

Northwood Primary School

Newsletter – February 2021



A Message from Mrs Beach, Executive Head Teacher

I have been extremely impressed with the pupils since lockdown 3 started on our second day back after the Christmas break. Our pupils have managed to cope not only with a national lockdown, but also a full half term of remote learning combined with learning in school. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank families for their support in these trying times. As a parent myself, I fully understand how challenging it can be to continue to motivate your children to fully participate in the lessons whilst they are at home.

I know that the staff at the school are very much missing the children and recognise that attending school is particularly significant for their wellbeing and social development.

Boris Johnson has announced his “roadmap” out of lockdown 3 which will detail the plans from 8th March onwards. We will be in touch regularly over the next 2 weeks once we’re in a position to share our full reopening plans with you. Please regularly check your emails and our Facebook page for the most recent updates.

A Message from Mrs Wassell, Head of School

We are thrilled with the government announcement that all children will be returning to school on Monday 8th March. I know some parents have expressed concern about gaps for children and the challenges they may face on their return to school. Rest assured that staff at school began thinking about how to overcome these issues weeks ago and we are now working on putting these plans into practice. Our Northwood families have done an amazing job for nearly a year now to support children, whether at home or at school, and we are confident that we can continue to work together to really make the most of our time before the end of the school year. I would like to echo Mrs Beach’s thanks to you for your continued support and understanding. The return to school is in sight...and we can’t wait!



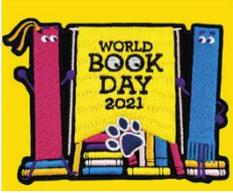
Parent Consultations – Reception, Y1, Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6

We would normally hold our parent consultations in the second week back of this half-term, however, with all children returning to school on March 8th we are holding them slightly later this time. Parent consultations will take place on **Tuesday 16th March** and **Wednesday 17th March**. Due to the success of our November consultations and the current national restrictions, we will be organising virtual meetings again. You will receive an email or letter asking you to choose either a Teams meeting or a phone call meeting on one of these nights. If your child’s teacher does not receive a reply from you, they will allocate you a phone call appointment and inform you of when this will be. By the time the consultations happen all children will have been back at school for just over a week so the teachers will be able to chat to you about your child’s progress to date and how they have settled in if they have just returned.

Remote Learning Survey

At Northwood we are always striving to do things as well as we can. Thank you to all parents who completed our Remote Learning Survey and gave us really valuable feedback on what we are doing well and areas we can improve. We are really pleased that 92% of people who responded were happy with the offer we have provided so far. Once all children return to school on March 8th, there may still be occasions where classes have to isolate and learn from home. Your feedback will help us to shape what this looks like to make our offer for all children brilliant. The results of the survey are available on our Facebook page, which I would encourage you to visit.

World Book Day – 4th March/ 12th March



World Book Day is always something we look forward to at Northwood – the staff as much as the children! Reading is at the heart of our curriculum and World Book Day gives us an opportunity to celebrate it. This year the official World Book Day (at the time of writing this newsletter) is on Thursday 4th March. Whilst we will still complete themed activities on this day, we thought it would be best to postpone our usual dress up day until the following week

when all children are back in school so we can celebrate together. Northwood's World Book Day will be **Friday 12th March**. On this day it would be wonderful if as many children as possible could dress up as their favourite book character and/ or bring their favourite book into school. I know that the supermarkets are full of dressing up costumes at the minute but please don't feel you need to spend money on a costume. Why not get creative yourself or challenge your child to make a costume with things around the house!

Red Nose Day – 19th March

On Friday 19th March we will be celebrating Red Nose Day in aid of Comic Relief. This year's event is all about harnessing the power of humour. I am inviting the whole school community to come dressed in their own clothes on that day. If children would like to wear fancy dress, onesies, sportswear or just their favourite outfit, they can. We are going to do a copper coin challenge on this Friday to raise money for this worthwhile charity. I am therefore asking children to bring in any spare or unwanted copper coins to cover as many Red Nose Day posters as possible. If you are wanting to get involved at home, there is a template on the Comic Relief website where you can write a joke and display in your window to spread a smile around the community.



Facebook

On our Remote Learning Survey, many parents have commented on how useful they find our Facebook page to keep up to date with what's happening at Northwood. 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

- **Friday 26th February:** Launch of National Bed Month – focus on relaxation, mindfulness and the importance of sleep for healthy bodies and minds
- **Week commencing 1st March:** National Careers Week
- **Thursday 12th March:** Northwood's World Book Day - 'Share a Story...' – Dress up as a character
- **Week commencing 8th March:** British Science Week - 'Innovating for the future'
- **Thursday 18th March:** Global Recycling Day.
- **Friday 19th March:** Red Nose Day - dress up day at school – wear your favourite outfit that makes you smile
- **Week commencing 22nd March:** World Poetry Week (children will learn a poem off by heart to perform).
- **Friday 26th March:** Wear a Hat to School Day (and non-uniform day).

This half term

This half term is quite a short one, with only 5 full weeks. School closes for the Easter break on Friday 26th March and reopens on Monday 12th April.

We're looking forward to another brilliant half term and can't wait to welcome everyone back to school on Monday 8th March. In the meantime, it is so important that as many children as possible continue to join our live lessons, watch the recorded lessons and complete their work. It will make a huge difference when they return.

Thank you for your continued support as always,

Mrs Wassell
Head of School