

New Mills Primary School
Newsletter No. 6
Friday 27th January 2023



Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year, Everyone!

The Christmas holidays were a very welcome break and I hope you all had a lovely time. The children have come back to school refreshed and ready to learn. As always, we have had many activities going on. So far, the children in year 4 have shown their parents/families what they've been doing during clarinet lessons. Everyone took part in an RE day on Wednesday and it was lovely to see the children going home with their creations (year 3 are painting their elephants as we speak!). We've participated in two sports events: Dodgeball and Basketball and we've got more of the same, plus a dance festival coming up over the next few weeks. I know the children are already practising hard for the dance festival, it's a great opportunity to showcase teamwork, dedication and talent.

Carol Taylor – Head teacher

Paperless school:

In a bid to reduce the amount of paper we use, as much as possible, we are upgrading our Wi-Fi system, exploring document management systems and we will be changing even more of the everyday administrative paperwork. We're still working on this so please bear with us as we make the changes.

School uniform, particularly shoes:

The majority of children are in uniform and have the correct footwear, which is great, thank you. However, some children are wearing brightly coloured trainers, boots and footwear that is not sturdy. What children wear below the waist should be black, they can wear a red or white polo shirt and a red, black or purple top. Hoodies are not meant to be worn but we know that they were sold locally so please wear them out and replace with sweatshirts, as necessary.

Music tuition:

As part of DCC's wider opportunities programme, all year 4 children are learning the clarinet. Alongside this, we have children learning to play the flute, violin and keyboard (there is brass as well, but the teacher is not doing lessons at the moment). These lessons are paid for privately, with the cost depending on the length of the lesson and the number of children in each group. If you are interested in your child taking part in any of these sessions, please contact the school office.

Smoking outside School:

Please refrain from smoking outside school, children should not be exposed to smoke inhalation and that includes e-cigs.

Snow days:

If we make the decision to close the school for safety reasons, we will let you know on Class Dojo and on the website (even if it hasn't been switched over) and High Peak Radio. Regular updates will be given out too.

Website:

We are in the process of changing the website, we'll let you know when it is up and running.

Community news:

Coffee afternoon 1-2.30 pm every Friday at the Rock Mill Centre with Youth Matters. A family support worker will be on hand at each session to answer any questions or help in any way.

School policy – Exceptional circumstances applications:

(Amendment) Regulations 2013 came into force. These regulations make it clear that Headteachers should not grant approval for any leave of absence during term-time, including holidays, unless there are exceptional circumstances. These regulations also state that holidays cannot be authorised retrospectively.

Any requests should be on an official school absence request form and handed into the school office for consideration prior to any holiday/leave arrangements being made.

You may be issued with a Penalty Notice should leave be taken which is not authorised. If unpaid this could lead to prosecution under section 444(1) of The Education Act 1996.

Class Dojo: IMPORTANT:

Since its introduction, Class Dojo has been very successful. **The next step is to move away from the texting service completely and use two communication platform: email and Class Dojo. We are hoping to complete this change in the next couple of months.** Please make sure you are signed up to Class dojo and have notifications allowed so that you receive regular messages. Emails will be sent if documents or other sensitive information needs to be shared. Please get in touch if you have any thoughts or comments about the changes to communication: ctaylor@newmills-pri.derbyshire.sch.uk (or contact Mrs Taylor on Dojo)

Earrings:

We are having an ongoing problem with children who come to school wearing earrings which they cannot remove themselves. Earrings must not be worn for PE as they can cause injury to the wearer and to other children. Please teach your child to remove their earrings or leave them out on PE days. If your child has just had their ears pierced, then please ensure the earrings have tape over them for the period in which they cannot be removed. The start of the summer holidays is always the best time to get ears pierced so that children can get them in and out by the time they come back in September.

Strike action:

At this point, we are still expecting to be fully open on planned strike days.

Driving up Meadow Street:

It must be very tempting to drive up Meadow Street if you're running late in the mornings. Please resist this temptation, there are still families on the street and it's not safe. Be a couple of minutes late instead and get here safely rather than promptly. After the gates are closed at 9am, the street is generally very quiet.

PTA News

Clothing for recycling:

The big, green clothing bank is on site, please use it for all your unwanted clothing items (not uniform), shoes, blankets, duvet covers etc. All must be clean! This is emptied on a monthly basis and all proceeds go towards supporting the school with trips.

We also recycle batteries and small printer cartridges in school & used stamps ☺

Dates for your Diary January 2023 onwards Something to look forward to:

Wednesday 1 February	-	Y3 & Y4 dodgeball
Wednesday 8 February	-	Basketball finals
Wednesday 15 February	-	Dance festival
Friday 17 February	-	School finishes for half term
Thursday 2 March	-	World book day
Friday 3 March	-	Whole school scooter duathlon
Tuesday 7 March	-	Parents evening
Wednesday 8 March	-	Parents evening
Wednesday 8 March	-	Sportshall athletics
Wednesday 15 March	-	Y2 & Y6 Fire safety talk
Wednesday 22 March	-	Boccia
Tuesday 28 March	-	Y3/Y4 production Y3 parents PM
Wednesday 29 March	-	Y3/Y4 production Y4 parents PM
Friday 31 March	-	School finishes for Easter holidays
Monday 1 May	-	Bank holiday school is closed
Tuesday 2 May		
& Wednesday 3 May	-	Y3 Whitehall residential overnight
Monday 8 May	-	Bank holiday school is closed
Tuesday 9 May		
& Wednesday 10 May	-	Y4 Whitehall residential overnight
Friday 26 May	-	School finishes for half term
Friday 9 June	-	Y2 Whitehall day visit



Coffee & Chat