



**MOMENTS  
MATTER,  
ATTENDANCE  
COUNTS.**

Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope you are all well. Here are a couple of updates and reminders of dates for this half term.

Thank you to everyone who supported our TTRS battle during half term. The scores were absolutely amazing! I am sure the children have already let you know that the winners of the battle were Year 3 and Year 4 – congratulations! During this battle, the children answered a total of 350,00 questions correctly! In school there is a TTRS score board which displays statistics from TTRS each week – keep working hard everyone to improve your scores!



### **Physical Education (PE)**

Last half term we had a successful trial of children coming to school in their PE kits on their PE day. Due to the positive response that we have received, this will continue for the remainder of the academic year. Please contact Mrs Dundas if you would like any pre-loved uniform.

Below is a reminder of our uniform expectations for PE taken from our Uniform Policy.

### **PE Uniform**

*PE uniform is a white T Shirt and blue/black dark joggers/shorts and blue/black jumper/hooded top/tracksuit. No crop tops are allowed. A pair of trainers is also required suitable for indoor and outside use. A small PE bag that will hang on your child's peg is required.*

*Earrings should be a plain, small stud and children will be asked to wear a plaster to cover whilst participating in PE/swimming if they cannot be removed. No other earrings are permitted.*

## Attendance

Our current whole school attendance figure for this academic year is 94% which is below the national DfE expectation of 96%.

Just a reminder of the information from the Chief medical officer regarding illness and school attendance. Please be assured that we will contact you should your child become ill at school. For further support and information, please see the following link to NHS Guidance: Is my child too ill for school?

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

*There is wide agreement among health professionals and educational professionals that school attendance is vital to the life chances of children and young people. Being in school improves health, wellbeing and socialisation throughout the life course. The greatest benefits come from children and young people attending school regularly. It is usually appropriate for parents and carers to send their children to school with mild respiratory illnesses. This would include general cold symptoms: a minor cough, runny nose or sore throat. However, children should not be sent to school if they have a temperature of 38°C or above.*

## Lumi Nova

Just a reminder that there is a FREE NHS-funded service for children aged 7-12 designed to build resilience and life-long skills - Lumi Nova. **This is currently a free service for families in Wakefield.**

**What is Lumi Nova?** It is an intergalactic adventure game, Lumi Nova empowers young people to fight fears and manage worries. Whilst exploring planets, and earning treasure, your child breaks their fears and worries down into manageable steps, learning life-long skills and building resilience.

For more information or visit please visit: <https://luminova.app/get-access>



**LUMI NOVA**  
TALES OF COURAGE

Digital therapy enabling children to self manage their worries

Free for families in Wakefield  
In partnership with:

NHS West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board | NHS South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

Get access now:  
[luminova.app/wakefield](https://luminova.app/wakefield)

BfB LABS

Challenge Complete!  
You achieved a 50% rate of sleeping away from home!  
Okay

QR code

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact school.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Mrs Wheatley



Newton Hill Community School  
World Book Day  
Thursday 7th March 2024



Dear Parents & Families,

It is **World Book Day on Thursday 7th March 2024.**

On this day, the children can dress up as their favourite book character. There is absolutely no requirement to buy an outfit for our dress up day. Some of the best outfits and props can be made from things you already have at home. During the day, we will hold a 'drop everything and read' event so we ask that children bring their favourite book to school. All adults around school will share a book they love with the children and explain why it's a book they cherish.



Dream Big  
READ!



**Competition:**

All children from EYFS (Nursery and Reception) to Year 6 can be involved in the competition.

How to enter: Create a prop which is related to a book. e.g., A wand from 'Harry Potter', a map from 'Treasure Island', a spy kit from 'Nancy Drew', an animal mask from 'Where the Wild Things Are' etc.

All entries need to be brought to school in the week commencing 5th March. **The final day for the competition entry is Thursday the 7th March.** The winners will be announced on Friday 8th March.

Thank you in anticipation for your support!

Yours Sincerely,  
Mr Paine



<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
21 <sup>st</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup> February 6 <sup>th</sup> March	KS1 Family Numeracy Programme (see previous letter)
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Parent Consultations 3:30-6:00pm.
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day – See additional letter On this day children can dress up as their favourite book character and bring their favourite book to school.
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	<u>Parent &amp; Carer Wellbeing Coffee Afternoon</u> Please arrive at 2:00pm for refreshments. The session will start at 2:15pm until 3:15pm. Information sharing session by our Future in Mind practitioner: <b>Understanding and Managing Big Emotions</b>
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	EYFS Parent Workshop 9:15am
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	School breaks up for Easter
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> April	School Open for Term 3a
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> June	Save the Date – NHCS Summer Fair 3:30pm
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	INSET DAY – school closed to children
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank Holiday – school closed
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	School breaks up for half term
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	School Opens for Term 3b
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	School breaks up for summer
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	INSET Day



# For your reference:

## 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.

## Our Local Community

Just a polite reminder to park safely and to be respectful to our local residents when picking up and dropping off particularly on Newton Avenue and East Street.

Thank you.



## **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, Miss Land and Mrs Bashforth.

<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.

## **Keeping Safe Online**

You may find the following sites and information useful:

[Keep Children Safe Online: Information, Advice, Support - Internet Matters](#)

[What is the metaverse? - What parents need to know | Internet Matters](#)

[Social Media Checklists | SWGfL](#)

## **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.



## **Unplanned School Closures – Snow/Adverse Weather**

Although snow is welcomed by our children it can, as you know, cause issues with schools. We will always aim to notify you of any closures at the earliest opportunity and appreciate that this may be at short notice.

In the unlikely event of a school closure, for reasons out of our control, we will contact you via Parent Hub. We will also display messages/updates on our school website [www.newtonhill.wakefield.sch.uk](http://www.newtonhill.wakefield.sch.uk).

We will always do our best to stay open, but if for any reason we have to close *during the day* we will contact you via Parent Hub, and information will be displayed on our website. A senior member of staff will always stay on site until all children have been collected.

## **Newts Provision – Adverse Weather**

During adverse weather conditions, various considerations need to be assessed to see if school can open safely – for example the number of members of staff who can get to work safely, site safety and access.

Therefore, if there are any occasions of adverse weather (snow/treacherous conditions), Newts provision will not be open for breakfast club. This is to allow sufficient time for school to assess if school can open safely and if there are enough staff able to travel to school safely.

Messages will be sent to all parents via Parent Hub as reminders should this be the case and we will always give advance notice if weather warnings are issued. We will aim to notify you by 7am should this be the case. We will always try to stay open during adverse weather conditions and school may offer a later opening time rather than a full closure depending on the circumstances.

August 2023						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

September 2023						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

October 2023						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

November 2023						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

December 2023						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

January 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

February 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29			

March 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

April 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

May 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

June 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

July 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
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