

NORTH HEATH COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

ERICA WAY HORSHAM WEST SUSSEX RH12 5XL

Friday 22 October 2021

Dear Parent/s/Carer/s,

Newsletter 7

As we reach the end of the first half term, we know that everyone in our community is delighted that we have been able to operate largely as usual at North Heath. It has been fantastic to have everyone on site, clubs running and hold face to face events such as assemblies and parents' evenings. This return to a sense of normality has been hard won, and we would like to thank all staff, pupils and parent/s/carer/s for their ongoing support.

You will all be aware that Covid – 19 cases are higher nationally and rising in many places. **If** our current situation changes, we have clear plans and we will let you know of what needs to happen with as much notice as possible.

Our first step takes place from Monday 1 November when these 4 groups will be organised to share play and lunch breaks:

Group 1

YR

Group 2

Y1 and Y2

Group 3

Y3 and Y4

Group 4

Y5 and Y6

If your child does test positive over half term, please let us know by email to covid@northheathprimary.co.uk or office@northheathprimary.co.uk and include the date they will be out of self-isolation.

Harvest Festival

Sometimes you get an overwhelming sense of pride when you stop, watch and listen. Our Harvest Festival gave us one of those moments. Thank you to everyone for your contributions. When the goods were delivered to Crawley Open House it brought the following comments:

"That's amazing! It must be one of the biggest collections we have ever received."

"Those children are brilliant."

"Please say thank you to everyone from us."

It took 4 very strong individuals 20 minutes to unload my car and return the boxes – and they had to bring a larger van to fit it all in! What a superb effort!

Attendance

We are always proud of the effort we all make to ensure excellent attendance for learning. Pleasingly, average pupil attendance is still running high at 97.14 %.

House Cup

Current standings put Tilgate in the lead, with others close behind. We look forward to seeing how things proceed and wish every team the best of luck!

1. Tilgate 20
2. Ashdown 15
3. St Leonards 12
4. Owlbeech 10

Safeguarding

Quite rightly, with a rise in online access, the safe use of the internet by children has been highlighted as a national agenda.

There are five ways in which the NSPCC advise parent/s/carer/s on how to keep their children safe when online gaming:

1. **Check the game's content** – always check age ratings but remember they do not cover everything. It is important to check the game out yourself before letting your child play it.
2. **Know how to mute, block and report** – help children understand that people they meet online may not always be who they claim to be. Some games let you mute, block and report other users. Make sure your child knows how to do this if someone in the game upsets them or makes them feel uncomfortable; or tells an adult about it.
3. **Be share aware** – Remind your child not to give out any personal information, photos or videos to anyone online, even if they know them. If your child plays games with people they don't know, remind them not to take the conversation off the game and onto other social networks or into a private chat.
4. **Activate safety settings** – Turn on parental controls on gaming consoles to help prevent children from downloading age inappropriate games or seeing harmful material.
5. **Keep the conversation going** – Have regular conversations with your child about staying safe online. Agree what games are suitable to play and help them understand why others are inappropriate. Talk to them about the types of games they may be playing on game streaming websites.

HELP!

Whilst our trees are lovely, this half term break brings us the usual leaf litter. So that we can open safely on Monday 1 November, we are asking for your help to rake, collect and bag the leaves. Once we are on top of it, they are much easier to manage, but we do need your help.

Please try to join us in this task if you can, with a rake, as we celebrate the last day of British Summer Time on **Sunday 31 October from 2.30 – 4.00 PM**. We'll provide the bags!

Staffing

At half term we say a big thank you and goodbye to Miss Williams from YR who will be replaced by Mrs Gale, who we welcome! Further interviews for classroom assistant support take place on Monday 1 November.

Finally, we wish you all a healthy half term break before the clocks go back on Sunday 31 October! Please make sure that your child/ren are wrapped up well on their return to school in named clothing, as the need for fresh airflow remains a priority.

Kind regards

M Gildea

Headteacher