

FRIDAY



LETTER

Friday 11th October 2024



VALUE FOCUS

This half-term our value focus is **Happiness**. We are challenging all the children to:

- ✓ Work together so that we can all be happy, safe and secure.
- ✓ Care about each other so we create a positive learning environment.
- ✓ Show smiling faces, use good manners and offer a warm welcome to all our visitors.
- ✓ Value and celebrate all success.

The Importance of Very Good Attendance:

Northbrook Primary Academy is committed to ensuring all children have regular and full attendance and the importance of this is understood by children and their families. Government research shows a direct link between attendance and attainment and good attenders make better progress, learn to work with others, and are better prepared for transitions within our school and to secondary school. Absence may also mean that a child is more vulnerable to safeguarding risks, such as child exploitation. As a school, we work hard to create a culture where children want to attend and all our schools invest in working with families to identify and remove barriers to full attendance. Our Attendance Policy can be found here - [Our Policies & Procedures | Northbrook Primary Academy \(northbrookpa.org\)](#)

Families are expected to inform school in the morning as soon as is possible if their child is going to be absent due to ill health or for any other unavoidable reason. If a child is absent from school and a parent does not report it, the school will carry out a first day absence procedure. This will involve some or all of the points below:

- Contacting you by Parentapp, text message, email or telephone.
- Contacting you by letter.
- If necessary, carrying out a home visit.

Leave during term time: Any absence during term time can affect pupil's education and progress as much as any other absence. If leave is being requested for a holiday or extended leave abroad, approval should be obtained from the head teacher before making any bookings. Leave of absence in term time will not be granted unless:

- a request for leave has been made in advance by a parent with whom the pupil normally resides, **and**
- the head teacher considers that leave of absence should be granted due to the **exceptional circumstances** relating to the request.

Any period of leave taken without the agreement of the school, or in excess of that agreed, will be classed as unauthorised and schools may request legal sanctions such as a penalty notice.



Penalty Notices: This academic year, there are new national rules on how penalty notices for school absence are used. The new rules mean that all schools **must** consider giving a penalty notice to a parent when a child has missed 10 or more sessions (5 days) for unauthorised reasons within a 10-school week period. The fine for school absence penalty notices across the country will be £80 if paid within 21 days, or £160 if paid within 28 days. If parents do not pay the fine they may be prosecuted in court. If a parent receives a second penalty notice for the same child within any three-year period, the charge will be a flat rate of £160; there will be no reduction if paid within 21 days. Penalty notices for absence before the 2024-25 school year do not count. A parent cannot receive more than two penalty notices for the same child within any three-year period. This is because it is clear that previous penalty notices have not worked. Once this limit has been reached, another action like a parenting order or prosecution will be considered.



Persistent absence: Attendance of below 90% is considered to be in the persistent absence category. Children who are persistently absent will be monitored and schools will ensure that an individual plan to support them will be implemented. In situations of persistent unauthorised absence, a referral will be made to the local authority to consider a penalty notice fine or legal proceedings for a prosecution under s.444 of the 1996 Education Act.

Poor punctuality: When children miss the start of the day, they can miss out on vital work and routines which can impact their learning significantly. Where punctuality is an issue, staff will work with children and families to identify the reasons and look to implement support to improve punctuality. If a pupil continues to be late after the registers close, there may be further sanctions under unauthorised absence.

Guidance for parents on school attendance: [Resources for families | Children's Commissioner for England \(childrenscommissioner.gov.uk\)](#)



All the children had a very interesting morning, on Friday 11th October, learning about Hinduism with Neetal who came to visit us from Building Bridges in Burnley who are a partnership of faith organisations who are working with others to celebrate diversity, to promote dialogue and activities to develop understanding, to achieve equality and justice. The children heard the Diwali story of Rama and Sita and did some Indian dancing to some very special music. Neetal showed Reception and Year 1 a programme that she and her family had filmed for CBeebies when they celebrated Diwali in Preston and visited all the other classes to explain how being a Hindu impacts her life.



Read All About It: We've made it into the Lancashire Evening Post! Check out their write up about the Endeavour Awards Evening last Friday, in the link below!

[Lancashire schools celebrated by charitable trust for incredible commitment to education](#)



Donation Request: Miss Sharrock has kindly requested donations of any unwanted Orchard Toys educational games to restock her resource box. We would very much appreciate donations of games such as Pop-Up Pirate, Crocodile Dentist, Connect-4 and other similar games in good condition. If you are able to donate, please drop off at the school office. Thank you!



NOTICE

Extra-Curricular Clubs: Please be aware that Choir Club and Invasion Games Club have been **cancelled** on Thursday 17th October due to the FoN Film Night. Please also be reminded that Tuesday's Art Club has now **finished**.



FoN Film Night: Friend's of Northbrook are holding a Film Night on **Thursday 17th October** to raise funds for our school. If your child would like to attend, tickets can be purchased via ParentPay. Please pay under the film option that your child would like to see, and

choose which food option your child would like in the notes section on ParentPay.



Time: 3:15pm – 5:30pm

Ticket Cost: £4.50

Film Choices: Hotel Transylvania, Trolls or Disney Shorts with activities

Food: Hotdog or Pizza (with crisps, cake & juice)

Sweets can also be bought on the night for £1

Northbrook Primary Academy
OPEN DAY
Tuesday 15th October 2024
1.30pm-2.30pm and 6pm-7pm
Wednesday 20th November 2024
9.30am-10.30am and 6pm-7pm
"A nurturing environment where every child is supported to achieve their full potential."
01772 421599
enquiries@northbrookpa.org
northbrookpa.org

School admissions are open for children due to start primary or secondary school in September 2025. Please use the link here to apply and find out further information: [Starting primary school \(reception\) - Lancashire County Council](#)

The arrangements for the admission of pupils to primary schools in September 2025:

- **Sunday 1 September 2024** - Apply from this date
- **Wednesday 15 January 2025** - National closing date for primary applications
- Wednesday 16 April 2025** - Offers issued to parents

BIKE FIX

Year 6: Year 6 enjoyed their final bike session this week, where they learnt how to fix their bike and more, especially how to fix a puncture whilst riding. Mrs Spence was very proud of the communication, respect and team work shown whilst working together to solve the problem. Well done Year 6 and safe riding!



Year 5 and 6 Art Club: Our fantastic Art Club completed their amazing eye drawings this week with Mrs P. Every child produced a brilliant work of art to be proud of! Well done Art Club.



**you scan,
we donate
££s TO
SCHOOLS.**



Help build up our Cashpot!

Asda Rewards Cashpots for Schools: Follow the link below to help raise funds for our school. All you need to do is download the Asda Rewards App, click on the Cashpots for Schools section, select Northbrook Primary Academy as your chosen school, and then scan the barcode in the app everytime you shop at Asda – your own



cashpot will build up and so will ours! <https://www.asda.com/cashpotforschools>



Everything in
one app

INTRODUCING



We are excited to announce that our school is transitioning to a new platform for all communication between school and families – Arbor. This will replace our current Parent Apps, offering a more streamlined, user-friendly experience.



Manage clubs,
meals, trips
and parent
evening bookings



Instant updates
from school



Make payments
instantly



Keep important
information updated



For more information please contact
enquiries@northbrookpa.org

We will be moving to a new parental app after half-term. The new platform is called Arbor and it will integrate a payment system so it can be a one stop shop for parents!

How will parents benefit?

- **Check on your child from anywhere:** With the Arbor App, you can check in on your children from anywhere – all you need is a phone
- **Access important information about your child in one place:** See your child's attendance, behaviour and progress this week as well as for the year so far. You can also see upcoming homework and download report cards for your child
- **Get updates from school via push notifications:** Get notified when your school sends out a new message via the App
- **Make payments on the go:** Manage tasks like making payments and booking trips or parents' evenings

We will write to you with more information very soon, along with the instructions to download the ArborApp!

October Half Term Holiday Camps: As part of the Council's commitment to reducing inequalities in community, the Council has funded holiday camps during October Half Term delivered by Active Health and South Ribble Leisure. Children who attend will receive fun and safe physical activity along with a healthy lunch. Follow the link below for more information about the scheme and whether your child is eligible. www.southribble.gov.uk/haf



Lancashire County Council are changing the way people access their parenting course – **Triple P**. They are moving over to an online booking system and will no longer hold a waiting list. If you wish to book onto a Triple P parenting course, you can use the QR code to the right – select which area you are in, and all the groups and course will come up.



Alternative parenting support can be sought from:

- Incredible Years course – vcl.019.theparentingteam@nhs.net this is aimed at primary aged children.
- [SEND Newsletter Autumn 2024 \(lancashire.gov.uk\)](http://SEND Newsletter Autumn 2024 (lancashire.gov.uk))
- [Empowering Parenting Programme - Lancashire Healthy Young People and Families Service \(lancsyoungeoplefamilyservice.co.uk\)](http://Empowering Parenting Programme - Lancashire Healthy Young People and Families Service (lancsyoungeoplefamilyservice.co.uk)) –
- [Trauma Informed Parenting | Home Start Central Lancashire \(homestartcentrallancs.org.uk\)](http://Trauma Informed Parenting | Home Start Central Lancashire (homestartcentrallancs.org.uk))
- Children & Young People Programmes | The Wish Centre



If you have any concerns or worries about your family and feel you need further support a good place to start is Lancashire Family Hubs Network - Lancashire County Council



This week in our weekly picture news assembly the children looked at the news story about Amazon instructing all its staff that they need to return to the office 5 days a week, ending the option to work from home. The look at how this approach was different from the government's flexible working approach and discussed if working together in person was always the best option. This led to considering how we interact with each other in school and at home.



Individual Liberty

At the moment, all employees have the right to request flexible working. Being aware of our rights and freedoms in the workplace can provide us with balance, fulfilment and enjoyment.

Key Dates for the next half-term:

- Tuesday 15th October – Open Day 2pm and 6pm for Reception Class September 2025
- **Friday 18th October – INSET Day (school closed to children)**
- **Half-term Holidays Monday 21st to Friday 25th October**
- Monday 28th October – School reopens to all children
- Monday 28th October – Secondary School Applications Deadline (Year 7 September 2025)



If you need to contact school please do not hesitate to email enquiries@northbrookpa.org

Tel: 01772 421599 [Contact Us | Northbrook Primary Academy](#)

Have a great weekend everyone... See you on Monday!

TAKEHOME

7th - 12th
October



How important are human interactions?

In the news this week

E-commerce company, Amazon, has told all staff they need to return to the office five days a week next year, ending the option to work from home. In a message to all workers, Chief Executive Andy Jassy said the company expected everyone to be in the office full time (apart from some exceptions) from 2nd January, 2025. Amazon's new policy is very different from the UK government's approach, which is to make flexible working a right for employees, as promised in a new law proposal, due to be announced later this year.

Things to talk about at home ...

- > Do you believe Amazon's decision is fair? Talk to someone at home, do they agree?
- > Do you think you might prefer working from home, or from a workplace with others? Why?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

