



Whittonstall and Broomley First Schools
Weekly Newsletter
9 September 2022



Tel: **W: 01207560325** **B: 01661842271**
Website: www.whittonstall.northumberland.sch.uk/website



Our overall attendance this week was

99.3%

Well done everyone! Keep up the good work everyone!



HEAD TEACHER'S MESSAGE:

I've rewritten the start of this newsletter so many times to try and summarise the week we have had, I didn't quite envisage my first week as head teacher having quite so many ups and downs. From the excitement of Tuesday and welcoming so many wonderful new faces into school, the extraordinary rain of Wednesday and Thursday, to the very sad news about our Queen Elizabeth II's passing last night when we all got home. One thing though that has shone through all week has been the wonderful children and families. I can't express enough how thankful I am for the support you have shown my staff and I this week, and I am very much looking forward to taking our wonderful school on its next journey.

In this newsletter you will find some important information about some changes in school, particularly in relation to our new behaviour policy and the Zones of Regulation work the children have been learning about this week. A copy of the new policy is attached for you to read through too, as always if you have any questions please do get in touch and we will do our best to help.

Next week we have our class curriculum meetings. These will be in person this year, and the class teachers will talk you through what to expect for your child in their new class. There will be a great deal of information given in these sessions, and we hope they are of benefit to you as we start the year together.

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend with your families, and I look forward to seeing everyone next week.

Mrs Howe

SCHOOL UPDATES

Welcome to the new!

We welcomed our new Nursery and Reception into school, and also some new faces into our other classes, this week - we want to say a huge well done to them all for settling in so well. I know they have only been here for a few days, but they have all blended into our Broomley life so well.

Behaviour policy Updates

This week we have launched our new behaviour policy in school with the children. We have spent the week really getting to know what our school promises are which we refer to as our 'Keeps' The keeps are short , clear phrases that enable the children to look after themselves and our school, they are:

- *Keep Safe*
- *Keep Healthy*
- *Keep Connected*
- *Keep Giving*
- *Keep Green*
- *Keep Kind*

The policy is closely linked to the Zones of Regulation theory. Our approach is a restorative approach, which aims to address the reasons behind behaviours and help children develop 'tools' to support them in re-regulating themselves.

Often behaviours come from an unmet need, such as tiredness, by helping the children understand their feelings, they can attach their feeling to a 'Zone'. We then teach the children strategies to help them re-regulate themselves depending on which zone they are in.. Examples of these could be breathing techniques, mental strategies or through the use of physical stimulation such as exercise or a concentration aid.



Staff will be handing out a Parents Guide to the Zones of Regulation on Tuesday in the curriculum meetings, this has more information about the philosophy.

Uniform reminders:

The children have all returned to school looking very smart and ready for school, which has been lovely to see! Below are just a few gentle reminders about our uniform policy as we settle back into school life.

- unless it has been agreed with staff, children should only be wearing white or grey socks for school or grey or black tights. Leggings are not part of our school uniform policy.
- School shoes or boots should be black, no other colours are permitted.
- Any long hair should be tied up wherever possible, and any hair accessories should be minimal.
- PE kit should match our policy. No vibrant leggings are permitted in school. For this year children may continue to wear the standard coloured t-shirts we have had in the past.

Please see the uniform policy on the website if you are unsure of anything.

School Bags:

We are aware that a number of children are bringing large backpacks into school. Whilst they are lovely, we would like to remind parents that children should have the standard branded, school, book bag, not a backpack in school. This is particularly pertinent in our small school where space is often limited

We realise that some of the backpacks are new and have been bought for the start of term, therefore If you do not already have a school book bag please let the office know and we will endeavour to supply you with one for this year.

Food in school policy:

Our school Food policy has recently been updated by our catering team. A copy of which is attached and contains information about school lunches, packed lunches and the lunch hall experience. Please note the following key points:

- All children are required to have a water bottle in school so they have regular easy access to drinking water throughout the school day.
- We are a nut free school, and therefore no nuts or products containing nuts should be brought into school.
- Children are welcome to bring in a fruit or vegetable snack for break. Please note no other snacks are permitted without prior agreement with the school.

Communication:

Following the parental survey earlier in the year, we have made some slight adjustments to the communication channels. The general feedback identified that overall, parents felt there were sometimes issues around the amount of communication from school, with some stating it was too little and some too much.

To help with this, this year we are re-establishing the communication methods and what they are used for. Which we hope will make things clearer. We will also be working on the timing of letters and notices, trying to ensure that we give as much notice as possible where we can.

Going forward there will be two main forms of communication from school, details below.

Parentmail: This will be the platform we use for whole school/important information. Examples would be school trip letters, updates about key events or things that are happening around school. These will also sometime be class specific, depending on the event.

Marvellous Me: This will be the communication method you child's teacher will use to send updates about what they have been doing in school, any small class based reminders -such as library day/ reminders about forest school sessions and snippets of information relevant to your child's class.

It is incredibly important that you are able to access both systems, and regularly check anything that you receive.

Marvellous Me Letters for all new starters and any parents not already signed up have been sent home with your child this week. Each letter contains an individual code for your child, follow the joining instructions on the letter and enter this code to get set up. Any problems, or if you need another copy of the letter, please contact the school office.

Key changes:

We are now only going to send the school newsletter half termly, instead of weekly. On a Friday instead the office staff will send out a - with a 'coming up next week' message on Parentmail with any reminders that you will need for the following week.

We are also looking at how best to use the website and social media for our schools, as soon as we have made a decision we will update you in due course.

Benefit Related Free School Meals

Please see the information below about benefit related free school meals. Even though children in Rec, Y1 and Y2 receive universal free school meals under the government scheme, if you think that you would qualify for benefit related free school meals, please still apply for them as this gives additional benefits to you and also provides additional funding to school.

Applications for benefit related free school meals only take a moment and can be done by following the link below :

https://online.northumberland.gov.uk/citizenportal/form.aspx?form=FREE_SCHOOL_MEALS

More information can be found on Northumberland County Council website by following the links to Education and Schools.

Benefits of registering for free school meals.

Although children in Reception , Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to receive Universal Free School Meals through a government funded scheme where all infant age pupils are entitled to a hot school meal free of charge regardless of individual financial circumstances, it is still essential that if you are entitled to income related free school meals you apply, as greater benefits will be received for your child, your child's school and yourself.

The approval of a FSM application would entitle a child to:-

- ◆ Additional funding given to school to support the child's personalised learning
- ◆ Help with music tuition and instruments - Parents can claim a refund of £3.00 per session from the costs when 7 of the 10 classes have been attended by the student. The child's school will make the appropriate arrangements for this service.
- ◆ Help with curriculum related residential trips or school visits - The child's school will make the appropriate arrangements for this service.

The above are not included in the government's free meals to children up to Year 2. To access these benefits families must be in receipt of a qualifying benefit and must have an approved Free School Meal claim with Northumberland County Council.

As long as family circumstances don't change the claim will already be set up for children entering Year 3.

If you are in receipt of one of the following benefits:

Child Tax Credit with NO Working Tax Credit (Income below £16,190)
Income Support
Income Based Jobseekers Allowance
Income Based Employment and Support Allowance
Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit
The Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

**PLEASE APPLY, TO BENEFIT YOU, YOUR CHILD,
AND YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL**

SECOND HAND UNIFORM:

We do still have some second hand uniform in various sizes in school. If you would like to come and view the uniform, please pop into the school office and we will be happy to help. We ask for a small donation to school funds (at your discretion) if you would like to purchase anything.

If anyone has any good quality uniform that their child has outgrown, please drop it into the school office - if possible, sorted into different sizes.



DIARY DATES

- Tuesday 13th September Parent curriculum meetings in school, there are 2 identical sessions, one at 4pm and the second at 4.30pm. Information will be put on the school website for those parents unable to attend
- Tuesday 27th September Individual School Photos - Debbie Young Photography
- Friday 21 October Teacher Training Day - School Closed
- W/C 24th October School Closed for Half Term
- Monday 31 October School Reopens for Autumn 2
- Friday 23rd December School closes for Christmas Holidays

On behalf of staff and governors may I wish you all a lovely weekend, take care.

Mrs Howe

Executive Head Teacher