

A Message from Mrs Beach, Executive Head Teacher



Happy New Year to all of our families. Can you believe that it is 2023 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.

A Message from Mrs Wassell, Head of School



Welcome back to all of our families and welcome to Northwood to all of our new children and families joining us this new year. We have had lots of new children joining our Nursery, as well as children joining across other year groups. I know the children have had a wonderful start to the year so far and we look forward to many more exciting activities and learning opportunities as the year goes on.

Staff News

Just before Christmas we welcomed Miss Callender back to Northwood after her maternity leave. Miss Callender is supporting in Reception and we are so pleased to have her back in school. At the beginning of February we will also be welcoming back Miss White after her maternity leave. I know she is really looking forward to returning.

Communication with Parents/ Carers

Very soon I will be sending home a document which outlines the ways school communicates with you across the year and the most efficient way for you to communicate with us. If you have an urgent query that you need a quick response to, the best way to get in touch with school or class teachers is to come into the school office or phone us on 01325 267222. If you have an enquiry that isn't urgent then a great way to get the answer is to email school on admin@northwoodprimary.org.uk. Your email will be responded to by the school office or forwarded to class teachers for them to get in touch with you. You could also use the messenger system on our school Facebook page. Some parents/ carers may also have email addresses for particular classes. These email addresses are no longer regularly checked as we move to using the Marvellous Me app, therefore, please email the school admin account instead so we know your query has been seen and can be directed to the most appropriate person.

Marvellous Me!

You will have received a letter to invite you to register for a Marvellous Me account for your child. We wanted one place for parents/ carers to receive information and letters from school and somewhere for teachers to share praise and good news quickly and efficiently. The Marvellous Me app allows staff to send documents directly to parents/ carers and also send home virtual badges to celebrate children's achievements. Another great thing about Marvellous Me is that the app is free to download and can be accessed by multiple people who care for your child, meaning more than one parent/ carer can register and receive the information. Over the next half-term, we will be using Marvellous Me as our main way to communicate with parents and carers and will only be sending paper based letters if they need to be signed for permission. I would kindly ask that if you haven't downloaded the app yet, that you do so soon. Teachers started awarding badges through Marvellous Me last week and I know children are excited to share these at home. If you need your code sending home, please contact the school office (in person or phone) and we will happily provide this for you. You can download the 'MarvellousMe for Parents' app from the App Store or Google Play. You can also sign up via your internet browser at www.marvellousme.com. We have nearly 280 parents/ carers who are accessing Marvellous Me already, which is amazing! I would love everyone to be accessing it by the end of the half-term so we can continue to develop how we use it in 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 9:30am. 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. It would be a great help if all parents/ carers could get in touch with school instead. Recently we have had quite a few children arriving to school after the gate closes. Children's start times are:

Nursery – 8.30am Reception – 8.45am Year 1 – 8.45am Year 2 – 8.50am
Year 3 – 8.45am Year 4 – 8.50am Year 5 – 8.50am Year 6 – 8.45am

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.

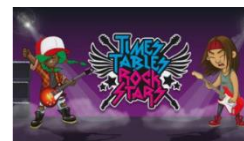
Vaping and Smoking on School Premises

It has been brought to my attention by a number of parents/ carers that they have seen people vaping on the school grounds. Vaping is treated the same as smoking on school grounds, it is not permitted. Please do not vape when you are on school property.

NSPCC Number Day



On Friday 3rd 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. Please send any money you would like to donate into school on that day for this worthwhile cause.



Children's Mental Health Week



In the week beginning Monday 6th 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 'Let's Connect'. It is vital that children learn from an early age how to look after their mental health and build the skills they need to face challenges and new situations as they grow up.

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/>.

Dates for your Diary

- **Week commencing 16th January:** Big Energy Saving Week. We will talk about ways in which we can all contribute to saving energy.
- **Week commencing 23rd January:** Big Garden Birdwatch Week.
- **Week commencing 30th January:** National Storytelling Week.
- **Friday 3rd February:** NSPCC Number Day. Children are invited to come to school dressed as a rock star or in clothes with a number/ pattern/ shape theme. We will collect money for the NSPCC charity so please send any contributions in with your child on this day.
- **Week commencing 6th February:** Children's Mental Health Week. We will think about the theme 'Let's Connect.'
- **Friday 17th February:** Term ends. Children can wear their own clothes on this day.
- **Tuesday 28th February:** Term starts. (Monday 27th February is a Teacher Training Day-no children are in school)

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 this academic year are:

Term	Children return to school...	Last day in school...	Other dates not in school
Autumn 1	Monday 5 th September 2022	Friday 21 st October 2022	
Autumn 2	Monday 31 st October 2022	Tuesday 20 th December 2022	
Spring 1	Thursday 5 th January 2023	Friday 17 th February 2023	
Spring 2	Tuesday 28 th February 2023	Friday 31 st March 2023	
Summer 1	Monday 17 th April 2023	Friday 26 th May 2023	Bank Holiday: Monday 1 st May 2023 Bank Holiday: Monday 8 th May 2023
Summer 2	Monday 5 th June 2023	Wednesday 19 th July 2023	

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,

Mrs Wassell
Head of School