



30th September 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

It is hard to believe that today is the final day of September - the days have whizzed by! Unfortunately the weather also seems to be on the change. I felt it was time my newsletter reflected the positivity around school and the great work that was happening rather than focusing on COVID related news.

We have all been amazed at how well the children have settled back into school. They have adapted to the new systems and procedures as if they have always been the norm and are a real credit. Well done everyone! I am delighted to report that attendance is very high across school. This is so important when the children have missed so much of their education due to the pandemic. Staff are working hard with children to catch up on lost learning and support your child with their needs.

Reading

As a school, one of our great passions is reading. We believe that if we can foster a love of reading in our children, then we are giving them the key to success and academic achievement later in life. We have a wealth of books in school to hopefully appeal to all types of readers and over the lockdown period spent several thousands of pounds adding books to our reading scheme and library.

During lockdown it has no doubt been tricky to access appropriate books for your child to read. This has led to some children becoming less confident and fluent with their reading. Now, more than ever, it is important to encourage daily reading at home. The changing of books and the required quarantine period once returned, certainly adds complexity to home reading, but systems and procedures are in place to address this.

We are asking that your child reads every night at home. For those children on Oxford Reading Tree this should be to an adult, those children on the Accelerated Reader scheme can read independently if preferred. All home reading should be recorded in reading records.

Today KS2 staff and some of our pupils have had the pleasure of working with local author Adam Bushnell on writing. We hope this has inspired the children and look forward to him working with other classes in the future.

Curriculum Offer

Our curriculum offer continues to be one which is broad and balanced despite the pandemic. Our children deserve the very best education they can receive and access to experts where possible. We have a detailed risk assessment in place to mitigate risk as much as possible but at the same time offer the children the curriculum they deserve. EYFS are continuing to access Forest School, Jess from NUFC is working with KS1 classes on PE skills, Year 3 & 4 are receiving music tuition and all of KS2 have Commando Joe with Jak from NUFC on a Friday. Next week Techy Tots are in school to work with KS1 on computer programming. Year 6 will also be completing their bikeability training - an important life skill and we will keep our fingers crossed for dry weather.

Science Stemfest - Thursday 8th October

Children across school will be taking part in a virtual space festival on Thursday 8th October. It is an opportunity to learn about the wonders of space, careers within the space sector and a chance to meet inspirational speakers and astronauts. Mr Ross and Mrs Jackson are organising a Space Art competition

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where the children will be encouraged to submit a piece of A4 or A3 space themed artwork that they have completed at home. Mr Ross is delivering an assembly on Thursday 1st October to explain the project and the art work can be submitted by **Tuesday 6th October**. This will then be displayed around school. It is certainly a busy and exciting time for all!

Harvest -People's Kitchen

We will still be celebrating Harvest in school this year and as usual, supporting the People's Kitchen in Newcastle. We will be asking for donations of tinned / store cupboard ingredients to support this great charity. There will be a collection on **Thursday 22nd October**. Please only bring donations on this day as we can not store food items in school due to COVID restrictions. On Thursday 22nd October we will organise an area of the outdoor area where food donations can be left. These will then be immediately collected by The People's Kitchen. Many thanks for your ongoing support.

Phonics Screening

As Year 1 children did not get to sit their phonics screening test in the summer term the government has asked that all current Year 2 children sit this test in the autumn term. This will be towards the end of November to give the children the opportunity to catch up on missed learning. Please support your child with their phonics at home. Information can be found on our website. Further information about when exactly this will be happening will follow.

End of Day

Thank you to everyone for adhering to social distancing rules on the yard. Can I please ask that adults refrain from sitting on the seats in the yard area to prevent possible transmission of the virus.

With the autumnal weather upon us, I have asked staff to keep children indoors whilst they wait for an older sibling to finish school. Please only enter the yard once all siblings are finished school to prevent adults and children waiting on the yard. Please be assured we will keep younger siblings safe until you arrive.

Postponed events:

Tempest individual photographs

It is usually this time of year when Tempest visit school to take individual photographs. Unfortunately due to the pandemic this has been postponed until later in the spring term.

Book Fair

This has been rescheduled for the summer term.

Positive Postcards

Class teachers write a 'positive postcard' for a member of their class who has impressed them each Friday. Hopefully one will arrive through your letterbox very soon!

REMINDER:

COVID-19 Prevention

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use a hand sanitiser. (Do this after you blow your nose, sneeze or cough, before you eat, or handle food and after using the toilet).
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.

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- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in a bin. If you don't have a tissue use the crook of your arm.
- Keep a 2m distance from anyone not in your household or support bubble.

Symptoms: If you have a new continuous cough, a high temperature or a change in your sense of smell or taste, get a test.

- If you have symptoms you must arrange a test and self-isolate. **All members of your household / support bubble must self isolate until you receive a negative test result.**
- If you test positive you and your family/ support bubble must self-isolate.
- If you are advised to self-isolate by a health professional, you must do so

Remote Learning

If a pupil needs to self isolate, we are providing remote learning via Tapestry / Google Classroom so that they do not miss out on their learning. You should have received information from your child's teacher on how to access the classroom for September 2020. **Please note this is different from the login information used during Lockdown.** If you are unsure, please contact the school office and your child's teacher will get in touch.

Every Monday morning a new timetable of work will be uploaded for the week ahead. Where possible, this mirrors the work carried out in school. **You do not need to complete this work unless you are self isolating.** Staff will check the classroom daily and respond as quickly as possible to any queries.

After school clubs

We have taken the decision to wait until after half term to assess the feasibility of running further after school clubs. This is something we are keen to offer but need to review the situation over the coming weeks.

School Uniform

We are still waiting for the uniform order. As soon as this is available we will send this home.

Many thanks

Mrs A Brinton

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