

Northwood Primary School Newsletter 1 – September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Isn't it great to be back at school? It has been lovely to see all the children looking so smart and eager to learn after such a long time away from here. I am really looking forward to continuing to grow success in this new academic year. I would like to welcome all the children who are starting Northwood this term and look forward to continuing to work in partnership with you all as your Head Teacher.

Attendance matters

With the beginning of a new academic year I want to stress how important it is that children attend school regularly and often, it really does make a difference to their progress and attainment, as well as your child's personal and social development. Our school's attendance figures remain lower than the national average, which does not reflect all of the amazing things that happen here at Northwood Primary School. Let's see if we can ensure that our overall yearly attendance rate improves. If you have got any concerns about your child's safety and wellbeing following the pandemic, please do not hesitate to contact a member of staff. We are all here to help and support you.

COVID expectations on site

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you all for adhering to the new systems we have in place when dropping off and collecting your children to help ensure adequate social distancing. For those who are not yet aware of the procedures here is a breakdown of the expectations when you are on the school site:

- Only one adult should enter school premises per family.
- Please arrive no earlier than 5 minutes before your child's start time.

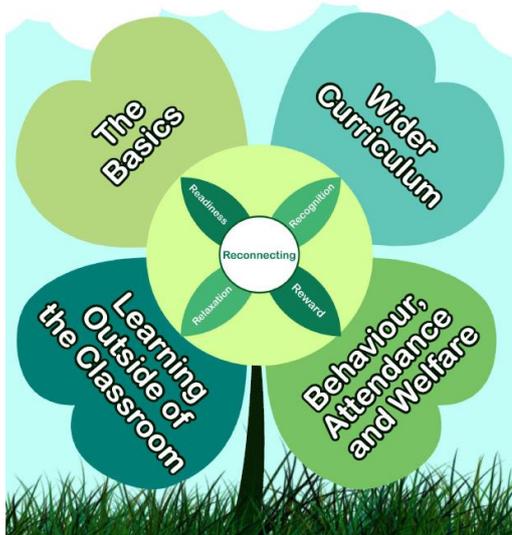
Early Years

- Entrance to and from Nursery and Reception will be via the North Elevation Pathway. This will be clearly marked into two pathways – an entrance and an exit. Two metre spacing is marked from the Nursery gates and up the path to indicate where parents should stand when they arrive on site – either for drop-off or pick-up. Designated staff will be stationed to meet/ hand over children and will direct children with minimal risk into Nursery or Reception. Because start times are staggered, these two sets of parents will not be on site at the same time. The gates to Early Years will be locked by a member of senior staff once all children have entered the provision.



Year 1 – Year 6

- Entrance will be via the main school gates (St Paul's Terrace). Children and parents will turn right and walk to the school yard along the path to the first gate where their child will enter the yard via gate indicated on timetable above. Parents will then walk along the fence line and exit the school via the Service Yard road onto Pendleton Road. The gate will be opened and closed by a member of senior staff (as this is usually a gate parents can enter and exit from).
- Once on the yard, children will enter their classrooms via their dedicated entry point: Year 1, 3 and 5 enter through the top double gate (gate nearest the Trim Trail); Year 2, 4 and 6 enter through the bottom single gate (gate nearest the school building).



Our Curriculum

We have developed a curriculum to support children in developing socially and emotionally when they return to Northwood following Lockdown. The staff have placed a huge focus on the basic skills in Reading, Writing and Arithmetic alongside a “Recovery Curriculum” in order to instil a sense of belonging again for our pupils, and to allow them to flourish in all areas on the curriculum. Northwood’s “5 Rs” are: Reconnecting; Recognition, Relaxation, Reward and Readiness, and was created in partnership with the Local Authority’s Educational Psychologists. We have also built in lots of opportunities for children to learn outside of the classroom which is a key part of our offer here at Northwood. Our mission is to ensure that no child is disadvantaged in their learning because of their experience during the recent school closures.

Remembering PE kits

As I walk around the school I have noticed a significant number of children who are not wearing appropriate kit for PE lessons. PE is an essential part of the curriculum and is important for health, emotional wellbeing and their physical fitness. We ask that pupils in Year 1 and Year 2 must bring a basic kit to school that can be kept on the children’s pegs and we will return them at the end of each half term for them to be washed. Children in Year 3 to Year 6 are asked to wear their PE kits to school on the days when PE is timetabled. If you are unsure of which days your child has PE, please contact the school office.

facebook



Facebook

Many parents have commented on how useful they find our Facebook page to keep up to date with what’s happening at Northwood. It is also a great place for us to showcase the school and celebrate our children’s achievements. Please take a minute to like our Facebook page via the following link:

www.facebook.com/northwoodprimary.

Dates for your Diary

- Friday 18th September: Jeans for Genes Day (wear jeans or casual clothes to school)
- Week beginning Monday 21st September: Fire Safety Week
- Week beginning Monday 21st September: Recycling Awareness Week
- Friday 25th September: Roald Dahl dress up day – Dress up as a story book character or wear yellow.
- Friday 2nd October: National Poetry Day
- Week beginning Monday 5th October: World Space Week.
- Friday 16th October: Big Draw Day at Northwood.
- Friday 16th October: Whole School Photograph Day (separate letter to follow).
- Friday 23rd October: Non uniform day at Northwood

School finishes on Friday 23rd October at the end of the school day. School Reopens on Monday 2nd November.

Thank you for your continued support,

Zoe Beach,
Head Teacher