do if they ruled the country for the day. We are looking forward to seeing what the children would do if they were put in charge of the country! In Art, children will produce a self-portrait in the style of different artists, their backgrounds will be the colours of the Union Jack flag. The classes will perform a special celebration song in an assembly which will be attended by the whole school. Children (and staff) will also get creative and produce a special crown to wear in our assembly. They will have limited materials to use and will have to put all of their creative skills into action-something that our children are very good at. On Friday 5th May, we are inviting the whole school community to either wear 'red, white and/or blue' clothes or their 'favourite outfit' as we round off our celebrations of this historic moment. A special lunch will also be served on the Friday, fit for a king or queen.

Potential Strike Days

The NEU are carrying out strike action on Thursday 27th April and Tuesday 2nd May. We will communicate how this will affect the running of our school as soon as possible.

Parent Questionnaires

We'd like to thank all of our families for their feedback during parent open evenings. Your feedback is vitally important to us, we use it to ensure that we continue to 'grow success' at Northwood. We are thrilled to share with you the following outcomes of the parent/carer questionnaires.

"I'm really pleased with the progress my child has made in the short time they have been here."

"Since starting Northwood, our child has grown in herself so much both in and out of school. She's doing amazing. Thank you for your support."

Statement	Strongly Agree/Agree
1. My child is happy	96.6%
2. My child feels safe at this school	97.9%
3. My child makes good progress at the school	99.3%
4. My child is well looked after at this school	96.6%
5. My child is taught well at this school	99.3%
6. The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved	94.5%
7. This school deals effectively with bullying	80.0%
8. The school is well led and managed	96.6%
9. This school responds well to any concerns I raise	91.7%
10. The school lets me know how my child is doing	96.6%
11. School supports my child's personal development (i.e. developing their identity and aspirations)	92.4%
12. Would you recommend this school to another parent? (% Answered Yes)	97.2%

"All of my children have thrived at this amazing school!"

"My child hasn't had any issues with being bullied so I wouldn't know how well they deal with it. I'm assuming with how well the school is managed it would be dealt with well."

Attendance Reminder

Being in school every day and on time makes a huge difference to a child's progress and attainment, as well as their personal and social development. We understand that sometimes children are ill and cannot attend school and on those days it is vital that you contact school to let us know, preferably before 9:00am. We have a duty of care to know where your child is, so if they are not in and we don't hear from you then we have to start ringing home and on occasions we may visit the home to check in with children and families.

Children's start times are: Nursery – 8.30am Reception – 8.45am Year 1 – 8.45am Year 2 – 8.50am Year 3 – 8.45am Year 4 – 8.50am Year 5 – 8.50am Year 6 – 8.45am

Learning starts from the minute your child enters their classroom so please ensure they arrive on time so they are able to have a settled and enjoyable start to the day.

Children who arrive after the gates are closed are recorded on the register as either being 'Late' or being 'absent from the first session of the school day'. In these cases the child is recorded as a 'U' on the register (Late – After the register has closed) which counts towards your child's absence figures. We teach our children about the importance of being punctual as an ongoing life skill and the potential consequences of lateness. For many children, arriving to school late causes undue stress and anxiety, especially as they will have missed the start of their learning. Thank you for your support with this.

Dinner Money Increase

As mentioned before the holidays, school dinners now cost £2.30 per day (£11.50 per week). These are still excellent value for money. Northwood's school menus continue to be very well received by the whole school community.

Facebook



If you haven't already, please take a minute to like our Facebook page via the following link: www.facebook.com/northwoodprimary. If you do not have a Facebook account, and don't want to have one, then you can check our school website which has the Facebook feed that you can see: <https://www.northwoodprimary.org.uk/>.

Dates for your Diary

- **Week commencing 24th April:** National Gardening Week
- **Friday 5th May:** Coronation Celebration – Children are invited to wear red, white and blue today as we celebrate the Coronation.
- **Week beginning 8th May:** National Share a Story – we will be sharing stories across school to celebrate this national month long event.
- **Week beginning 15th May:** Walk to School Week – we are encouraging children to walk to school, where they can. If children aren't able to walk to school, could you park a little further away and walk some of the way?
- **Week beginning 22th May:** Water Saving Week – how can we all do our bit to save water?
- **Friday 26th May:** Term ends. Children can wear their own clothes on this day.
- **Monday 5th June:** *Term starts-children return to school.*

School Calendar for this current academic year

Our school website has a wealth of information that you may need as a parent/ carer, one of the pieces of information is the school term dates. Term dates for this academic year are:

Term	Children return to school...	Last day in school...	Other dates not in school
Autumn 1	Monday 5 th September 2022	Friday 21 st October 2022	
Autumn 2	Monday 31 st October 2022	Tuesday 20 th December 2022	
Spring 1	Thursday 5 th January 2023	Friday 17 th February 2023	
Spring 2	Tuesday 28 th February 2023	Friday 31 st March 2023	
Summer 1	Monday 17 th April 2023	Friday 26 th May 2023	Bank Holiday: Monday 1 st May 2023 Bank Holiday: Monday 8 th May 2023
Summer 2	Monday 5 th June 2023	Wednesday 19 th July 2023	

If you would like to access this on our website, please go to www.northwoodprimary.org.uk/calendar.

Thank you for your continued support as always,

Mrs Wassell
Head of School