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

NEWSLETTER 1 **September 2026**

Dear Parent/s and Carer/s,

Here we are again! I hope you have enjoyed a restful summer break and that you, and your children, are keen to get back to school and a normal routine!
It seems amazing to me that we have already reached September and we are preparing to welcome in a new cohort of Reception children and seeing others take the next step in their Primary School Journey. There is always a lot to fit in to our Autumn Term so we have made the most of our INSET days to make sure as much as possible is ready to go. Thank-you, as ever, for helping to prepare your children for their return and we hope they greet you full of news at the end of their first day

Class Names

For the first week and a half of this term, pupils will be focusing their learning on the animal their class is named after. Together with discussions and learning about class rules, timetables and expectations, this will support them in their transition and becoming a 'team'. At the end of this time, we will have an assembly where they will share key facts and work about their class animal. It would be great if they had an opportunity to share their new knowledge and 'class identity' with you at home – thank-you for supporting them in this transition project and helping them feel like they really belong in their class and at North Heath.



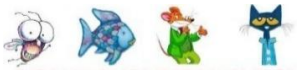


Birthdays



Our pupils' milestones are important to us and we would like to help them celebrate their birthdays this year. We have decided that they can wear their own clothes (suitable for school!) on their birthdays to add to their enjoyment of the day and to feel special. If their birthday falls at a weekend, they should wear their birthday outfit on the Friday before their birthday. Should they be lucky enough to enjoy a birthday during the school holidays, they can wear their birthday clothes on the last day of term before that holiday. This means that everyone in the school community will be able to wish them a happy birthday. If there is any reason why any pupil would not want to wear clothes other than their uniform, there will be no pressure exerted from us to encourage them to do so but the option is there!

Reading



Send in any Summer Library Reading Challenge certificates for a special Reading Assembly on Friday 25th September. It would be lovely to see all those from Y1-6 who have been reading lots of books and sharing their enjoyment with the library as well as their family. I hope they have some good recommendations to share with their classmates and teachers!



Site Changes

I'm sure that the eagle-eyed amongst you will spot several changes around the site – not least our new signs that display our school values and our new logo. We have also had work carried out to level some paving slabs at the front of the school, to reduce and improve the safety of some of our larger trees and to create a more all-weather path to our outdoor classroom.
We are also celebrating the installation of some outdoor gym equipment on the side playground for pupils in KS2, thanks to our wonderful **Friends of North Heath** and their amazing fundraising. Please help us by asking all children to resist trying it out before school tomorrow – they will get some instructions over the first 2 days and then it will be available at break times for them to stretch, improve stamina and burn energy!

Water Bottles

We all know that it is important for children to keep hydrated. For this reason, we encourage pupils to bring in water bottles to school. Over the years, these have become more elaborate and, in some cases, less spill-proof which makes them more difficult to have accessible or near pupils when they are working as well as when moving around school. For these reasons, we have bought some new, house coloured North Heath water bottles. They each have a school logo and space for a pupil's name. They fit perfectly in our water bottle carriers and are non-drip and so not a concern to have on or near work stations.

We have decided to give one free water bottle to pupils in reception, Year 1 and Year 2 and they will be bringing them home at the end of the first day. Reception pupils' bottles will be named and Y1 and 2 parents/carers will need to add their child's name before they get brought back into school. Should a bottle need replacing, we would ask parents/carers to purchase them from the office.

They will be available for £1.20 per bottle.

Other year groups can also purchase these bottles from the school office - you just need to know which colour house your child is in!





Morning Snacks

As you know, pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are provided with a fruit snack at school each day. Pupils in Key Stage 2 are also encouraged to bring in a fruit (or vegetable) snack to help see them through the mornings. This year, pupils are going to be eating these snacks in the classroom during a class reading session, rather than in the playgrounds. If you order milk for them, they will also drink the milk during this session.

These snacks should consist of fresh fruit or vegetables rather than processed foods or cereal bars. They will be kept in classrooms for safekeeping.

Thank-you for your help with this.





Meet The Teacher

In a similar way to previous years, we are running Welcome Meetings for each year group so that parents can meet their new teachers and find out more about the expectations and likely opportunities and experiences in the new year groups. As happened last year, the presentations for these will be available on the school website following the events but it would be good to see as many parents as possible during the sessions so that you all hear similar messages and can ask questions. Please check the dates below and we look forward to seeing you there.

We are really looking forward to welcoming you all back and to having a full school again from tomorrow.

Yours sincerely *Nicky Chesshire* (Headteacher)

Dates for 2026-2027

SEPTEMBER			
Thursday	3	Pupils Return	
Monday	7	Parents Sign up for Parents Eve	4:45pm – Y3 Welcome Meeting
Tuesday	8	4:45pm – Y5 Welcome Meeting	5:15pm – Y4 Welcome Meeting
Wednesday	9		5:15pm – Y6 Welcome Meeting
Thursday	10	4:45pm – Y1 Welcome Meeting	5:15pm – Y2 Welcome Meeting
Tuesday	15	Y6 to Fairthorne for 4 day residential trip	
Friday	18	Y6 return from Fairthorne (Siblings can be collected on Y6 arrival)	
Friday	25	9:05am – Reading Challenge Assembly	

Be Kind, Be Creative, Be Courageous

Monday	28	9am - 12 noon – Flu Vaccines	
Wednesday	30	9:10am Fairthorne Assembly for parents and siblings	
OCTOBER			
Thursday	8		5:30pm-7pm – Showcase evening + all teachers
Wednesday	14	Y5 to Sayers Croft for 3 day residential trip	
Friday	16	2:30pm Y5 return from Sayers Croft (Siblings can be collected on Y5 arrival)	
Tuesday	20	AM – Individual photos	3:40pm-6:20pm – Parents Evening 1
Thursday	22		4:00pm-6:50pm – Parents Evening 2
Friday	23	10am – Harvest Assembly pm END of AUTUMN ONE	
NOVEMBER			
Friday	6	Y5 Bikeability	
Monday	9	Y6 Bikeability	
Tuesday	10	Y6 Bikeability	Remembrance Assembly
Wednesday	11	Y6 Bikeability	11am – 2 mins silence
Thursday	12	Y6 Bikeability	
Friday	13	Y6 Bikeability	
Thursday	19	9:10am – Y5 Sayers Croft Assembly for parents and siblings	
Monday	30	10am – RockSteady Concert for parents and siblings	
DECEMBER			
Wednesday	2	9:30am – YR Christmas performance to grandparents	
Thursday	3	9:30am – YR Christmas performance to parents	
Monday	7	2:15pm – KS1 Christmas performance to grandparents	
Tuesday	8	9:30am – KS1 Christmas performance for parents	
Wednesday	9	9:30am – KS1 Christmas performance for parents	
Monday	14	2pm – Y3/4 Christmas performance to grandparents and siblings	
Tuesday	15	9:30am – Y3/4 Christmas performance to parents (Robin + Kestrel)	
Wednesday	16	9:30am – Y3/4 Christmas performance to parents (Starling + Red Kite) 1:30pm – Y5/6 Christmas performance at St Marks to grandparents	
Thursday	17	1pm-3pm – Christmas parties 6:30pm – Y5/6 Carol Concert for parents and the community	
Friday	18	END OF TERM	
JANUARY			
Monday	4	INSET –	
Tuesday	5	Pupils return	