

Dear Parents/Carers,

I can't quite believe that we are already part way through January. Christmas and New Year now seem like a distant memory. The children have all come back to school with great attitudes and are ready to learn. I was going to send the newsletter out last week however Ofsted called! Thank you for all your support during our inspection. We are currently awaiting the report and I will share it with you as soon as it's available.

On my walks around school I continue to be so impressed and proud of the hard work and effort of the vast majority of children. As winter is still with us please would you make sure that your children are suitably dressed for the cold weather.

### Staff News

It was Paula Stainthorp's (our Parent Support Advisor) last day on Friday. She has moved on to ventures new and I wish her all the best for a very successful future. Mrs Nicholson-Smith (Classroom Support Assistant) has also left Northwood in search of new employment opportunities. We welcome Miss Summerill and Mr Swainston who have joined our teaching team. We also welcome Miss Douthwaite (HLTA in the Speech and Language Base), and our new Teaching Assistants Mrs Nelson and Mr Ithermalde. It's also great to have the Deputy Head Teacher, Mrs Wassell, back at school after her maternity leave.



### Charity events at Northwood

On Friday 1st February Northwood is going to be involved in a very special Maths Day for an extra special charity. Children will be involved in a range of practical maths activities and investigations outside of the classroom and I am inviting the whole school community to come to school dressed in clothes featuring numbers and/or patterns and/or shapes. As this is a non-uniform day any monetary donations will go to the NSPCC. On this day we are also going to carry out a "Copper Coin Challenge". I am inviting all

children and all staff to bring in any copper coins (1p and 2p coins) to attempt to fill the whole surface area of our school stage in the main hall. Let's see if we can complete the challenge whilst raising money for the NSPCC.

As a result of our Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day in December we raised £35 for this worthwhile charity. Thank you for your continued support.

### Safer Internet Day

Safer Internet Day 2019 will be celebrated at Northwood and globally on Thursday 7th February 2019 with the slogan "Together for a better internet". On this day in school the children will engage in a range of activities to provide them with information and guidance on how to stay safe online and explore the role we all play in helping to create a better and safer online community

### RSPB 'Big Garden Birdwatch'

We are very proud of our outdoor areas in our school grounds, particularly our new wildlife area. In order to begin to make best use of all of our outdoor spaces and be more aware of the wildlife that comes to Northwood, we are participating in RSPB Bird Watch Week (as seen on TV!) Children will be making bird feeders, researching British Birds and learning about wildlife in the UK.



## Year 6 Boosters

Thanks to those parents who are supporting their children with preparations for this year's SATs by allowing children to attend booster sessions after school. For those parents who have not encouraged their children to participate, I urge you to reconsider. These sessions are not just about testing, but ensure that children are best placed to reach their potential both at Primary School and beyond.

## PE Kits Matter

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 you send 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. If you have issues regarding this please do not hesitate to speak to me or a member of staff.



## Attendance Matters

Attendance continues to be a high priority for our school as it remains stubbornly below national averages. It is vitally important that you contact the school directly if your child is going to be absent. Since returning to school in January it has been brought to my attention that very few parents are communicating with us when their child is not in school. This is a serious Safeguarding issue. Can I inform you that the school office is open from 8.15am every day to receive calls. Thank you for your support with this on this serious matter.

## Dates for your diary

- Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January: Intra-school sports competition led by Mrs Taylor and a Sports Coach from Sedgefield Sports Partnership (Whole School Event - PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD HAS A PE KIT IN SCHOOL)
- Week beginning Monday 28<sup>th</sup> January: RSPB 'Big Garden Birdwatch'
- Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> January: Basketball Competition at Education Village (invitation only)
- Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February: NSPCC Number day and Copper Coin Challenge – NON UNIFORM DAY (clothes featuring numbers and/or patterns and/or shapes)
- Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February: Year 5 and Year 6 Girls football competition – (invitation only)
- Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February: Year 3 Tennis at Wyvern
- Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> February: Year 5 visit to Jarrow hall
- Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February: Year 6 Football Festival at Eastbourne (invitation only)
- Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February: Safer internet Day
- Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February: Year 3 visit to Darlington Railway Museum
- Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February: Year 5-6 Boys Football at Eastbourne
- Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> February: RNLI Water Safety assembly for whole school

School closes for half term at 3.30pm on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February and reopens on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February  
Please be aware that these dates are subject to changes/additions.

To be kept up to date with what's happening and see some of the amazing things we do at Northwood please like our Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/northwoodprimary](http://www.facebook.com/northwoodprimary).

Thank you for your continued support,



Mrs Beach,  
Head Teacher