



14th February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy Valentine's Day! I can't quite believe we are half way through the school year already. There's been so much learning taking place and so much still to do with only a 4-week 4-day half term to go after the February half term holiday. Also, just a reminder that the school is closed to children on Friday 16th for a staff training day. We will be completing training on Restorative Approaches and the invite has been extended to lunchtime staff and governors. This approach supports children with maintaining friendships and dealing with disagreements. There will be more information for parents to follow once our training is complete.

Attendance

As it is the end of the half term, once again, we will be including children's names that have 95% or more in the raffle to be drawn just before the Easter holidays. The good news is that next half term, being such a short half term, should easily enable more children to have a ticket in the raffle this time. Please do your best to make sure your child attends school. Attendance is very important to us all and, as you are aware, any missed days result in loss of learning.

On a positive note Year 1 managed 100% for 2 days last week and Year 6 managed to complete 4 consecutive days of 100% attendance last week! This is the first time any class has done this, this academic year, and I'm sure the Y6 children will have told you of the little treat they received.

Teaching Arrangements

We have been joined by Miss Gallagher, a supply HLTA with a teaching qualification to enable us to split our Y2 class into two small groups. Miss Gallagher is working with 14 of our Y2 children in the family room and we have managed to secure this for whole days rather than just mornings as originally planned. Splitting the Y2 class into two smaller groups is currently providing an extra boost for our Y2 children's learning through the spring term.

Other changes within Y2 include the departure of Mrs. Robson our Y2 teaching assistant, moving onto pastures new. Mrs. Robson has recently resigned from her post to take up work with Newcastle Airport. I'm sure she will be an asset to the company and that you'll join me in wishing her every success in her future career. Who knows, you may still see her when you're jetting off on your holidays. This vacancy will be advertised soon on the North East Jobs website.

School Uniform

It's been wonderful to see the pride the children have in wearing their new sweatshirts and cardigans displaying the school logo. I have had a number of queries regarding whether children are now required to wear logoed uniform. We are aware of the cost implications this can bring to what could be an already stretched financial situation for some families. Therefore, children are still allowed to wear unbranded uniform, but remember if they outgrow the free school sweatshirt or cardigan that we have provided and you return it to school we will endeavor to replace it, free of charge, with the next bigger size.

Home time collection

Governors and I have considered the consultation around home time collection. Thank you to those of you that took part. While the response was overwhelmingly positive we appreciate there are some issues of congestion at the gate onto the school playground. In response to this our Y5 class will leave school from the exit near the boiler house and bike racks. This will also enable parents to stand on the surfaced patio area rather than have to stand on the grass. We'll begin using this exit for Y5 after the half term holidays. Please bear with us as we will need to ensure a staff member is present at the door and calling back into the classroom to dismiss your children, as the Y5 class will not be able to see you from the class windows when collecting from this point.

Other suggestions included a staggered home time. We feel unable to implement this as it would mean some families needing to stay on site for up to 15 minutes while children were dismissed if they had a child in Early Years, a child in Key Stage 1 and a child in Key Stage 2. This could ultimately result in further congestion on the road outside of school.

Robinwood

Many of our Y5 and Y6 children went on the Robinwood residential from Mon. 5th Feb to Wed 8th Feb. I'm sure they all came back having had a fantastic time. I'd like to take this opportunity to let you know what an absolute credit they all were to yourselves and to the school. Robinwood staff all commented on how well behaved and polite all of our children were. I'm sure you'll join me in thanking Miss Scott, Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Carney and Mrs. Bone for staffing the trip, completing all of the preparation and taking such good care of the children while they were away. Events such as this really couldn't go ahead without the commitment of such staff, who are willing to go the extra mile.

Reception and Nursery

Thank you to those who joined their little ones yesterday for pancake day. When I popped into the hall it looked like everyone was enjoying making and eating pancakes and many commented on how nice it was to be in school. Therefore, we're planning lots more opportunities for you to come and work with your children. Either in the classroom environment, in the outdoors (as the weather improves) and possibly even more opportunities to cook with the little ones. I know our Early Years staff are very keen to get started so watch out for more news from them over Class Dojo.

And Finally

Hopefully the weather will be calm and brighter during the half term break. Enjoy your time with the children, stay safe, and we look forward to welcoming them back into school on Monday 26th February.

Kindest Regards,

Ms. A. Norman



Diary Dates

Friday 16 th February 2024	Staff Training Day
Monday 19 th February– Friday 23 rd February 2024	February School Half Term Holidays (school closed)
Monday 26 th February 2024	School re-opens for children
Friday 29 th March – Friday 12 th April 2024	Easter Holidays (school closed)
Monday 15 th April 2024 2024	School re-opens for children