

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to school. I hope you had a lovely half term break. This half term is always an exciting one with the run up to Christmas. It is an 8 week half term with the children finishing school on Friday 22nd December.

Consultation Meetings Matter

It was wonderful to see so many of you this week at consultation meetings. These meetings gave us a chance to celebrate how well the year has started for the children and in the vast majority of meetings it was clear that our children are happy and achieving well. Thank you all for providing the school with useful feedback from the questionnaire. I will share the full results once they have been compiled, your feedback helps us to make sure that Northwood Primary continues to ensure that the children achieve the best education possible.

Staff News

I would like to let you all know that Mrs Mason has left our school to pursue new career opportunities. We wish her well for the future. We have been successful in appointing her successor and welcome Mrs Peart who is currently teaching in Nursery and across school and is the team leader for Early Years. Mrs Kelly retired from her role as a teaching assistant at half term. She will be missed (however I'm sure she will be visiting Northwood regularly once she has put her feet up for a while!) Mrs Csano one of our long serving cleaners also left the school at half term and we welcome Miss Pilkington to the cleaning team. Miss Sloan has started her maternity leave and once I have news about her new baby I will let you all know. We also welcome the school's new Office Manager Mrs Readman. Miss Miller got married during half term and is now called Mrs Robson (I know it will take me a while to get used to her new name!) The final news is that Mrs Wassell is pregnant and will be starting her maternity leave at the end of this term.

National Anti-Bullying Week – “All different. All equal”

The week commencing Monday 13th November is National Anti-Bullying Week, with the theme “All different. All equal”. At Northwood we believe that the behaviour and safety of our children is our prime concern and we ensure that this week is a real feature of the curriculum. Children across the school will engage in a range of activities to understand how to keep themselves safe from any sort of bullying either in school, out in the community or online. As part of my statutory duty all families will receive a copy of the school's Anti-Bullying Policy this week. I ask that you take the time to read this to fully understand the procedures that we adopt at Northwood Primary School if any incident of bullying arises.



Attendance Matters

Whole School Attendance for last half term was 94%.

The national target for attendance is 96.6%, so as a school we still have a way to go to improve our overall figures. Ofsted make a link between attendance and the quality of the school.

Our weekly incentives continue including 'Choc Ice Friday' and the 'Weekly Book Raffle'. Please remember that Paula our Parent Support Adviser is available to discuss any concerns you have getting your children to school.

Year 6 Booster sessions

Teachers from across the school are committed to ensuring that children in Year 6 are given the best chance possible to be successful in their end of year tests and be secondary ready. All children in Year 6 will benefit from booster sessions in key subject areas across this half term and into the spring term. If your child has been selected it is vital that they complete all sessions in order to develop the necessary skills in subjects where they may be experiencing difficulty. I thank all parents for their support in ensuring that these sessions are successful.



Children in Need Day at Northwood

On Friday 17th November it is Children in Need Day and as always Northwood will be celebrating in style. The theme this year is 'Get Spotty and Be Noticed' and I invite the whole school community to come dressed in spotty clothes or bright colours. As this is a worthwhile cause I am asking for a small donation for the charity. Last year we raised over £100 for this worthwhile charity.

National Road Safety Week at Northwood

The week commencing Monday 20th November is National Road Safety Week and the theme this year is 'Speed Down. Save Lives'. With the onset of the dark nights it is really important that our children are aware of how to keep safe, especially near roads. The focus during this week will be to help raise awareness of the dangers posed by speeding drivers.



After School Provision

Our commitment to provide parents and carers with affordable child care in the safety of our school continues to grow with more and more children accessing these sessions. The cost is £6 per session and the provision is available from 3.30pm until 6pm. If you require further information about this facility please do not hesitate to contact the office.

Friendly Reminders

- Now that the weather is changing please would you ensure that your child has a warm coat for school which has their name on. Please ensure your child wears appropriate footwear for this time of year.
- A small minority of pupils are not wearing the appropriate school uniform or bringing a PE kit to school. If you are experiencing any difficulties in purchasing any items please do not hesitate to contact me. Wearing the uniform gives children a sense of belonging and is an important aspect of being part of the school community.

Dates for your diary

- Wednesday 8th November: Community Open Evening 4pm-6pm
- WB 13th November: Anti-Bullying Week
- Mon 13th Nov: National Kindness Day
- Fri 17th Nov: Children in Need Dress Up Day
- WB 20th Nov: Road Safety Week
- Tues 5th Dec: School crossing patrol in Early Years
- Wed 6th Dec: Flu vaccination for Reception to Year 4 children
- Fri 8th Dec: Christmas Fair (more details to follow)
- Fri 8th Dec: Reception Nativity for Parents at 9.30am
- Mon 11th Dec: Nursery and Reception Christmas Party (morning session)
- Mon 11th Dec: Y3 Christmas Party
- Tues 12th Dec: Y4 Christmas Party
- Tues 12th Dec: KS1 (Y1/2) Christmas Show for Parents at 9.30am
- Wed 13th Dec: Y2 Christmas Party
- Thurs 14th Dec: KS1 (Y1/2) Christmas Show for Parents at 2pm
- Fri 15th Dec: Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day
- Fri 15 Dec: 100% Attenders from last academic year going to the Pantomime
- Mon 18th Dec: Y5 Christmas Party
- Tues 19th Dec: Y6 Christmas Party
- Wed 20th Dec: School Christmas Dinner day
- Thurs 21st Dec: Y1 Christmas Party
- Fri 22nd Dec: Whole School Non-Uniform Day

Please note we are currently organising a KS2 (Y3-6) Carol Concert at the Church and will provide more details once this has been finalised.

School closes at 3.30pm for the holidays on Friday 22nd December and reopens on Tuesday 9th January 2018. Please note After School Provision will still be available until 6pm on Friday 22nd December.

Thank you for your continued support,

Zoe Beach.