

October 2023

Dear Parents & Carers,

We have had a lovely half term at school and the children have worked incredibly hard. This half term we have enjoyed:

- A visit from 'Zoo Lab' to KS1 and LKS2 classes,
- A KS1 visit to Pontefract Castle,
- Whole school celebrations and activities for World Mental Health Day,
- Our visit from the community champion for Morrisons who visited our assembly to share all community work that takes place and present us with a hamper for our breakfast club,
- Our whole school harvest celebrations – thank you for all your kind donations for the food bank at St Catherine's church,
- Celebrating Black History Month,
- KS1 parent workshops – thank you to everyone who attended,
- Sports coaches as part of our PE offer with Year 5 and Year 6,
- Singing club for KS1,
- Sports club for KS2,
- Lunchtime sports club with the sports coaches – all invited,
- Weekly swimming lessons for Year 5, including water safety,
- Hosting a rugby tournament for Year 6 tag rugby against other local schools – well done to the Newton Hill team who won the tournament,
- Weekly Forest School sessions outside in our school grounds for all children,
- and music lessons from Wakefield Music Services (optional).

We have also offered:

- Parent consultation appointments,
- An open evening for all parents/carers to view our RSHE curriculum and resources – thank you to everyone who attended.
- A reading/phonics meeting for EYFS parents & carers,
- A 'Friends of the School' disco for all our children – thank you to all the staff and volunteers for your help at the event and for your help raising funds for school.

- An opportunity to visit our school book fair to buy books and raise funds for school. Well done to everyone who entered our competition – the entries were out of this world! Thank you to everyone who has also ordered Christmas cards to raise funds for school.









## **Reading Shed**

We have recently set up and are developing a new reading shed/areas as well as a quiet area for our children. These spaces have been created with the aim of fostering a love for reading and providing a calm environment for children during playtimes/lunchtimes.

We have recently opened our reading shed following a kind donation of books from a child in Year 5. This collection has greatly enhanced the reading materials available to our children. However, in order to further enrich their reading experience, we would like to kindly request your support. If you have any books, comics or magazines that you would be willing to donate we would be incredibly grateful.

We are also looking to provide our children with a range of creative opportunities. Therefore, we would also greatly appreciate any donations of colouring books or wallpaper that can be used for drawing in the quiet area. Please send any donations to school with your child.

Thank you in advance for your support.

## **Sports Update**

We are delighted to announce that we were once again awarded the Sainsbury's Gold Mark Award for PE at the end of the last academic year. This award recognises child participation in sports and activities, extra-curricular offers and competition results.



A huge congratulations to our Year 6 Tag Rugby team who successfully retained the Tag Rugby Trophy by defeating a number of local schools in our recent tournament. The children showed fantastic skills and resilience at all times meaning that we did not concede a try in any game!

Next half term, Elite Kids Coaching will be hosting an after-school gymnastics club for children in Key Stage 1. They will also be delivering gymnastics sessions to children in Lower Key Stage 2.

<u>Dates for your diary</u>	<u>Event</u>
INSET Days 2023/2024 (School is closed on the following days).	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> September Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> November Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May (Polling Day) Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July
Break up for Half Term	Friday 27 <sup>nd</sup> October
Term 1b starts	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> November
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> -Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> November	Anti-Bullying Week
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> November	Wear Odd Socks Day for Anti-bullying Week (please wear odd socks with your usual uniform)
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	Open session for new Reception children – September 2024 intake. Please book a place by contacting the school office.
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> November	INSET Day – school is closed to all children
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	9:00-11:00am Year 3 Parent Workshop
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	9:00-11:00am Year 4 Parent Workshop
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	9:30-10:00 KS1 Christmas Show More information and ticket information will follow. This will be a ticket only event due to our hall capacity.
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	9:15-9:45 Year 3 & Year 4 Carol Concert More information and ticket information will follow. This will be a ticket only event due to our hall capacity.  <i>*Year 5 &amp; Year 6 will host an end of year performance in July 2024.</i>

Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	9:15-9:45am EYFS Christmas Song Medley (Nursery & Reception) More information and ticket information will follow. This will be a ticket only event due to our hall capacity.
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	School breaks up for Christmas
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	INSET Day - school is closed to all children
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	School re-opens Term 2

Thank you for your continued support this half term. Please do not hesitate to contact school if you have any questions or concerns. Wishing you a lovely half term break.

Kind regards,

Mrs Wheatley

## **Attendance**

**Please can you let school know if your child is going to be absent from school.**

If we do not know the reason why your child is absent, we will follow our procedures - this is a telephone call to all contacts and a home visit. If we are unable to make contact with you, we will refer the absence to the local authority. If you know your child is going to be absent, please complete an absence request form (available from the school office). Please note holidays in term time are not permitted. Following Local Authority guidance, penalty notices may be issued for holidays taken in term time. If your child is absent from school please let the school office know as soon as possible by leaving a voicemail through the school telephone system or emailing [admin@newton-hill.org.uk](mailto:admin@newton-hill.org.uk). Thank you for your cooperation.



## **Free School Meals**

If your circumstances have changed you may be eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) until Year 6, please contact school as the application process is changing. There is no difference for how children order or receive meals if they are eligible for FSM. If your child receives FSM (Reception to Year 6) the school will also receive additional funding to support your child. Children in receipt of FSM also received confidential support with educational visits.

School meals for children in Reception and KS1 are FREE – this is part of the universal free school meal offer.

## **School Uniform**

Please can we ask that all uniform/property is clearly labelled.

Thank you to everyone who follows our uniform expectations. The pre-loved uniform is always available – please contact Mrs Dundas for further information or support. We have a range of uniform – all ages. Please make use of the uniform available - all requests will be dealt with confidentially.

## **Safeguarding**

If you have any safeguarding concerns or need any support or advice, please do not hesitate to contact the school.



Our Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) are: Mrs Wheatley, Mrs Whelerton, Mrs Luck, Mr Paine, Mrs Dundas, Mrs Myton and Miss Land.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/> This website offers advice and guides for parents which you may find useful.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/pants-underwear-rule/>

If you need support or advice, you can also contact Wakefield Social Care Direct on 0345 8 503 503. There are other numbers you may find useful on our school website under Safeguarding.

## **Mental Health Team**

We have a number of staff members who are mental health first aiders who can offer advice and support for your child and you. Please contact the school if you would like any support.





August 2023						
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28	29	30	31			

September 2023						
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October 2023						
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November 2023						
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December 2023						
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January 2024						
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February 2024						
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March 2024						
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April 2024						
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29	30					

May 2024						
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27	28	29	30	31		

June 2024						
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July 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

 = Bank Holidays  
 = School Holidays  
 = UK Parliamentary, West Yorkshire Combined Authority Mayoral and District Council Elections (schools will need the authorisation of the Returning Officer if they are to be used as a Polling Station and wish to remain open on this day. Otherwise schools used as a polling station should be closed for INSET). Schools not used for election purposes may arrange alternative closures for INSET. Individual schools may decide the dates of the remaining 4 INSET dates.

Number of pupil days:	195
Less INSET days to be fixed:	5
Total number of pupil days:	190