

Northwood Primary School

Newsletter – January 2024

Happy New Year to all of our families. Can you believe that it is 2024 already!

The children and staff have all started this term very successfully and the curriculum continues to be full of positive learning opportunities for our children. Let's continue to work together to ensure the children at Northwood get the very best from their time at our school. Thank you for your understanding about the PD Day on Monday 8th January. Now that the Trust has grown, the training day had to be in line with different schools start dates for the Spring Term. Our next PD Day is Friday 24th May.

We welcome to Northwood to all of our new children and families joining us this new year, especially children who will be starting in our Nursery.

Staff News

Just before Christmas we welcomed Mrs Neal who will be teaching in Nursery. Miss Farrell begins her maternity leave later this month and I know you will wish her well when her baby arrives. Mrs Petch won't be returning this term to work in our school office. We thank her for her commitment to our school and wish her well for the future.

Attendance and Being on Time Matters

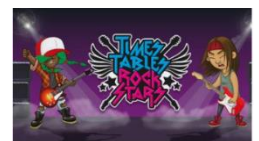
Being in school every day and on time makes a huge difference to a child's progress and attainment, as well as their personal and social development. We understand that sometimes children are ill and cannot attend school and on those days it is vital that you contact school to let us know, preferably before 9am. 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. Recently we have had quite a few children arriving to school after the gates close at 8.55am and it is vital that children are in school on time. This is an important life skill which will serve them well now and in the future, especially when they are adults.

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.

NSPCC Number Day



On Friday 2nd February, Northwood is yet again going to be involved in a very special Maths Day for an extra special charity. Mr Newton and the teachers are planning lots of activities to celebrate this event. I am inviting the whole school community to dress up as rock stars or in clothes featuring numbers and/or patterns and/or shapes. We will be holding another Copper Coin Challenge on this day to see how many numbers we can cover with copper (or silver) coins.



Children's Mental Health Week



In the week beginning Monday 5th February, the children will be taking part in a range of learning activities and discussions about the importance of mental health and wellbeing. During the week, we will shine a spotlight on the importance of children's mental health following the theme 'My Voice Matters'. This theme is all about empowering children by providing them with the tools they need to express themselves. Children who feel that their voices are heard have a greater sense of community and self esteem. At Northwood we want our children to have the courage to speak up in order to create positive mind-sets and mental wellbeing.

Uniform and jewellery

At Northwood we pride ourselves on having a uniform which provides our children with a sense of belonging. Our uniform consists of black or grey trousers/skirts or pinafore dresses, a white polo shirt, a bottle green sweatshirt, cardigan or Y6 Leavers hoodie and flat black shoes/boots. Please would you ensure that all your child's school items are labelled with their name-as you can imagine 30 jumpers in a class may all look the same and this avoids uniform items getting lost or misplaced.

Children should only wear plain stud earrings. A small number of our children are coming to school in fashion earrings which are not allowed in school due to health and safety reasons. We thank you for your support with this important matter.

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/>.

We know some of you have been asking about term times for next academic year. We follow Darlington Borough Council's term times for 2024-2025 and these can be found on the council's website. The only days that are not included are the school's five PD Days and these have not been confirmed yet.

Dates for your Diary

- **Week commencing 8th January:** We will be introducing the virtue of 'Courage'. Miss Kelly will lead assemblies about this important aspect of our Personal Development curriculum
- **Week commencing 15th January:** Energy Saving Week. Mr Tapner will lead an assembly about being mindful of saving energy and the impact this has on the climate.
- **Week commencing 22nd January:** Big Garden Birdwatch Week. Miss Hindmarsh will be leading this exciting week in school.
- **Week commencing 29th January:** National Storytelling Week. Mr Curtis will be leading this week linked to the art of telling stories off by heart.
- **Friday 2nd February:** NSPCC Number Day. This is a non-uniform day. Children are invited to come to school dressed as a rock star or in clothes with a number/ pattern/ shape theme. We will carry out our 'Copper coin challenge' for the NSPCC charity so please send any contributions in with your child on this day.
- **Week commencing 5th February:** Children's Mental Health Week. We will think about the theme 'My Voice Matters'.
- **Friday 16th February:** Term ends at the end of the school day. Children can wear their own clothes on this day.
- **Our new half term begins on Monday 26th February.**

School Calendar

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 the rest of the academic year are:

Term	Children return to school...	Last day in school...	Other dates not in school
Spring 1	Wednesday 3 rd January 2024	Friday 16 th February 2024	Staff PD Day: Monday 8 th January 2024
Spring 2	Monday 26 th February 2024	Thursday 28 th March 2024	
Summer 1	Monday 15 th April 2024	Thursday 23 rd May 2024	Bank Holiday: Monday 6 th May 2024 Staff PD Day: Friday 24 th May 2024
Summer 2	Monday 3 rd June 2024	Friday 19 th July 2024	Staff PD Day: Monday 22 nd July 2024 Staff PD Day: Tuesday 23 rd July 2024

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,

Zoe Beach

Mrs Zoe Beach
Executive Head Teacher