

Dear Parents/Carers,

They say time flies when you're having fun, can you believe we're half way through March already and over half way through this current academic year. On my walks around school it is an absolute pleasure to witness the teaching and learning that is happening every day in our school.

Staff News

On Monday 11th March Mrs Ketley our new Parent Support and Attendance Advisor started in her new role. We are really excited about welcoming her to the school and I know she is going to make a positive difference to all the children and the families who have the pleasure of working with her. Mrs Ketley has had years of experience working in a secondary school in Durham where she has made a huge difference to the attendance outcomes for the school. You will see her on a morning on the gates so please give her a smile and say hello.



British Science Week

The week beginning Monday 11th March we are celebrating British Science Week at Northwood. This year's theme is 'Journeys in Science' and Miss Farrell, our Science Lead, has organised a range of exciting investigations linked to this year's theme. On Friday 15th March Miss Farrell will lead the whole school assembly where children will have an opportunity to showcase the work they have carried out this week.

Recent post-Ofsted activity

After our recent successful Ofsted outcome and the report going live for the public to read, I would like to let you know that we have been inundated with requests from schools both in Darlington and beyond to come and look at the fantastic practice going on at Northwood. We have shared our approach to the wider curriculum, our strategy for teaching English, the effective use of support staff, the provision offered in Nursery and Reception and the general learning environment within school. You should all be really proud of the school that we've created together and know that I relish the opportunity to show off the fabulous teaching and learning offer that our children get every day at Northwood. Some of you may have also noticed Mr Lindsay, the Head of School at Longfield Secondary, in school recently. He is here to carry out work linked to him gaining the National Professional Qualification in Headship, and he has been overwhelmed and impressed by our Primary School.

Red Nose Day

On Friday 15th March we will be celebrating Red Nose Day in aid of Comic Relief. I am inviting the whole school community to come dressed in their own clothes on that day. There is no particular theme to the day, however if children would like to wear fancy dress, onesies, sportswear or just their favourite outfit, they can. After the success of our recent copper coin challenge in aid of NSPCC we are going to do another one this Friday to raise money for this worthwhile charity. I am therefore asking you to bring in your unwanted copper coins for the children to cover as many Red Nose Day posters as possible.



Attendance Matters

Attendance continues to be an area of the school which requires improvement. Our school's attendance remains below the national average, which does not reflect all of the amazing things that happen here at Northwood Primary School. Please ensure that your child comes to school every day and on time to give them the best chance for success. I'm sure Mrs Ketley will have some fresh ideas on how we can improve and celebrate attendance at Northwood and we look forward to sharing these with you in the near future.

Parent Consultation Outcomes

It was wonderful to see so many of you at our recent parent consultation evenings. I know there were some proud parents and carers leaving school on both evenings, and rightly so! These sessions also provide a great opportunity to gather valuable feedback from parents and carers with our parent questionnaire. We had 135 responses and I am pleased to share with you the following results:

"My child loves this school and they have come on so much since being here. Thank you so much!"

"The best school ever. My child feels safe and she is looked after very well."

Statement	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree
1. My child is happy	80%	19%	1%
2. My child feels safe at this school	81%	17%	1%
3. My child makes good progress at the school	83%	17%	0%
4. My child is well looked after at this school	83%	17%	0%
5. My child is taught well at this school	84%	16%	0%
6. My child receives homework appropriate for their age	81%	16%	2%
7. The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved	73%	24%	2%
8. This school deals effectively with bullying	66%	23%	5%
9. The school is well led and managed	83%	16%	0%
10. This school responds well to any concerns I raise	80%	19%	1%
11. I receive valuable information about my child's progress	83%	17%	0%
12. Would you recommend this school to another parent?	Yes - 100%		

"The staff at Northwood always ensure the kids are happy, settled and well looked after."

"It was the best decision I ever made moving my child to this school."

Find us on Facebook

Many parents have commented on how useful they find our Facebook page to keep up to date with what's happening at Northwood. 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

Dates for Diary

- Tuesday 12th March – Dance Festival at Darlington Hippodrome
- Tuesday 12th March – Year 3 Class 7 Pedestrian Training
- Wednesday 13th March – Year 3 Class 8 Pedestrian Training
- Wednesday 13th March – Year 2 Yoga with Yoga Mike (Every Wednesday morning until Easter)
- Friday 15th March – Red Nose Day (Non Uniform)
- Tuesday 19th March, 26th March and 2nd April – Year 1 Class 4 Pedestrian Training
- Wednesday 20th March, 27th March and 3rd April – Year 2 Class 5 Pedestrian Training
- Thursday 21st March, 28th March and 4th April – Year 2 Class 6 Pedestrian Training
- Friday 22nd March, 29th March and 5th April – Year 1 Class 3 Pedestrian Training
- Friday 22nd March – Year 3 Preston Hall Museum visit
- Tuesday 2nd April – Nursery and Reception Easter Extravaganza
- School finishes at 3.30pm on Friday 5th April - **SCHOOL REOPENS ON TUES 23rd APRIL (THE MONDAY IS A BANK HOLIDAY)**

Thank you for continued support,



Mrs Beach, Head Teacher