 2/9/20

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Dear Parents,**  Welcome to the first newsletter of this school year. It’s been lovely to see all of the children coming back into school after such a long absence. We have really missed them.  Staff have worked incredibly hard over the summer to put in place all of the protective measures to make school as safe as possible- and to make the classrooms look fantastic for the start of term.  It is going to be a different year in many ways – but we are determined that it will be the very best year that we can make it.  If you have any concerns or you are unsure of anything, please do get in touch or speak to one of us at the start or end of the day. | | |
| **A very warm welcome** to Fern and Eve, who have joined us in Reception, and to Levi, Barnaby, Sovanna and Stella who will be joining us in Nursery soon. | | |
| **Staffing Update**  I’m very sad to let you know that Paul Knox, who has been a valued part of our school staff team for over 7 years, left us in the summer to train to be a vicar. We were all sorry to say goodbye- but wish him all the very, very best in his new career.  This means that we cannot, at the moment, offer any individual music lessons- but under the Covid 19 restrictions we wouldn’t be able to do this anyway. Class teachers will be taking on the teaching of music in their classes.  A very warm welcome to Miss Harris, who has joined us to teach in Class 3, and to Miss Webster, who will also be working in Class 3 as well as at Breakfast Club.  Mrs Mahoney will now be working in Class 3 for one day a week to cover non-contact time for Miss Harris and will also be working with groups of children across Y3 and 4 to support our catch up programme this term.  We are delighted to have recruited Mrs Houghton to work in Class 2 for 3 days each week alongside Mrs Graham, Mrs Hodgson and myself this term. Again, this is to support our catch-up programme. Welcome - and I hope you enjoy your time with us.  I am also pleased to welcome Mrs Rodham to the staff team. She will be working in After School Club alongside Mrs Johnson from this week.  **Staffing this term**   |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Class | Year Group | Numbers | Staffing | | Class 1 | Nursery/ Reception | 19 | Mrs Stevens and Mrs Briddock plus Mrs Morgan | | Class 2 | Year 1/ Year 2 | 22 | Mrs Graham (M-W)  Mrs Trotter (Th/F)  Mrs Hodgson  Mrs Houghton | | Class 3 | Year 3/ Year 4 | 27 | Miss Harris  Miss Webster  Mrs Mahoney | | Class 4 | Year 5/ Year 6 | 10 | Mr Chapman  Mrs Hall | | | |
| Mr Thompson will be teaching PE to Classes 3 and 4 on a Thursday afternoon. | | |
| **PE/ Outdoor learning**  PE this term for Classes 3 and 4 will usually be on a Thursday and Friday afternoon.  Please could children come to school in their PE kits on Thursdays and Fridays.  Class 3 and 4 will be **starting PE on Friday this week.**  Class 2 will be taking part in Forest School sessions with me on Thursday afternoons and then will have PE on a Friday afternoon. This will **start next week.**  From next week, please could the children in Class 2 come to school in PE kits on Fridays and suitable clothes for outdoors on Thursdays .  Class 2 will be using the grassy area outside the classroom at breaktimes and also for outdoor learning this term. Please could the children keep waterproofs and wellies in school as they may well get muddy. | **Wrap around care**  Breakfast Club is up and running every day from 8am.  The cost of each session is just £4 (half price for a second child in the same family) and includes a choice of cereals, toast and a drink. The children will be either with Mrs Hodgson or Miss Webster.  After School Club is also open Mon-Thurs until 5.30pm and on a Friday until 4.15pm. The cost is £4 per hour or £10 for the full session- again, the second child is half price. The children will either be with Mrs Johnson or Mrs Rodham.- who have planned a series of exciting autumn themes for this half term:  Week 1: Hedgehogs  Week 2: leaf printing and shading  Week 3:Fruit cocktails  Week 4: Autumn Stories  Week 5 Apple crumble  Week 6: Painting pasta.  Alongside this, there will be a variety of outdoor and indoor activities for the children to choose from. The children will be given a snack, and tea if they stay until 4.30pm.  Please book by completing a booking form (which can be downloaded from the school website) or contacting the school office. | |
| **Reading Books/ Homework**  Reading books will be sent home with the children this term. However, we have to quarantine the books for 48 hours when they are returned to school after each child has read them. Each class teacher will set up a specific day when books come home and when they have to be returned. Please bear with us as we set up this system - and please be aware that we have a limited book stock and so books may not be changed as frequently at the moment. It is fine for the older children- who may be reading longer books- to carry their books backwards and forwards for as long as it takes to read them. The children will also of course be reading in school.  We will not be sending homework books home for the moment as we are trying to limit the amount of materials that go backwards and forwards between home and school. | | |
| **Events this term**  This is always a busy term with lots happening.  We want school life to be as ‘near normal’ as we can but inevitably there will be changes. For example, there will be parent consultations this term and a letter will be coming home about this shortly. However, at the moment, it is looking unlikely that we will be able to put on any ‘live’ performances this term- and we are as saddened by this as I know you will be. Hopefully, there will be a further lifting of restrictions before too long. | | |
| **Dinner Money**  **A reminder that dinner money is £2.00 per day or £10 per week while the children are having school packed lunches, this can now be paid online via ParentMail**.  Lunches are really good value and consist of a filled roll (2 for pupils in KS2) plus salad, fruit and a homemade cake or biscuit. The rolls are ham on Monday and Thursday, cheese on Tuesday and Friday and then tuna on Wednesday.  All R/Y1 and Y2 children are entitled to universal free school meals. Nursery children plus children in Y3, 4, 5 and 6 need to pay for their lunches.  If you think you may be eligible for Free School Meals, details can be found on [NCC’s website](https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Education/Schools/Meals.aspx)  If you have any questions about this, contact Mrs Hudson. | | **Contact details**  Please can you send data collection sheets into school as soon as possible. It’s absolutely vital that we have up to date contact details for everyone. |
| **Collecting Children from School**  Just a reminder to please let us know if somebody different is collecting your child from school or if the ‘end of the day’ arrangements are different from usual.  If we do not recognise the person who is collecting your child, we will ring you and check. |
| **Attendance**  I know that you are all as concerned as we are at the amount of school that children have had to miss over the past few months.  It is vital for all children that they attend school regularly this academic year.  Sometimes there are genuine reasons for taking children out of school during term time. However, as a general rule I would ask that this is only in **exceptional** circumstances.  **We cannot, and will not, authorise holidays in term time.**  A copy of school holidays and teacher training dates for this academic year can be found on the [school website](https://newbrough.eschools.co.uk/website/term_dates_attendance_and_holidays/227367) | | |
| Finally, if you have any questions, comments or concerns, please do get in touch or catch me on the playground before school. If I don’t know there’s a problem, I can’t sort it out!  Kind regards,  Mrs Trotter (Headteacher) | | |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Dates for your diary** |  |
| **September** |  |
| 1.9.2020 | Teacher Training Day |
| 2.9.2020 | Start of autumn term |
| 24.9.2020 | School photographs |
| **October** |  |
| 23.10.20 | School closes for half term holiday |
| **November** |  |
| 2.11.2020 | Teacher Training Day |
| 3.11.2020 | School re-opens |
| **December** |  |
| 18.12.2020 | End of autumn term |
| **January** |  |
| 4.1.2021 | Teacher Training Day |
| 5.1.2021 | Start of spring term |
| **February** |  |
| 12.2.2021 | School closes for half term holiday |
| 22.2.2021 | School re-opens |
| **March** |  |
| 26.3.2021 | School closes for Easter holidays |
| **April** |  |
| 12.4.2021 | School re-opens |
| **May** |  |
| 3.5.2021 | May Bank Holiday |
| 28.5.2021 | School closes for half term holiday |
| **June** |  |
| 7.6.2021 | School re-opens |
| **July** |  |
| 16.7.2021 | End of summer term |
|  |  |