 5/9/2019

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| **Dear Parents,**  Welcome to the first newsletter of this term and indeed this school year. It’s been lovely to see all of the children coming back into school looking so smart in their uniforms and with attitudes to match!  Staff have worked incredibly hard to make the classrooms look fantastic for the start of term  and everyone, staff and pupils alike, seems to be enjoying the first week back.  There is already lots of great work happening across the school and we are all looking forward to a positive and exciting year ahead. | |
| **A very warm welcome** to Kieron, who has joined us in Year 5; Isaac, who has joined us in Year 4; Elsie, who has joined us in Reception and Antony and Annie who have joined us in Nursery.  We hope you will all be very happy with us and are looking forward to getting to know you.  C:\Users\jo.trotter\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\LAA6YKYY\PngMedium-Children-Smiling-17527[1].gif | |
| **Staffing Update**  Welcome to Mrs Amanda Morgan, who is supporting across Class 1 and 2, and Miss Lyn Kennedy who is supporting in Key Stage 2.  **Staffing this term**   |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Class | Year Group | Numbers | Staffing | | Class 1 | Nursery/ Reception | 20 | Mrs Stevens and Mrs Briddock plus Mrs Morgan | | Class 2 | Year 1/ Year 2 | 24 | Mrs Whitfield/ Mrs Hodgson (am) plus Mrs Morgan (pm) | | Class 3 | Year 3/ Year 4 | 24 | Mr Chapman  Plus Mrs Hall/ Miss Kennedy | | Class 4 | Year 5/ Year 6 | 7 | Mrs Trotter  Plus Mrs Hall / Miss Kennedy  Mrs Mahoney- Thurs/Fri am | | |
| Mr Knox will continue to teach music across the school and Mr Thompson will be teaching PE on a Thursday afternoon. | |
| **PE**  PE this term for Classes 2, 3 and 4 will usually be on a Thursday and Friday afternoon.  Please could children keep their PE kits in school all the time in case we need to change this.  On Thursdays, the children will be practising **games skills** with Mr Thompson.  Class 3 and 4 will be working on a **dance** theme this half term and Class 2 will be doing **gymnastics.**  The children will be **swimming** in the Spring Term and there will be more details at a later date. | **Meet the Teachers**  *How can I help my child with reading?*  *What is phonics?*  *Will my child be taking part in the phonics screening check this year? What is it and how can I help? What are SATs and what do I need to know?*  *What happens at swimming?*  We would like to invite you all to ‘Meet the Teacher’ sessions.  This is an opportunity to meet your child’s teacher in an informal session and ask any questions you might have about what they might be learning and how you can help them.   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | Class | Date | Time | | 1 R | Mon 9th Sept | 5pm | | 2 (Y1/2) | Fri 13th Sept | 4pm | | 3 (Y3/4) | Weds 11th Sept | 5pm | | 4 (Y5/6) | Mon 9th Sept | 3.30pm | |
| **Arts update**  We are really pleased that funding for our joint art project with Queens Hall, Hexham, ‘Theatre Sans Frontieres’ and other local schools will continue this year. The project aims to give children the chance to experience a wider range of art.  This year, there will be visits for the whole school to a production, workshops and visits to exhibitions.  More details to follow in due course.  Children in Class 3 and 4 (Year 3,4,5 and6) are also taking part in a music project with Hexham Abbey. They will be attending a performance at Hexham Abbey as well as taking part in workshops in school. | |
| **After School Clubs**  Zumba starts **next Friday, 13th September** for any child in Class 3 or 4.  Other clubs will be starting the following week and there will be a separate letter about these. | |
| **Homework**  As well as reading, children in each class will have different homework tasks each week.  In Class 1, children will bring home some sounds to practise.  In Class 2, children will have a homework topic web from which they select different tasks each week to complete. In Class 3 and 4, as well as their homework topic web, children have a times tables practice book so that they can practise their tables at home.  This year, children will NOT be having a weekly spelling test. They will be learning spelling rules in school- and practising them in lots of different ways. However, we will continue to send home lists of the spellings each half term- so that you can see what your child is working on.  We have made this change because research shows ( and our experience backs this up) that learning lists of spellings doesn’t help the children become better at spelling- but learning the rules and patterns behind the spellings does.  If you have any questions about homework have a chat with your child’s teacher at the ‘Meet the Teacher’ evenings next week- or catch me before or after school. | |
| **Dinner Money**  **A reminder that dinner money is £2.30 per day or £11.50 per week**.  This can be paid daily, weekly or half termly.  The cost for a full half term’s dinners is £89.70.  R/Y1 and Y2 children receive free school meals. Nursery children plus children in Y3,4, 5 and 6 need to pay for their lunches.  **Don’t forget dinner money can now be paid online via Parentmail**.  Details can be found on the website. If you have any questions about this, contact Mrs Hudson. | **Contact details**  If you haven’t yet completed your data collection sheets, please can you send them into school as soon as possible. It’s 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. |
| **Holidays in term time**  I know that 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 authorise holidays in termtime.  We will send home an up-to-date list of holidays and training days separately by parentmail next week as a reminder. | |
| 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) | |

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| **Dates for your diary** | I’ve tried to include as many dates as possible for this term. |
| **September** |  |
| Monday 9th | 3.30 pm Meet the teacher Class 4  5 pm Meet the teacher Class 1 |
| Tuesday 10th | KS2 music workshop |
| Wednesday 11th | 5pm Meet the teacher Class 3 |
| Friday 13th | Zumba 3.15-4.15pm  4pm Meet the teacher Class 2 |
| Tuesday 17th | Operation Encompass workshop Class 2 |
| Thursday 19th | Class 3 and 4 visit Hexham Abbey |
| Tuesday 24th | KS2 music workshop |
| Wednesday 25th | School Photos |
| **October** |  |
| Thursday 10th | Church – all welcome |
| Thursday 17th | Nasal Flu vaccination |
| **Friday 25th** | **Break for half term** |
| **NOVEMBER** |  |
| **Monday 4th** | **Teacher training day** |
| **Tuesday 5th** | **School re-opens** |
| **DECEMBER** |  |
| Tuesday 3rd | Advent Service- church- all welcome |
| Thursday 12th | Christmas dinner |
| Monday 16th | Christmas Play- dress rehearsal |
| Tuesday 17th | Christmas Play pm performance |
| Wednesday 18th | Christmas Play evening performance |
| Thursday 19th | Christmas party |
| **Friday 20th December** | School closes for Christmas |
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