



Tuesday 3rd September 2019

Welcome back to a new school year. Hope you had a fun-filled, action packed summer holidays and are ready to embrace the new school year with energy and enthusiasm!

New starters

Welcome to our new starters in Reception: Bella, Alex, Euan, Lewis, Tommy, Charlie, Arthur, Harry, Lucy, Darcey, Riley and Annabelle. As you are aware, Reception children will start full time straight away. Please collect children from the Home Room door at 3.05pm. A warm welcome also to our Nursery children who will join Reception children on various days through the week.

Breakfast club

Mrs Phillips will continue to run Breakfast club every morning from 8-8.50am. The club will be based in the hall so please enter through the front door. Please contact her if you would like a place.

Swimming

THE CHILDREN **WILL NOT** BE SWIMMING DURING THIS HALF TERM.

PARENT PAY

We are in the process of going 'cashless' with a new system called Parent Pay. Parents of children from Nursery to Year 4 will receive a letter with all the relevant information to activate the account. We will be using the system from the first day of term so any school meals that are to be paid for will be recorded. PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH OR CHEQUES in. Even though **children in Reception, Year 1 and 2 still receive Universal Free School meals, parents should activate their accounts because as soon as possible, we will organise swimming, school trip payments and consent forms using ParentPay. If you have more than one child at the school, there is an option to merge the account.** Information can be found on the activation letter. Please do not hesitate to ask Mrs Long if you have any questions.

PE and Sports club

We welcome Mrs Alderslade our new PE teacher who will teach PE across the school and also run an after school sports club on Mondays.

The after school club will start on **Monday 9th September 3.05-4.15pm**. A permission letter is enclosed in your pack.

Please return the slip to the Office by Friday 6th September.

We will be doing PE outside in the autumn term, so please make sure your child has a suitable PE kit in school and trainers that he/she can fasten independently. PE kits can be brought in at the beginning of the half term and kept in school.

Kits will be sent home each holiday to be washed and returned to school. Due to limited space, please ensure bags are the drawstring type rather than large rucksacks.

<p>PE KITS WILL BE STORED IN THE RED BOXES NEAR THE BACK DOOR RATHER THAN ON PEGS</p> <p>PLEASE ENSURE ALL PE KIT AND SCHOOL UNIFORM IS CLEARLY LABELLED WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME</p>

Other clubs

Messy Church starts on Tuesday 10th September 3.05pm-4.15pm

Zumba Dance club starts on Thursday 12th September 3.05pm-4.15pm (**PLEASE NOTE-NO ZUMBA ON THURSDAY 3RD OCTOBER DUE TO HARVEST FESTIVAL**)

Forest School

Forest School will start again this **FRIDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER** and will be led by Miss Osborne and Mrs Phillip, with support from our amazing team of volunteers. This is a rich and stimulating curriculum experience for the children and the intention is to go up to Humshaugh woods every week, whatever the weather.

On Fridays, children in **YEARS 1 to 4** will need to wear practical outdoor trousers/leggings and sturdy waterproof shoes or boots to school rather than ordinary school uniform.

We still would like children to wear their Humshaugh First School sweatshirt or cardigan.

If possible, we would like parents to provide their child with a clearly labelled pair of wellies, waterproof coat and trousers that can be kept at school. If anybody has difficulty providing these please let us know.

Harvest Festival

We would like to invite parents, relatives and friends to our **Harvest Festival and Community Soup lunch on Thursday 3rd October**. The children will help prepare the vegetables in the morning and the Friends volunteers will make the soup ready for approximately 1.15pm. Guests are invited to stay for the Harvest Festival which will include songs and poems to celebrate Harvest.

We would ask that all children bring in a decorated shoe box with a few goodies in it such as tins, packets of pasta or biscuits. The children will then deliver these gifts around the village on **Monday 7th October**.

In addition to bringing in a box, the Friends would also like to run a competition for best decorated vegetable. More information about when to bring in boxes and entries will be sent out nearer the time.

Letter check

It is vital that you check your child's book bag every day to ensure any messages, letters or permission slips are dealt with as soon as possible.

***Parents of children in Years 1 to 4, please find enclosed with this letter, the following...**

- Website/Photographs permission (return to Office by Friday 6th September)
- Going Home Arrangements (return to Office by Friday 6th September)
- Local visits and trips permission (return to Office by Friday 6th September)
- Sports club letter and permission slip (return to Office by Friday 6th September)
- Messy Church letter and permission slip (return to Office by Friday 6th September)
- Zumba Dance club letter and permission slip (return to Office by Friday 6th September)
- Term dates
- Information about Free School meals
- Breakfast club poster

***Parents of Reception children – please return Website/Photograph permission; Local trips and clubs if you wish your child to attend. They may start at any point during the year.**

***Parents of Nursery children-please return Website/Photographs and Local trips permission.**

Attendance

Many children had very good attendance and hit the target of 97% or above last year. However, a worrying number of children had well below this expected target.

It states in the Hexham Partnership of School Policy for Leave of Absence during term time leaflet, "If your child's attendance falls below 93% it is of great concern to us and we have to discuss the issue with our Education Welfare Office."

Please ensure your child is in school every day unless unwell. Parents must contact the school office or leave a message on the answer machine giving a reason for absence.

To celebrate excellent attendance, we will continue to announce the year group/s with the best attendance each week during our Friday Star of the week Collective Worship. The children in that year group will be given a sticker and presented with the Attendance cup to look after for the week. If there is a tie, each year group will share the cup for an equal amount of time.

The Year group Attendance percentages will be displayed in the front window and on the website.

Routines

Please remember to arrive promptly to school in the morning. The bell is rung for school to start at 8.50am.

Please do not leave children unattended until you are sure that Mrs Phillips is on duty in the yard.

Late book-we are going continue monitoring punctuality using our Late Book from the beginning of term. If children arrive after the back doors are locked, they are required to be dropped off at the front door. A member of staff will fill in the late book and escort your child to their classroom. **Please also ensure you arrive on time at 3.05pm to pick your child up at the end of the day.**

Dates for your diary

Friday 6th September: Y1-4 Forest School starts (please remember wellies and waterproofs)

Monday 9th September: PE/Sports Club starts (3.05-4.15pm)

Tuesday 10th September: Messy Church starts (3.05-4.15pm)

Thursday 12th September: Zumba starts (3.05-4.15pm)

Tuesday 24th September: Operation Encompass Parent drop in (more info to follow)

Thursday 3rd October: Harvest Festival and soup lunch (1.15pm) Harvest Festival (approx. 2.15pm).

Monday 7th October: Y1-4 children to deliver Harvest boxes around village

Mon, Tues, Wed 14th, 15th, 16th October: Parent consultations (Letters will be sent out soon)

Monday 14th October: Book Bus

Thursday 17th October: Flu drops (Whole school)

Thursday 24th October: Last day of term

Friday 25th October: Teacher Day

Monday 4th November: Autumn 2nd term starts

Thursday 7th November: Swimming starts-Y1-4

Monday 11th November: Remembrance service-St. Peter's Church 9.30am (all welcome)

Wednesday 11th December: Christmas show 9.15am and 5.30pm

Friday 13th December: Save the Children Christmas jumper day

Tuesday 17th December: 10.00am 'A Viking Christmas'-Queens Hall (Y1-4)

Thursday 19th December: Christmas party p.m.

Friday 20th December: Break for Christmas

Monday 6th January: Teacher Day

Tuesday 7th January: Spring 1st term starts