



5th September 2017 Newsletter

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; Josie, Tobias, Emily, Freddie, Mia, Teddy and Lilly.

As you are aware, Reception children attend morning sessions only for the first two weeks therefore they will need to be collected at 12.45pm. Please collect children from the back door.

Breakfast club

Mrs Phillips will continue to run Breakfast club every morning from 8-8.50am. The club will be based upstairs in the library area so please enter through front door. There is a leaflet with more information enclosed in your pack.

Outdoor Adventure club

The after school club will start on **Monday 11th September 3.05-4.15pm**. A permission letter is enclosed in your pack. **Please return the slip to the Office by Friday 8th September.**

Outdoor Learning

From this week, Friday afternoons will be dedicated to Outdoor Learning which will be led by Miss Osborne and Mrs Phillips. We are very excited about making this a rich and stimulating curriculum experience for the children. The intention is to go outside every week, for at least a part of the afternoon, whatever the weather.

On Fridays, children 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 28th September**. The children will help prepare the vegetables in the morning and parent 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 2nd 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.

Summer handwriting challenge

This summer, the teachers set all children a handwriting challenge. We will let you know how they did in the next newsletter.

Lunch money-Autumn 1st -5.9.17-19.10.17

The cost is £2.30 per day therefore £75.90 for the first half of the term (33 days at £2.30 per meal)

Please send all monies to the school office in a clearly labelled envelope with your child's name, class and the amount enclosed. **Children in Reception, Year 1 and 2 still receive Universal Free School meals.**

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. It makes the organisation of activities and events so much easier for the teachers and Mrs Rowcroft.

Communication by email

A number of parents kindly returned their email information and ticked the request to receive letters and reminders by email. Please find a reply slip in your pack with the option to receive paper copies or emails and return to school asap.

Please find enclosed with this letter, the following...

Website/Photographs permission (return to Office)
Going Home Arrangements (return to Office)
Local visits and trips permission (return to Office)
Outdoor Adventure club letter and permission slip (return to Office)
Communication letter (return to Office)
Holiday dates
Breakfast club leaflet
Information about Free School meals

VOLUNTEERS (Reading, Swimming, Outdoor Learning)

We appreciate that everyone is very busy but if any parents or relatives have any spare time to help out with reading, swimming or Outdoor learning, we would be delighted to welcome you to school. Please let Mrs Long or your child's class teacher know your availability.

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.

Routines

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

Parents should leave their children in the playground where they will be escorted into school by Mrs Phillips.

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.

PE this term

We will be doing PE outside in the autumn term, so please make sure your child has a suitable PE kit and sandshoes with velcro fastening or trainers that he/she can fasten independently.

WE WILL BE SWIMMING AFTER HALF TERM-A LETTER WILL BE SENT OUT IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS
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Other dates for your diary.

Friday 8th September: First Outdoor Learning session (**please remember wellies and waterproofs**)

Monday 11th September: Outdoor Adventure club starts

Wednesday 20th September: Barnabas Day-Northern Saints

Thursday 28th September: Soup day and Harvest Festival (Soup at 1.30pm and Harvest Festival at 2.15pm)

Monday 9th and Tuesday 10th October: Parent Consultations (Letter will be sent out in the next few weeks)

Thursday 19th October: Break up for half term

Friday 20th October: Teacher Day

Kind regards, Jude Long (Headteacher)