

Wednesday 4 September 2019

Newsletter 1

Dear Parent/s /Carer/s,

Welcome

Welcome to the start of the 2019 – 20 academic year at North Heath, and a special warm greeting to new arrivals across the school and those in Reception, who join us for the first time.

Our Inset Days on Monday and Tuesday were used to deliver first aid training, updated safeguarding training, organise timetables, plan, prepare and set expectations for the year.

Good luck to year 6, who begin with a residential trip at Fairthorne Manor next week, and to year 5, who visit Sayers Croft during the last week of this half term. Thank you in advance to all of the staff who volunteer to allow such fabulous opportunities for the children. In staff absence, wherever possible, we play to our strengths and cover classes internally to enable these residential opportunities.

Staffing

As Miss Chippett is attending Fairthorne, her class will be covered by Mrs Rhodes and Mrs Rowlands. Miss Chippett is also signed off work for the week beginning 16 September, so Y4 Lime Class will be covered by Mrs Chesshire that week.

Mrs Bolton returns in October after a short career break, so Y3 Willow Class will be taught by Mrs Thomas and Miss Sowton until then.

In other staffing news, Mrs Peters decided to move on at the end of last term, so we will take this opportunity to thank her for all of her efforts during her time with us.

We must also welcome our 3 new teachers (Miss Parker – Y1 Chestnut, Mr Cousins – Y5 Hawthorn and Mrs Rhodes – Inclusion Manager) to the team.

Site Developments

During the holidays we continued our phased redecoration in the library area, removed some sinks, attended to some electrical works and fitted blinds across the school. At half term, the site will be shut down as we update our main electrical intake.

Attendance

Whilst registration takes place at 8.50 AM, we plan learning opportunities for all of our pupils from 8.40 AM when our doors open, so a prompt start is necessary – thank you in advance for your punctuality. Please remember that we cannot authorise holidays or 'treat' days off during term time and you need to let us know any reasons for your child being off school.

If a child is late after 9.00 AM the mark given will be a 'U' which means unauthorised. Whilst this is only relevant to a tiny minority, should 10 U's appear in the register,

school will contact the local authority, who will issue a fixed penalty notice to the parent.

Uniform

Thank you for sending the children to school so well presented today. They arrived wearing a smart school uniform with sensible shoes for work and play. Traditional, robust shoes or all black trainer style shoes are ideal for school life. Please remember that PE kits need to be in school every day and hair wraps need to be removed for safety in PE. Finally, please remember that all pupils should have a coat in school every day.

Governors

Governors would like to thank those parents who stopped by to talk to them at the Open Evening in the Summer Term and feedback will be shared with the governing body this term.

Parent/Carer feedback

314 survey responses were analysed following our reports to parents in July 2019. The level of parental satisfaction was the highest ever – thank you.

Question 1	Yes	Partly	No
Did the report provide you with a range of useful information about your child's year in school?	96%	4%	0%

Question 2	Yes	Partly	No
Did the report provide an accurate reflection of your child's year in school?	93%	7%	0.003%

Question 3	1 High	2	3	4 Low
To what extent do you value the report as a record of your child's year in school?	81%	17%	2%	0.003%

Photographs

Individual school photographs will be taken on Thursday 17 October.

Inset Days

Pupils do not attend school on the following inset days this academic year:

1. Monday 6 January 2020
2. Monday 1 June 2020
3. Monday 20 July 2020

This means that pupils will start the Spring Term on Tuesday 7 January 2020 and the last day of their Summer Term will be Friday 17 July 2020.

Assemblies

Class Assemblies take place in our hall, with access through the external hall doors, on **Thursdays from 9.05 AM** unless otherwise stated. We have been able to plan the following class assemblies for this term:

Date	Class
26 September	6.30 PM – Y6 Fairthorne
10 October	Y4 Larch
24 October	Y4 Lime
14 November	Y3 Hazel
21 November	6.30 PM – Y5 Sayers Croft
28 November	Y3 Willow

Dates

October	
10	5.00 – 7.00 – Whole School Showcase Evening for YR 2020 – 2021
11	Friends of North Heath Quiz Night
15	6.00 – 7.00 PM – Song of Sounds Training Evening for Parents with Children in YR and Y1
17	Individual/Sibling Photographs in Hall
28 October – 1 November	HALF TERM SITE CLOSE – ELECTRICAL WORKS
November	
6	3.30 – 6.00 – parents' evening 1
7	4.00 – 7.00 – parents' evening 2
15	Children in Need
December	
7 (Saturday)	2 – 4 PM Christmas Fayre

Harvest Festival

Our Harvest Assembly for pupils only is on Friday 25 October at 10.00 AM. We will collect tinned produce for Crawley Open House to help some of the more vulnerable in our community.

Produce can be brought directly into the hall from 8.30 AM to 9.00 AM on that day through the hall doors. Single tins or even a presentation basket/box of food would be welcomed. To go along with the tinned produce, it would be nice if some pupils could include a brief message/card/drawing (remember that personal details should not be shared). Other items that are of most use to them include cereal, pasta, coffee, tea, sugar, UHT milk and even toiletries. We will organise a display of your donations as part of our assembly for all pupils to see that day. Thank you in advance for your contributions.

Christmas Performances

December	
3	9.30 – Y1/2 to Grandparents, siblings
4	9.30 – Y1/2 to Elder/Chestnut parents
5	9.30 – Y1/2 to Silver Birch/Oak parents
10	9.30 – Y3/4 to Grandparents, siblings

11	9.30 – YR to Grandparents, siblings 6.00 – Y3/4 to Willow/Larch parents
12	9.30 – YR to parents 6.00 – Y3/4 to Hazel/Lime parents
18	1.30 – Y5/6 @ St Marks' to grandparents
19	6.30 – Y5/6 @ St Marks' to community – all invited

Prefects

Congratulations and good luck to the following year 6 pupils who will receive their prefect badges this week:

Mulberry	Whitebeam
Noah Ashton	Jack Ansell
Daniel Bellenie	Joshua Bellamy
Georgie Black	Simon Bratcher
Casey Cherubini	Harriet Broadhurst
George Costello	Abigail Burt
Mason Davis	Thomas Cunningham
Harry Day	Daniel Gardiner
Joshua Fever-Leach	Varvara Giatsidis Zhdanova
Hamish Forest	Jasmine Harwood
Lola – Rose Hamilton	Olivia Hemsley

Free School Meals – could your child benefit?

Whilst YR, 1 and 2 children are all entitled to a free hot school meal, junior pupils (Y3 – 6) are only entitled to a free meal if certain criteria are met.

Substantial funding can be triggered for us to further support your child if you qualify on grounds of income (both infants and juniors), so the advantages to registration are significant.

The current 'Registration Form for Free School Meals and Pupil Premium Funding' is available from the WSCC website and we strongly urge you to apply should your circumstances match the criteria. This is especially worth checking if any circumstances have recently changed.

Healthy School

Pupils in YR, 1 and 2 receive free fruit daily, which they enjoy every morning. Pupils from Y3 – 6 are also encouraged to bring a fresh snack in the morning. Please ensure that this snack is either fresh fruit or vegetables. It is also helpful if all pupils bring in a clearly named water bottle so that we can encourage easy access to water throughout the day.

Meeting Teachers

Finally, we very much look forward to working with you for the benefit of our pupils during another exciting year at North Heath and formal parents' meetings are scheduled for the week after half term. Please feel free to arrange discussions with teachers via the yellow slips at the office prior to that if necessary, as drop off and pick up times are often very busy.

M Gildea

Headteacher