

## Northwood Primary School Newsletter 2 – November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are well into the first school term of this academic year. The winter weather is on its way and the festive season is nearly upon us. As always this is a very busy time at Northwood with lots of exciting activities and events going on throughout the coming weeks. Thank you for working with us and your understanding during these challenging times. Things in school may still seem different however we will continue to ensure that your children receive an excellent offer. We are currently working on how we can carry out all of our usual festivities for this time of the year in a “COVID Compliant” way. Please keep following Facebook for our most up-to-date information and guidance over this half term.

### Reading Matters

During our recent parent phone consultations it was lovely to hear about all of the reading that some of our children are doing when not in school. For some, however, they are not taking the opportunities to read when they are not in school. Children have been allowed to take a reading book home since returning in September, it would be great if you could encourage your children to read regularly and often when they are not in school. Mr Curtis challenges all of the children to read at least 3 times a week in order to be rewarded. Let’s make sure Mr Curtis has to buy lots more “prizes” this half term! If you have any concerns about your child’s reading please do not hesitate to contact a member of staff.

### Attendance and Punctuality Matters

I want to stress how important it is that 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. Our school’s attendance figures remain lower than the national average, which does not reflect all of the amazing things that happen here at Northwood Primary School. One of the biggest challenges recently has been linked to our staggered start times on a morning, with some children being late to school every single day. Our teaching and learning starts the minute your child comes into the classroom, so even 10 minutes late every day can make a huge difference. May I take this opportunity to remind you of the Year Group’s start and finish times:

Year Group	School Day Times
Nursery	8.30 am – 11.30 am
Reception (Class 1 and 2)	8.45 am – 2.45 pm
Year 1 (Class 3 and 4)	8.45 am – 2.45 pm
Year 2 (Class 5 and 6)	8.55 am – 2.55 pm
Year 3 (Class 7 and 8)	9.05 am – 3.05 pm
Year 4 (Class 9 and 10)	9.00 am – 3.00 pm
Year 5 (Class 11 and 12)	8.55 am – 2.55 pm
Year 6 (Class 13 and 14)	8.45am – 2.45 pm

As part of our COVID-19 measures, it is really important that these staggered start and finish times are adhered to.

### Social Distancing on the School Yard

The government guidance currently states that it is not mandatory for parents, staff and visitors to wear face coverings on the school site. We are aware that some primary schools are requesting all adults to wear face coverings, however this is not currently a requirement at Northwood. We must however stress the importance of practising social distancing whilst dropping off and collecting your children in order to minimize risk. Thank you for your continued support and understanding with this.

### Anti-Bullying Week: Northwood's Kindness Week

The week commencing Monday 16th November is National Anti-Bullying Week and at Northwood we have chosen to focus on a week of kindness. We believe that the behaviour and safety of our children is our prime concern and we ensure that this week is a real feature of our curriculum. Children across the school will engage in a range of activities out in the community or online.



### Children in Need Day

On 13<sup>th</sup> November, it is the annual Children in Need Day, with the theme being “Together we can change young lives” and Northwood will be celebrating in style. Mrs Wassell is inviting the whole school community to participate in a non-uniform day focussing on the theme of change. Your child may want to change their hairstyle, change their clothes and not wear school uniform, change their face by wearing face paints, change their shoes by not wearing their school shoes. All of the staff are busy thinking about what they will change that day. In order to raise some money for this special charity we are having a Copper Coin Challenge on this day, so please start hunting around your home for any copper coins you can donate. Every penny counts! PE will be suspended on this day as we work out with Joe Wicks.



### Facebook

Our Facebook page is a great source of information for all the great things that are happening at Northwood. Many parents have commented on how useful they find our Facebook page to keep up to date. It is also a great place for us to showcase the school and celebrate our children's achievements. Please take a minute to like our Facebook page via the following link:

[www.facebook.com/northwoodprimary](http://www.facebook.com/northwoodprimary).

### Dates for your Diary

- Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November - Children in Need Day: 'Together we can change young lives' and Copper Coin Challenge.
- Week beginning Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November - Northwood's Kindness Week: 'United against Bullying'.
- Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November – Odd Socks Day: 'We're all different'.
- Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November – Northwood Smile Day
- Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November – Early Years Parent Consultations
- Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November – Random acts of Kindness Day
- Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November – Early Years Parent Consultations
- Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November – Wear bright clothes to school (PE as normal)
- Week beginning Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November – Road Safety Week: 'No Need to Speed'.
- Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December – Northwood Tree Dressing tasks.
- Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Dinner Day.

More details will follow – you will receive a December newsletter and updates will be regularly added to our Facebook page. School finishes at the end of the school day on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December. School reopens for the Spring term on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January.

Thank you for your continued support,

Zoe Beach,  
Head Teacher