



September 2024

Dear Parents & Carers,

A very warm welcome back to school for 2024/2025 and to our new families who have joined this year. Please find below an update from school and some key dates for this half term. Further updates and dates will follow.

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

The children have settled very well back into school this week. The children have been getting to know their new teachers and we have been busy going over our school routines and expectations.

Over the next few weeks, the children will have the opportunity to apply for leadership roles in school. The roles have been shared with the children in assembly this week. This year we are introducing some additional roles. For each leadership role, children will be asked to complete a short application form. For some roles, children will be asked to do a short presentation. Application forms and further information will be sent home with all interested children.

The roles available are:

- Student council representatives – two children from each class Reception to Year 6
- Sports Leaders – Year 5 and Year 6
- Class Buddies – Reception and Year 5/6
- Lunchtime Helpers – Year 3 and Year 4
- Eco-Warriors - KS1 and KS2
- House Captains – KS2
- Head Boy and Head Girl – Year 6

We are proud to share that we have achieved the Platinum Award for our sport provision.



A warm welcome to Miss Greenough and Mrs Crawshaw who have joined our teaching team this year. We would also like to welcome Mrs Rigby and Mrs Coyle who have joined our school office team as Mrs Judd has decided to take early retirement. We would like to wish Mrs Judd all the very best with her new adventures and to say thank you for all of her hard work at Newton Hill.

We look forward to being able to share the school's Ofsted report from July 2024 with you when it is published.

Entry to School

Please note unless you have prior permission, please do not use the car park/main entrance for drop offs/pick up due to safeguarding. School doors are open at 8:50 and close at 9:00am. The gates remain open until 9:10am. If you use the main entrance, you will be required to complete a form and arrivals at the main entrance will be monitored. Thank you for your cooperation.

Forms

There is a page on the school website under 'Parent Zone' which has useful forms and information.

School meals September 2024

From September, school meal prices will be £2.55. As a school, we will continue to subsidise the meal cost.

Parent Code of Conduct

Please find attached our Parent Code of Conduct for you to read.

Class Emails

To contact your child's class teacher, you can use the email address shared with you. Emails received will not be responded to immediately due to teaching commitments. The emails will only be monitored during school day working hours and you will receive a reply within 3 days if this is required.

In line with our work/life balance policy, please note that emails will not be monitored or responded to during weekends or holidays. To share urgent information/updates please contact the school office, for example if there is a change to who is collecting your child.

Please also note that any emails received that breach the code of conduct will not be responded to and these will be passed to the senior leadership team.

Music Update

Next week, Rocksteady will be starting lessons on Mondays and Thursdays, If your child is in the 8:30am group please enter school through the Newts door (no earlier than 8:25am).

On Tuesday, we are really excited to be welcoming 'Get into Guitar' who will lead some workshops and an assembly for KS1 and KS2. If your child would like to learn how to play guitar, details will follow on Tuesday for you to sign up directly with the company. This is a great opportunity for small group lessons.

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. For more information see the poster below regarding penalty notices. 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. 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, to apply for FSM please visit the website below:

<https://www.wakefield.gov.uk/schools-and-education/schools/free-school-meals/>

There is no difference in 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

Thank you to everyone who follows our uniform expectations. Please can we ask that all uniform/property is clearly labelled – this includes hats, gloves, lunch boxes, water bottles etc.

The pre-loved uniform is always available – please contact Mrs Dundas for further information or support through admin@newton-hill.org.uk. We have a range of uniform – all ages so please make use of the uniform available - all requests will be dealt with confidentially.

PE Kits

On PE days children can continue to wear their PE kit to school all day. Please note that the PE kit should be a plain white T-shirt, plain navy/black shorts and a plain navy/black tracksuit top, football tops/kits are not permitted.

PENALTY NOTICE FINES FOR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE ARE CHANGING!

With the introduction of the New National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following changes will come into force on 19th August 2024.

PENALTY NOTICES WILL BE ISSUED FOR

Term time leave: Penalty Notice Fines will be issued for Term Time Leave of 5 or more consecutive days

10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10 week period: A Penalty Notice may be considered/issued when a pupil has had 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10 week* period.

*School Week's

PER PARENT/PER CHILD

Penalty Notice Fines will continue to be issued per parent per child.

For example: 3 Siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines.

FIRST OFFENCE

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for a Term Time Holiday or Irregular School Attendance the Penalty Notice will be charged at:

£160 per parent, per child if paid within 28 days of issue, reducing to £80 if paid within 21 days**.

SECOND OFFENCE (within 3 years of the First Offence)

Where it is deemed appropriate to issue a second Penalty Notice to the same parent for the same pupil within 3 years of the first notice, the second Penalty Notice will be charged at:

£160 if paid within 28 days (no reduced fee for paying early).

(**Unpaid Penalty Notice's after 28 days may result in a parental prosecution)

THIRD OFFENCE (within 3 years of the First Offence)

On the third time that an offence is committed for either a Term Time Holiday and / or Irregular Attendance a Penalty Notice will not be issued, the case may proceed straight to Parental Prosecution under the Single Justice Procedure. If found guilty of the offence of 'Failure to send a child to school' the Magistrates can impose a fine up to £1000.



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, 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.



<u>Dates for your diary</u>	<u>Event</u>
INSET Days 2024/2025 (School is closed on the following days).	Monday 2 nd September Friday 25 th October Friday 20 th December Friday 24 th January Thursday 8 th May (Polling Day)
Week commencing 23 rd September	Celebration of Movement week
Thursday 29 th September	Parent Information Session led by Future in Mind (FIM) with a focus on 'Sleep'. Start: 2:15pm
Tuesday 8 th October	Reading Meeting for parents and carers in Reception Class 4:30-5:00pm. Further details will follow.
Parent Consultations	Tuesday 15 th October 3:30-6:00pm. Wednesday 16 th October 3:30-6:00pm. A letter will follow with more information
Friday 24 th October	INSET day – school is closed
Wednesday 11 th December	Y3/4 Christmas Concert for parents/carers 2:30pm *Tickets will be allocated for each family
Thursday 12 th December	EYFS (Nursery & Reception) Christmas Song Medley for parents/carers at 9:15 *Tickets will be allocated for each family
Friday 13 th December	KS1 Christmas Show for parents at 9:30 *Tickets will be allocated for each family
Monday 16 th December	Y5/6 Christmas Sing-a-long with Parents & Carers at 2:45pm *This will be outside – weather permitting.
Friday 13 th December	Christmas Jumper Day - children can wear Christmas jumpers/outfits on this day. This is an optional non-uniform day. All donations will go to Save the Children.
Friday 20 th December	INSET Day – school is closed
Monday 6 th January	Term 1b - School Open

We are looking forward to working with you this year. Please do not hesitate to contact school if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,
Mrs Wheatley

August 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	

September 2024 (21 Days)						
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 2024 (19 Days)						
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 2024 (20 Days)						
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 2024 (15 Days)						
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 2025 (20 Days)						
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 2025 (15 Days)						
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		

March 2025 (21 Days)						
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 2025 (11 Days)						
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 2025 (16 Days)						
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 2025 (21 Days)						
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 2025 (16 Days)						
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
- = There are currently no scheduled elections although schools are asked to consider reserving an INSET day in case of any unscheduled 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