

# Northwood Primary School

## Newsletter – April 2021



### A Message from Mrs Beach, Executive Head Teacher

The ‘buzz’ around Northwood since we returned to school on Monday this week is a fantastic feeling. It has been great to see all of the children engaging in their lessons and eager to learn. Watching the children outside at playtimes has also been a pleasure to observe as children catch up with their friends and enjoy being back in the school environment. We have lots of exciting things planned for this term which we will be sharing with you on Facebook. I believe that Facebook is the best way for parents to see exactly what is happening in the school and provides a great forum to celebrate pupil achievement.

### A Message from Mrs Wassell, Head of School

Welcome back to all of our children and families. We hope you had a wonderful Easter break and were able to enjoy a little more freedom to meet with friends and family members and make the most of the very mixed weather.

I can't quite believe it is the Summer Term already! We have had a roller coaster of a year so far, but we are hopeful that this term will be much more settled for our children.

Whilst national restrictions are easing, guidance for schools remains unchanged so we continue to follow our safety measures in place. Thank you for your continued support by bringing children at their staggered start time and picking them up at the appropriate time at the end of the day; for ensuring your child brings their own water bottle to school and for following the school's one way system when on the school site. These measures won't be forever, however, they are necessary at the moment to keep risks to a minimum. For those families who are new to our school, or have returned recently, please do ask a member of staff for guidance if you are not sure of the routines.



### **Attendance**

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, staff have been working extremely hard to plan exciting learning opportunities for children to make sure the gaps in education we hear so much about in the media are addressed. We are confident that with your support the children at Northwood will continue to thrive and flourish to reach their potential. We can only make this happen though if your child is in school every day – any day lost is one we can't get back. Please ensure that your child attends school unless they are poorly and is here on time so they don't miss vital learning. Our attendance figure for the year to date is 89.8%, which is well below the government expectation of 96%. Over this last term of school it would be great if we can raise this figure closer to the national average.

### **Parking Around School**

It has come to our attention that there are a lot more cars at the exit points of school which means parking is becoming an issue. This has resulted in several near misses and obviously causes a significant risk to our children and their parents. We appreciate that parking around the school at the beginning and end of the day may be challenging, however, as the weather is getting warmer it would be brilliant if you took the opportunity to walk to school or park slightly further away to ease congestion.

## The Developing Curriculum at Northwood

As we move into the Summer Term and start to think about planning for the next academic year (where fingers crossed things can return to normal and our children's education will not be interrupted) I wanted to let you know that the staff at Northwood are carrying out a big piece of work to really develop our curriculum to ensure that it is excellent from the time children start with us in Nursery to the time they leave us in Year 6. The government has recently announced a new curriculum for children in Early Years (Nursery and Reception classes) and we have been part of the national Early Adopter Project, meaning we have been trialling it over this year before it is fully launched to all schools across the country. This means that we have been in the lucky position to ensure that the curriculum for our youngest children continues to be outstanding. At Northwood we like to work with the rule of three, like any good story so our curriculum intent is focussed on three things; developing pupils' knowledge of their locality, learning from significant people and having the skills required for a successful future. We will continue to share updates on our curriculum across this Summer Term and beyond.

### Relationship Education Curriculum (REd)

We will soon be in a position to consult with parents/ carers on our new Relationship Education Curriculum. The government released a new statutory framework for schools to put in place and we have therefore worked hard to rewrite our REd curriculum to ensure it meets these standards and the needs of the children in our school. Information will be sent to you shortly and you will have an opportunity to give your feedback before it is fully launched in September 2021. Exciting times ahead!

### Facebook



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](https://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 16<sup>th</sup> April:** Denim for Dementia – wear anything and everything denim to school and bring in a donation to support the Alzheimer's Society.
- **Week commencing 19<sup>th</sup> April:** The Big Pedal – as many children, parents and staff as possible to travel to school actively! Polish up your bikes, scooters and walking shoes and get moving to be in with a chance to win prizes.
- **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April:** National Skipping Day – children are invited to come to school in sportswear on this day as they will be taking part in skipping activities during the day.
- **Week commencing 26<sup>th</sup> April:** National Gardening Week.
- **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May:** BANK HOLIDAY – SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED THIS DAY.
- **Week commencing 3<sup>rd</sup> May:** Sun Awareness Week – children will learn about how to keep themselves safe in the sun and you can support them by taking part in the 'Don't Bake, Bake' competition.
- **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May:** School hall used as a polling station.
- **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May:** Limerick Day.
- **Week commencing 17<sup>th</sup> May:** Walk to School Week.
- **Week commencing 24<sup>th</sup> May:** National Smile Week.
- **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May:** Non-uniform day – to end National Smile Week we invite children to come to school in clothes that make them happy.
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On behalf for the whole Northwood community I would like to thank you for your continued support and look forward to a wonderful Summer Term.

*S. Wassell*

Mrs Wassell  
Head of School