

New Mills Primary School
Newsletter No. 7
Friday 17th February 2023



Dear Parents and Carers,

What a wonderful term we've had. It's been very much 'nose to the grindstone' with everyone working hard. Staff are meeting regularly to create a whole school behaviour approach, with set rules, routines, rewards and consequences. We'll tell you more next term once we've reached some firm decisions. All staff wish everyone a lovely half term.

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.

Communication:

Staff and governors are working hard to sure that communication between home and school is effective. Class Dojo is working very well. We are more familiar with it now and getting used to sharing messages, photographs or videos. What I noticed this week was that if someone comments on a message, it doesn't send a notification so if you want to make a comment that needs a response, please send a direct message. Please can everyone ensure that any absences are sent to the school office and not direct to a teacher.

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.

School dinners and Parent Pay:

As from Monday 27 February we will be starting a new online menu ordering service through Parent Pay. You will need to choose for your child the week before and it must be completed by the Sunday before the start of the week. If your child has sandwiches then they don't need to choose anything. Or if they have dinners intermittently during the week, then choose the days your child would like a dinner. If you don't choose a dinner for your child and they regularly have a dinner, a red option will be chosen for them by school. Hope this all makes sense, there will be some teething troubles but we hope for a smooth transition.

The slides have been emailed home to assist also. Thank you :-)

Health Champions:

On Tuesday we ran a yoga lesson which was very relaxing. We also did 10 minutes of running without stopping. When we did the yoga is calmed everyone down ready for the next lesson. On Wednesday we ran an assembly & did a toothpaste challenge which is keeping the toothpaste on a straight line on a piece of paper. Written by anonymous.

Online Safety:

I have written a few messages to parents regarding online safety. The most recent issue is due to children having access to WhatsApp. Please note, WhatsApp is for children over 13 years old.

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.

Year 3 and Year 4 Performance:

The performance now has a name - Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies – performances will be on: 28 & 29 March 2023. The children have already started learning the songs and if the singing at Christmas is anything to go by, this is going to be very enjoyable to watch.

Healthy Snacks at Play Time:

We have noticed that over time, more and more unhealthy snacks are entering school. Added to this is the litter that is left behind each day. For many years, only fruit or vegetables were allowed. From Monday 27th March, we are going to go back to just fruit and vegetables. Please support us with this as we strive to be a healthy school.

Forest School:

Next half term, Forest School switches over to years 4, 5 and 6. Please make sure children have a water bottle and the correct clothing. The children absolutely love these sessions!

SATs:

The Standard Assessment Tests are completed each year in Year 2 and Year 6. In Year 2, they are very informal, and children won't really know they're happening. These need to be completed before the end of May and teachers will organise when they do them.

In year 6, because of the extra bank holiday for the King's coronation, the SATs will take place from Tuesday 9th May to Friday 12th May. This year, we will be running the usual breakfast club (more details will follow nearer the time) and we're hoping to offer the children a cooked breakfast, if they'd like one!

Dance Festival:

On Wednesday over 40 pupils from Y2,4,5 & 6 went to the festival at NMHS. We all had an amazing time & over the past 3 weeks have been learning our dances. We got to show them to lots of schools. It was a very fun event and it wasn't competitive so there no was no pressure on anybody of they got it wrong. I loved it! Written by Maisie B Y6.

Donations of Books:

Please bring your unwanted books to school for World Book Day on Thursday 6 March. We will sell them in school for no more than 20p each. Please send your child with some loose change.

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.

PTA News

The next meeting is Tuesday 28 February on Zoom at 8.00 pm. We have sent the details out on Class Dojo. We look forward to seeing you there.

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:

Friday 17 February	-	School finishes for half term
Thursday 2 March	-	World book day
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

