

Dear parents and carers,

We are over half way through the academic year and I am very pleased with the progress we are making in school. Feedback from parents has been fantastic and we are all working extremely hard to make sure Northwood is an excellent school for our children.

However, I need your help in an important matter. Quite simply, the absence rates for our children are too high – we need to reduce the number of days that our children are having absent from school.

There are a number of factors that are having a detrimental impact upon our attendance rates in school:

- Holidays in term time – our rates are **significantly** above national figures
- Children being kept off poorly, when they are actually well enough to be in school
- Children staying off all day when they have a medical appointment which may only take a short amount of time in the school day and should come back to school
- Children being kept off when their brother or sister is poorly.

I enclose with this letter an attendance leaflet which provides various pieces of information for you to refer to. Parents with children whose attendance is causing concern will have already been contacted by the school.

The leaflet also mentions that the school gate, leading to the classrooms will be closed each morning at 8.45am. This is the time that all children should be in class ready to learn for the day. On the rare occasion that your child is unavoidably late for school, they should be taken to the main reception to be signed in, up to 9.00am. Clare Readman (Office Manager) or Paula Stainthorp (Parent Support Advisor) will greet you and your child and record the late arrival, before taking them to class.



Parent View

Parent View gives you the chance to share your views about Northwood Primary and provide Ofsted with valuable feedback on the school. You can access this by either searching 'Parent View' online, or visit the school website, www.northwoodprimary.org.uk, and click the Parent View Link on the homepage.

Upcoming Dates for Your Diary

- Thursday 22nd March – World Weather Day
- Thursday 22nd March – Year 2 Pedestrian Training
- Friday 23rd March – Sports Relief Dress Up Day
- Friday 23rd March – Nursery Parental Engagement Event
- Monday 26th March – World Autism Day
- Monday 26th March – Year 2 Pedestrian Training
- Tuesday 27th March – Year 6 Fire and Safety Session at the Workplace Newton Aycliffe
- Wednesday 28th March – Year 2 Pedestrian Training

School closes for the Easter break at 3.30pm on Thursday 29th March, school reopens on Monday 16th April.

Parent Questionnaire Results

It was wonderful to see so many of you at our recent parent consultation meetings. These meetings gave us a chance to celebrate the children's achievements and progress, and in the vast majority of meetings it was clear that our children are happy and achieving well. These sessions also provide a great opportunity to gather valuable feedback from parents and carers with our parent questionnaire. We had 123 responses and I am pleased to share with you the following information:

"The support that the school and class teacher has given my child has been amazing, moving school has made a huge impact. We finally feel we are getting the help needed to get my child on the right track. Thank you so much."

"Brilliant support, always focus on the positives, best thing ever moving to this school. All the staff have been amazing."

"I can only praise this school, the school and teachers have been a great help to me and my children. Continue the good work!"

Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree
1. My child is happy	81%	18%	0%
2. My child feels safe at this school	83%	15%	1%
3. My child makes good progress at the school	83%	17%	0%
4. My child is well looked after at this school	85%	14%	0%
5. My child is taught well at this school	86%	14%	0%
6. My child receives homework appropriate for their age	76%	23%	1%
7. The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved	75%	24%	0%
8. This school deals effectively with bullying	68%	24%	0%
9. The school is well led and managed	76%	21%	1%
10. This school responds well to any concerns I raise	78%	20%	0%
11. I receive valuable information about my child's progress	80%	20%	0%
12. Would you recommend this school to another parent?	Yes: 100%		

"Since my child has attended Northwood they have progressed and learnt so much, they have settled really well. It has been the best decision to move schools."

"Absolutely fantastic staff who communicate well with me and have helped my child develop immensely."

"I would recommend this school to everyone. I believe it's the best school in the town. Thank you Northwood!"

Thank you for your continued support,



Zoe Beach,

Head Teacher