



Newton Hill News

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to everyone who has supported 'Save the Children' today by wearing a festive jumper. The children (and staff) look fantastic!

Next week, your child will bring home an interim report regarding their progress in Term 1. We have been working really hard with the children to cover lost learning due to school closures and further interventions with teachers and support staff (group and individual activities) will continue after Christmas. The children have also been working extremely hard and I am sure they are looking forward to a well-deserved break! There will also be a parental survey enclosed with the report for us to gather your feedback.

We are looking forward to a festive final week next week. Children can wear their party clothes all day on their allocated party day.

Christmas Cards

Your child/children can bring Christmas cards to school for their bubble. Please make sure all cards are in school by **Tuesday 15th December** at the latest - we will keep all cards safe and ensure they are distributed before the end of term.

Dates:

- Monday 14th December – All raffle tickets to be returned to school. Thank you!
- Week beginning 14th December – Interim reports will be sent home.
- Friday 18th December – School will break up for Christmas
- Monday 4th January – school will be closed as it is an INSET day.

Thank you for your continued support and have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Wheatley



Congratulations to Our Stars of the Week

Nursery – Edie
Reception A – Isabella
Reception B – Grace
Year 1A – Louis
Year 1B – Freya

Year 2 – Kevin
Year 3 – Joel
Year 4 – Macurley
Year 5 – Ellie
Year 6 – Prisha

Update from Mrs Dundas – Our Learning Mentor

Hi Parent/Carers,

After last week's outdoor activity, I thought it would be a great idea to do an indoor activity. I am not particularly a very good baker so last Christmas I looked online for easy ideas for children/adults to do together. We don't always have spare time to bake as we are all busy working and preparing for the big man to arrive but here is a fab idea to try!

Snowman Biscuits

Recipe: plain digestive biscuits, white icing (made quite thick), marshmallows (pink or white or both), chocolate drops (small), sweet laces (any flavour or colour)

Have a go and be creative!!

Take your children along to any of the following Wakefield Story trails:

- Winterset Reservoir: Room on the Broom Adventure Trail
- Pontefract Racecourse: Peter's lost Peregrine
- Newmillerdam Country Park: Gnome Roam
- Pugney's Country Park: Blow Away



Kind regards,

Mrs Dundas, Learning Mentor.

Holly-days at home from Wakefield Council

We want people to have a tree-mendous Christmas, even if that might look a little different this year. That's why Wakefield Council have put together the Holly-days at Home family pack, to help people stay safe and stay jolly this Christmas season. With a cracking party playlist, festive films, candy cane crafts and plenty more inside – it's sure to be lots of festive fun!

You can download the family pack at: <https://bit.ly/HollydaysAtHome>

IMPORTANT MESSAGE Christmas Holiday – Positive Cases and Track and Trace

School will break up for Christmas on Friday 18th December, and so we will not be taking an INSET day. We feel the children have missed too much school already and it is far too short notice for you as parents to make alternative arrangements.

If you need to contact school to inform us of a positive case from Friday 18th December you will need to email admin@newton-hill.org.uk. The email will be checked once each day, please use the subject line: 'Positive COVID Test'. Only emails that are positive COVID test related will be responded to. Please be aware that if we are contacted regarding a positive case in school, we will let you know via parent hub if you have been identified as a close contact and whether you need to self-isolate.

Where a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school (which would be on Sunday 20th December in the evening), the school should **not** be contacted. Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace. Where pupils are required to self-isolate due to contact with a positive case after the first 6 days following the end of term, schools do not need to be informed about their absence until the first day of the new term which is Tuesday 5th January.

Thank you.

Unplanned School Closures - Snow

This information is always on the weekly letter, but it is coming to that time of year when the weather can start to change. Although snow is welcomed by our children it can, as you know, cause issues with schools. We will always aim to notify you 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.

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 by text and Parent Hub, and information will be displayed on our website. A member of the Senior Leadership Team will always stay on site until all children have been collected.

Free School Meals – Vouchers for the Christmas Period

Update: For the two-week Christmas holiday period (weeks commencing 21 and 28 December 2020), low income families, that are in receipt of Council tax support, will get a voucher payment of £15 per child per week to go towards the cost of their Christmas food bill.

Letters including instructions on how to redeem voucher codes, will be sent to families from next week from the council (week commencing 14 December 2020). Please contact the council directly if you have any questions on 0345 850 6506.

New starters – Reception September 2021

To apply for a school place, please visit:

<https://www.wakefield.gov.uk/schools-and-children/schools/admissions/reception>.

The closing date is 15th January 2021.

Coronavirus Update

Wakefield to move into Tier 3 (Very High Alert) from 2nd December

Tier 3 is the strictest set of restrictions and reflects the high rate of infection in the area. The Tier 3 restrictions that will apply to Wakefield are slightly different to the ones we communicated last month, prior to the national lockdown.

In Tier 3;

You must not meet socially indoors or in most outdoor places with anybody you do not live with, or who is not in your support bubble, this includes in any private garden or at most outdoor venues.

You must not socialise in a group of more than 6 in some other outdoor public spaces, including parks, beaches, countryside accessible to the public, a public garden, grounds of a heritage site or castle, or a sports facility. This is the 'rule of 6'.

It is important to remember that these are unprecedented times. We do our utmost at school to protect everyone in our community and treat everyone with respect. With that in mind, may we remind you to treat everyone with respect in our community outside of school as there have been reports of individuals being unkind to each other and making comments about coronavirus. Comments and accusations will be taken seriously and this would be in breach of our code of conduct for parents/carers. If you have any concerns please report directly to school and we will do our best to help. Thank you.

As a continual reminder, there are a number of parents who work with vulnerable adults and have relatives who are shielding and so to keep everyone as safe as possible may we please remind everyone

to wear a face mask/covering when you are dropping your child/children at school and when speaking with staff. As a continual reminder, please be respectful of our neighbours when dropping off and collecting children – please try to keep our neighbours' gates free for access and do not block any driveways. Our local PCSO will continue to be on duty to support.

Thank you to everyone who is complying with the rules – hands, face and space.

Bubble Closures & NHCS Remote Learning Plan

If a class bubble needs to close due to positive COVID test result, we would contact you via Parent Hub in order for you to collect your child/children or advise you to keep your child at home if we are notified during the evening. If a bubble closed, children would need to remain at home for 14 days. We understand that this will be a difficult time for everyone.

During the closure we will continue to provide remote learning. On the day of closure children can start to use the resource pack which has been sent home, further activities may be posted on Parent Hub. From day 3 of the closure, further remote learning activities will be set. These will be sent out via Parent Hub and also be linked to our school website under the 'Pupil Zone' tab. The website pages will be made available once it has been confirmed that a bubble will need to close. Work will be set daily and it will be an expectation that you return work to school so that it can be marked by class teachers – this can be done via the class email system. Teachers will provide clear explanations for the learning to be completed at home and links to a variety of resources. We will also be in daily communication via email. We may also contact you by telephone as required.

Actions you can take to help

Do not send your child to school if they are showing symptoms OR someone in their household is showing symptoms. Please let school know if your child is not attending. The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal
- Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms.

[Arrange a test](#) if you or your child develops symptoms. Inform school of the results. If the test is positive, follow [guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#), and engage with the NHS Test and Trace process. If you have any of the main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), get a test as soon as possible. Stay at home until you get the result. **Please contact school if you need any help.**

Further information regarding COVID-19 can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>

Keeping Everyone Safe

If you have any safeguarding concerns please do not hesitate to contact the school - our Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) are: Mrs Wheatley, Mr Duce, Mrs Luck, Mr Paine, Mrs Myton and Miss Land.

Safeguarding Information

This information is from Wakefield Safeguarding Team. Tragically, there are baby deaths here in Wakefield district as a result of overlay, unsafe sleeping and shaken baby. Below are two websites that have information that you may find useful for yourself or that you can pass on to others.

www.iconcope.org

<https://www.lullabytrust.org.uk/>

ICON – Babies Cry, You Can Cope programme supports parents and carers manage normal infant crying and to prevent abusive head trauma injuries to babies caused by shaking, also referred to as ‘shaken baby syndrome’. **ICON** is an evidenced-based programme designed to help parents and carers understand the normal crying pattern of young infants and to help them develop successful coping mechanisms to deal with this.

The **ICON** programme delivers four simple messages before the birth and in the first few months of a baby’s life:

- I** – Infant crying is normal;
- C** – Comforting methods can help;
- O** – It’s OK to walk away;
- N** – Never, ever shake a baby.

School Attendance Matters

We are very keen to ensure that all children attend school regularly, as this is important for your child’s academic progress. We need your help to improve our attendance figure. You can help by making sure your child is at school on time every day.

Unplanned School Closures

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 and updates on our school website 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 by text, parent hub and information will be displayed on our website. A member of the Senior Leadership Team will always stay on site until all children have been collected.

Our 5 Golden Rules

At Newton Hill Community School, everyone follows our 5 Golden Rules.

We want everyone to be the best they can be and to ‘Reach for the Stars’.

- ❖ We will always keep everyone included.
- ❖ We will always keep everyone safe.
- ❖ We will always keep everyone learning.
- ❖ We will always try our best.
- ❖ We are always honest.

Dates for your diary:

The full school calendar for 2020/2021 is included at the end of the newsletter for your information.

INSET DAYS

Monday 7th September
Monday 4th January
Thursday 6th May
Monday 7th June
Monday 26th July

Contact Details

Please ensure we have your up to date contact details (emergency contact details/updates of addresses).

We require at least 2 emergency contacts for your child/children in school.

Please contact school either on 01924 303680 or at admin@newton-hill.org.uk if you need to update your details.



Online Safety at Christmas time



Dear Parents/ Carers,

Online safety is an important part of keeping children safe at *Newton Hill Community School*. All pupils are taught about how to stay safe online, but this will only be successful if we work together with parents and carers to help reinforce safe online behaviours at home.

As Christmas draws near, many children may be looking forward to receiving new electronic toys, devices and games, so we'd like to share some simple online safety tips to help parents and carers make safer choices and support their children online over the festive break.

Make informed choices:

It is vital that parents and carers fully understand the capabilities of the technology within their homes. It's important to make informed decisions about new games, smart toys and devices, before giving them to children as a gift.

- Do your research; ask the shop about pre-installed apps or tools, and check whether the device or game has an online component which allows them to connect with others online.
- Always check the PEGI age rating and descriptors on games before buying them for your child and carefully consider whether the content is appropriate for them. CEOP has some helpful advice about making decisions regarding what is 'appropriate' for your child:
www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/gaming-whats-appropriate-for-your-child/
- Familiarise yourself with the privacy, safety and security tools on new devices; ensure you can teach your child how to make their accounts private and how to block and report other people online.

Use the parent guides and shopper's checklists from UK Safer Internet Centre and Internet Matters to help you ask the right questions and make informed choices when buying new technology this Christmas:

www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers/parents-guide-technology
www.internetmatters.org/hub/guidance/guide-to-tech-buying-a-smart-toy-tips-for-parents/
www.swgfl.org.uk/magazine/holidays-toys-tech/

Talk to your children:

Take an active interest in your child's online life and engage in the digital world with them.

- Let your children teach you about their online world and how they use technology; playing new games and exploring websites together can often open opportunities to discuss safe behaviour and can also be lots of fun!
- Make sure your children know that you are safe and approachable; remind them that they can tell you if something happens online that makes them feel scared, worried or uncomfortable, without being told off or punished.

You can find more advice about talking to you child about online safety from CEOP:

www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/having-a-conversation-with-your-child/

Filters and Parental Controls:

Children can accidentally or deliberately be exposed to unwanted or unpleasant content online, but there are some simple things you can do at home to help minimise this risk.

- Make sure you install anti-virus software, filters and parental controls on your child's device before giving it to them.
- Ensure that you are role-modelling good behaviour by using strong passwords yourself; make them difficult to guess and don't share them with your children.
- Remember that blocks and filters are not 100% effective and you can't rely on them alone to protect your children, so remind them to tell you if they see something upsetting online.

The interactive guide to parental controls available from Internet Matters will have helpful information to help you set up devices:

www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/

Setting boundaries:

Much like the 'real world', parents should set boundaries for children online; this provides them with a clear understanding of the limits, expectations and consequences of their behaviour.

- Agree as a family, how the internet and technology will be used in your home; encourage children to use the online safety messages they learn in school and adapt these into your own family rules.
- Discuss online boundaries; for example, if your child loves to chat or share content on the internet, talk to them about what is and isn't appropriate to share online.
- Remember to role-model positive behaviour online; consider asking your child's permission before posting photos of them on social media this Christmas and empower them to have control over their 'digital reputation'. Also, why not make sure you spend time together as a family and set aside some tech-free time over the Christmas break.

Take a look at the family agreement template available from Childnet International for some ideas:

www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/have-a-conversation

Other useful websites:

- www.nspcc.org.uk/online-safety NSPCC advice and helpline for parents
- www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents - CEOP's advice for parents
- www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers Resources and 'hot topics' for parents from Childnet
- www.getsafeonline.org/connectedchristmas Security and technical advice at Christmas from Get Safe Online

We'd like to wish you all a very happy and safe Christmas, both on and offline.

Thank you.

Mr Paine.



August 2020						
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31						

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December 2020						
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January 2021						
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February 2021						
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March 2021						
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April 2021						
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May 2021						
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June 2021						
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July 2021						
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29	30	31				

 = Bank Holidays
 = School Holidays

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

Class Emails	Class Teacher
nursery@newton-hill.org.uk	Mrs Luck and Mrs Greaux
receptiona@newton-hill.org.uk	Mrs Neal
receptionb@newton-hill.org.uk	Miss Fletcher
year1a@newton-hill.org.uk	Miss Cannon
year1b@newton-hill.org.uk	Miss Spence
year2@newton-hill.org.uk	Miss Brook
year3@newton-hill.org.uk	Mr Paine
year4@newton-hill.org.uk	Mrs Wrench
year5@newton-hill.org.uk	Mr Duce
year6@newton-hill.org.uk	Mr Sharp