

NORTH HEATH COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL ERICA WAY HORSHAM WEST SUSSEX RH12 5XL

Wednesday 18 January 2023

Dear Parent/s/Carer/s,

Newsletter 9

A Healthy School

We hope for a healthy 2023 for all of our community. Sore throats, coughs and high temperatures affected pupil attendance before Christmas. As a result, our overall attendance is currently 95.6%, slightly below our usual 97% average. Having said that, both year five classes are currently running over 97% and many pupils received a 100% attendance certificate at the end of last term.

After 2 years of disturbance, we are delighted to reintroduce opportunities for YR parents to visit classes and attend the hugely popular Mother's Day assembly, too. Working through the rota, we invite Y1, Y2, Y4 and Y5 parent/s/carer/s in for class assemblies this term and everyone will have another opportunity to meet the class teacher once again during parents' evenings.

As well as dance lessons for YR, 1 and 2 this term, we have specialist cricket coaching sessions for Y5 and Y6. Y3 have an indoor athletics opportunity and will start organising the Y3 Country Dance Festival for the summer. Y4 are learning the clarinet then hosting a performance assembly, Y5 and Y6 have Computer Workshops and YR, 2 and 5 have visits by the Fire Brigade.

Diary Dates

We look forward to welcoming our community into school for class assemblies again this term. In addition, those pupils in our 'Rock Steady' bands will perform to the school and parent/s/carer/s, too!

January	
26	9.00 – 9.30 – Y2 Elder Class Assembly – Hall
February	
2	9.00 – 9.30 – Y2 Silver Birch Class Assembly – Hall
3	4.00 – 6.00 – Y6 Hockey – Tanbridge
9	9.00 – 9.30 – Y1 Oak Class Assembly – Hall 4.00 – 5.30 – Y5 Netball at The Bridge
13 – 17 Half Term	
21	Y6 Cross Country – Christ's Hospital
23	9.00 – 9.30 – Y1 Chestnut Class Assembly – Hall 10.00 – 2.00 – Y3 Indoor Athletics – Millais
28	Y5 Computer Workshops
28/2 – 3/3	NHS YR Healthy Child Team Visit
March	
2	9.00 – 9.30 – Y5 Hawthorn Class Assembly – Hall World Book Day
7	Y5 Computer Workshops
9	9.00 – 9.30 – Y5 Rowan Class Assembly – Hall
13	Fire Brigade to YR and Y2
14	Y6 Computer Workshops
16	YR Mothers' Day Assembly and activities

17	Comic Relief – Red Nose Day Fire Brigade to Y2 and Y5
20	10.00 – 10.45 - Rock Steady Performance 1 (Monday Groups)
21	3.30 – 6.00 – Parents’ Evening 1 Y6 Computer Workshops
23	4.00 – 7.00 – Parents’ Evening 1 9.00 – 9.30 – Y4 Larch Class Assembly – Hall
24	Young Shakespeare Company – Hamlet to Y4, 5 and 6
27	10.00 – 10.45 - Rock Steady Performance (Thursday Groups)
28	12.45 – 3.00 – Y6 Tag Rugby at HRUFC
30	9.00 – 9.30 – Y4 Lime Class Assembly – Hall
31	2.15 – 2.45 Y4 Clarinet Performance
April	
3 - 14	Easter Holiday
17	Inset Day
18	Pupils Return for Summer Term
May	
1	May Bank Holiday
8	King’s Coronation Additional Bank Holiday
9 - 12	Y6 SATs Tests
18	Class Photographs
29/5 – 2/6	Half Term
June	
5	Inset Day
13	Y3 Country Dance Festival
19 – 23	‘Arts’ Week
30	AM – Y3/4 District Sports PM – Y5/6 District Sports
July	
9 (Sunday)	Horsham Children’s Parade
10 – 14	Y6 ‘Bikeability’
21	Last Day of Academic Year

Parent Survey

Thank you all for the 92 responses we received. We have studied them all and staff in all year groups have discussed comments received. If you wish to talk things through further, please let the office have your name, year group, class and contact number so that we can get back to you.

For those who were interested in curriculum content, this document on our website clearly demonstrates skills and knowledge coverage across all subject areas in all year groups:

<http://northheathprimary.co.uk/2022/11/16/curriculuminformation/>

Safeguarding training

Volunteers at North Heath need to attend our safeguarding training. The first opportunity this year for new volunteers who have not attended is from 2.00 – 3.00 PM on Friday 24 February. Please let the office know if you are attending so that we can organise resources accordingly.

House Points

The House Cup competition is adding to excitement in our assemblies is building! Current positions are below:

The current house totals are:

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Tilgate | 52 Tokens |
| 2. St Leonard's | 36 Tokens |
| 3. Ashdown | 32 Tokens |
| 4. Owlbeech | 30 Tokens |

Teacher Strike

As we work through various guidance and advice, it is worth everyone knowing that the NEU have a mandate for teachers to strike over pay. The following dates impact on our school:

- 1 February: All schools in England and Wales.
- 2 March: South-East and South-West England, and London.
- 15 March: All schools in England and Wales.

An additional strike day, for all schools, is being considered for 16 March.

Currently it is clear that:

- We do not yet know the extent of the disturbance this will cause
- The decision to strike is a personal one – staff must not feel pushed one way or another by the school or community
- Staff do not get paid if they strike
- Staff are not required to tell us whether they intend to take strike action
- Staff may require dependency leave if their own child is off due to strike action
- We need to ensure that staff and pupils are not exposed to risks to their health and safety, such as lack of first aid cover
- Classes where the teacher is on strike will be closed
- The pupil absence code for a strike does not count towards the pupil or school's absence record
- Siblings in other classes should attend
- Ministers will hold a series of meetings with unions ahead of the strike days
- The decision to open, restrict attendance, or close is for the headteacher
- Headteachers are seeking further advice from the NAHT

Many of our teachers are members of the NEU.

Whilst we do not yet know which classes the strike will affect, we will keep you updated best we can as the process moves forward. You may wish to start to consider alternative arrangements for the strike days in advance.

Lost Property

Lost property will be displayed in the hall from 2.55 – 3.20 PM on Thursday 2 February. Unclaimed items will then either be disposed of or recycled.

Parent Governors

Finally, just a reminder that any nominations for parent governor must be received in the school office by 1.00 PM on Friday 20 January 2023.

Kind regards

M Gildea
Headteacher