Newsletter 1 – September 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

Isn't it great to be back at school? It has been lovely to see all the children looking so smart and eager to work. I am really looking forward to continuing to grow success in this new academic year. I would like to welcome all the children who are starting Northwood this term and look forward to continuing to work in partnership with you all as your Head Teacher. I would like to extend a warm welcome to new teaching staff joining us: Miss Sanderson (Reception) and Mrs Park (Reception).

Staff News
I am delighted to let you all know that Mrs Mitchell has recently given birth to a beautiful baby girl. Both mother and daughter are doing well. Miss Bradshaw was married during the holidays and will now be known as Mrs Holbrough Congratulations. Mrs Cowe is still poorly and currently off work and we wish her a speedy recovery.

Safeguarding Matters
From Monday 10th September can I please ask that only reception parents go through the school gate into the playground to drop off and collect their children at the beginning and end of the school day. Congestion in this area prevents children from leaving and meeting their parents/careers. Should you wish to speak to a member of staff please wait until all the children have been dismissed or report to the school office for assistance. Thank you for your understanding in this matter as the children's safety is our main priority.

Breakfast and after school provision
For those of you who are not aware and are seeking affordable childcare, please remember to consider our Breakfast and After School Clubs. Both provisions offer peace of mind for working parents in the safety and comfort of the school premises. Breakfast Club starts at 8:00am and costs £1 per day. After School Club is open every evening Monday to Friday during school term time from 3:30pm – 6:00pm and costs £6 per session per child. You can book regular or one-off sessions. For further information and advice on how to pay for this service please contact the school office.

Building Improvements.
Whilst your children have been enjoying their 6 weeks holiday, there have been a number of improvements made both in the school building and around the school grounds. New carpets have been fitted in "The Street" in the Key Stage 1 teaching zone. Reception have now got a new teaching and learning zone which has new flooring, new display boards and new furniture. Changes have been made in the Library to make the room more accessible to the children. Some of the bookcases have been removed and reinstalled in the downstairs library area.
A new music zone has been installed in the Nursery gardens thanks to the handy work of Clare Readman the Office Manager. New plants and planters have been installed in the Early Years area. The pond area in school is in the process of being transformed into Northwood's very own "Wilderness Garden". This area has been seeded with meadow grasses to encourage mini beasts and wildlife. We have also installed bird tables, feeders, insect boxes and squirrel runs so that our school community can begin to learn more about the natural world and how to care for it. This will be fully established by the Spring Term and I can't wait to show it off.

Trim Trail
We are in the process of transforming the Trim Trail zone in school. We aim to make the trail a much more engaging, challenging and exciting activity for children of all ages to access and enjoy. Physical activity is vital to our children's development and wellbeing. Already the children are telling me they can't wait to play on it. As some of you will already be aware it is not quite finished and I ask that you ensure that your children do not access this area on a morning or after school in order to keep them safe from harm.

Attendance Matters

I wish to than those parents and carers who are committed to ensuring their children attend school regularly and often it really does make a difference to their progress and attainment, as well as your child's personal and social development. It saddens me to let you know that again our overall attendance figure for last academic year continues to remain stubbornly low, resulting in the school again being in the lowest 10% of all schools nationally. This unfortunately impacts on the reputation of the school as the view can be that teaching and learning isn't good enough as children don't want to attend school. I know that this is totally untrue. Our teaching and learning is fantastic at Northwood. May I remind you that learning at Northwood starts at 8.40 am every day. Teachers are in their rooms working with the children from this time and although the gates close at 8.55 am it is vital that your child is in school by 8.40am so as not to miss out on any learning. Mrs Peart (Assistant Head Teacher) and Paula Stainthorp (Parent Support Advisor) are responsible for the attendance strategy at Northwood and parents will receive information about our attendance strategy very soon. Please note that requests for holidays during term time will not be authorised and will result in a referral being made to the Local Authority to issue penalty notices.

Meet the Teacher (Reception to Year 6)

On Wednesday 12th September from 3.30pm – 4.30pm I would like to invite all parents/carers into school for a "Meet the Teacher" session. This will be a great opportunity to meet the teacher and find out about the teaching and learning that your child will be engaged with during the school year. It will also be an opportunity for you to be reassured that your child is well settled in a great learning environment. I look forward to seeing you all at this session.

Roald Dahl Day

On Friday 28th September Northwood Primary will be celebrating Roald Dahl's birthday (slightly later than usual). I am inviting the whole school community as either a character from a story or Nursery rhyme or wear Roald Dahl favourite colour of Yellow. If your child does not wish to dress up they can wear their school uniform (there is no cost for this day.)

Updating Contact Details

If you have changed any of your contact details please ensure that you inform the school office so that we have your most up-to-date information in case we need to contact you.

Upcoming Dates for your Dairy

- Wednesday 12th September – Meet the Teacher session 3.30pm-4.30pm
- Monday 24th September – Year 5 Yorkshire Planetarium visit (in school)
- Friday 28tyh September – Roald Dahl dress up day – Dress up as a story book character or wear yellow
- Friday 28th September – Jays Animal Encounters in Year 2
- Friday 12th October – Whole School Photograph
- Friday 19th September October – Judo taster sessions
- Tuesday 23rd October – Judo taster sessions
- Thursday 25th October – Year 3 and Year 4 Harvest Festival for parents/carers – more information to follow
- Friday 26th October – School finishes for half term at 3.30pm

Please note that dates are subject to changes and additional important dates may be added. Please keep up to date with what is happening online at www.northwoodprimary.org.uk. Many parents have also 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

Thank you for continued support,

Z Beach

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