



Newton Hill Community School – Newsletter Summer 2017

Ready for learning – Ready for Life

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www.newtonhill.wakefield.sch.uk

Thank-you to everyone for your continued support through 2016/2017. We will endeavour to build on our developments in 2017/2018 in striving to make Newton Hill Community School the best it can be.

In this Newsletter...

- *Dates for your diary...2016/2017 and 2017/2018. An academic calendar will be coming to you soon with key dates and activities for 2017/2018.*
- *School Dinners update*
- *Attendance Information – changes for September 2017*
- *Safety Procedures in school*

Dates for your diary

- *Meet and Greet new class teachers – Tuesday 18th July 9:10-9:30*
- *Summer Fayre - Wednesday 19th July 2017*
- *Y6 Leaving Assembly – Friday 21st July (Y6 parents/carers only please)*
- *School Reports – Children will receive their school reports the Week of the 17th July*

Dates for 2017/2018:

- **Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th September will be INSET days.**
- **NSPCC Meeting for Parents - Tuesday 19th September at 2:15pm (all parents & carers welcome). A letter will follow in September with more information.**

School Dinners

A polite reminder – please ensure all dinner money debts are paid by the end of the year. A packed lunch will need to be provided as no school meals will be ordered if your account is not up to date.

Current Year 2 Children:

If your child is currently in Year 2 they will no longer be eligible for universal free school meals in September 2017 (unless they qualify for Free School Meals). In September, you will need to order and pay for a school meal or send a packed lunch. If you are unsure if you qualify please see Mrs Judd or Mrs Offord who will be happy to help.

School Attendance Matters

Regular attendance at school means that your child can make the most of their education and improve their chances in adult life.

Our current attendance figure is 94% which is below our target of 96%.

At Newton Hill we celebrate attendance every week in assembly; each term everyone who achieves 100% attendance receives an award in assembly, any child who has 100% for the whole year will receive a book token. In September, we will include children who just miss out on 100% for reasons such as illness. We will also start to reward children whose attendance and punctuality improves.

Any absence from school is detrimental to a child's education and progress. It disrupts learning, routines and progress. This year at Newton Hill, there have been 900 sessions of lost learning due to holidays taken in term time. **The link between attendance and attainment in school is clear. The more a pupil is in school the more they increase their opportunity to fulfil their potential.** If your child's attendance is under 95%, they are missing at least two weeks of learning time a year. If their attendance is at 90%, they are missing four weeks. If your child's attendance falls below 90% it is classed as persistent absence. Punctuality is important, if a child arrives 15 minutes late each school each day, they lose almost 2 weeks of education a year. If your child is late after registers close this is marked as a lost session.

Some absences are unavoidable, usually due to illness, bereavement or difficult family circumstances. These absences should be supported by medical evidence where possible or an explanation from yourselves as parents and carers.

However, there are absences which are not permissible in Law, e.g birthdays, shopping trips, days out and Term Time Holidays, and absences where no explanation has been received. As Headteacher I cannot authorise holiday taken in term time. As a school we work in close partnership with the EWS regarding the issue of Fixed Penalty Fines. Unauthorised absences are discussed each half term with the EWO and further actions agreed.

From September 2017, you will need to complete a **Holiday Request Form** if a holiday is to be taken in term time. Once this has been received you will then receive a letter from school and/or the EWO regarding the absence. As a school we are considering issuing fines in line with the LA and other local schools for holidays taken in term time from September 2017.

Holiday Request Forms are available from the school office.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact school.

Thank you for your continued support.



Keeping Everyone Safe: Emergency Planning Procedures in School

We will be speaking to the children before we break up for summer about procedures that keep everyone safe. The children are already fully aware of our fire procedures/fire drills which take place and that the fire alarm is sounded weekly for everyone to hear. We have also practised 'silent' evacuations in school. This is where we leave the building in the same way as in a fire drill but without an alarm sounding. These are for situations that require us to evacuate for reasons other than a fire e.g. potential gas leak, flood etc.

As part of our emergency planning procedures we will be speaking to children about 'invacuations' and 'lockdowns'. We will also be practising these procedures in school.

What is an invacuation?

An invacuation is where all the children would be brought into school (if they were outside at break, lunch or PE). An invacuation is the opposite of an evacuation. This may be needed to keep everyone safe for example, if there were toxic fumes in the air or there is a threat nearby.

What is a lockdown?

As a school we may be instructed by the Police to go into 'lockdown'. A lockdown would be in response to a fast moving incident either directly on site or in the vicinity. Children would remain in the school building with members of staff. The aim of lockdown is to prevent people moving into danger areas and preventing anyone accessing the site. If our school ever went into lockdown we would endeavour to communicate to you through our text messaging service.

It is important that we talk about and practise these procedures so that the children would be able to respond quickly and sensibly should the need ever arise.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact school.



Newton Hill Community School – 2017/2018

Class organisation for the academic year 2017/2018:

- Nursery – Mrs Neal
- Reception - Miss Petts and Miss Cannon
- Year 1 – Mr Paine
- Year 2 – Miss Harvatt
- Year 3 – Mrs Wrench
- Year 4 – Miss Brook
- Year 5 – Mr Sharp
- Year 6 – Mr Duce (Deputy Headteacher)

Monday 17th and Tuesday 18th July will be our **transition mornings**. Children will meet their new class teachers, visit their new classrooms and talk about new routines.

On Tuesday 18th July 9:10-9:30 we would like to invite you to a ‘meet and greet’ with your child’s new class teacher.

If you are unable to attend all information shared will be sent home.

www.newtonhill.wakefield.sch.uk

Visit our wesbite for: Class newsletters, Newts Information, Newsletters, calendars,useful links – if you can’t find what you are looking for please call in at the office

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to speak to a member of staff. You can speak to class teachers at the end of the day or you can make an appointment if you prefer. Thank you for your continued support.

Keeping Everyone Safe: Safeguarding

If you have any Safeguarding Concerns please do not hesitate to contact the school - our Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) are Mrs Wheatley, Mrs Luck and Mr Paine.