



Executive Headteacher Mrs C Adams
Head of School Mr M Cunniffe
northbrookpa.org

Friday 1st April 2022

Dear Parents,

NPA End of Term Update – Spring 2022

As we approach the end of the Spring Term we would like to give you an update on Northbrook Primary Academy school life, information about the end of this term, support information for the holidays and information about the start of the new term.

Reflecting on the Term

We have had many successes this term despite the continued negative impact of the pandemic. Many of which have been shared through our website, social media and ParentApp. These successes include:

- The embedding of our school values at the HEART of our school, creating a warm, caring and focused climate across the school. Something our visitors never fail to make comment upon!
- The house system has created a competitive team culture bringing children together from each and every year group. So far this year we have had the following winners:
 - Half-term 1 – Red Team
 - Half-term 2 – Yellow Team
 - Half-term 3 – Yellow Team
 - **Well done to the Blue Team who are this half-term's winners!** The children enjoyed their milkshakes and cookies after assembly this afternoon.
- Extra-curricular activities have continued to be really well supported this term and we have been able to add to our programme with new initiatives supported by the West Lancashire Sport Partnership and South Ribble.
- It was really pleasing to be able to host a 'face to face' Parents' Evening again this half-term. The attendance at the event was very pleasing and the feedback from you as parents through the feedback questionnaire was overwhelmingly positive!
- We have been really impressed with how the children have engaged with completing homework again this term. We will be launching the new homework activities on Tuesday 19th April along with the class curriculum overviews so you know what your children will be learning during the summer term. Web link here
- We have supported a significant number of charitable causes during the term and have been really impressed with how the children have been empathetic towards others less fortunate than ourselves. This term we have raised money for:



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- Children In Need - £180
- Comic Relief - £400
- Our continued work with Friends of Northbrook (FON) has again been a real benefit for the school. Their support and dedication to help us offer opportunities for our children and raise money is very much appreciated. This term the 'Chocolate Bingo' event held on Wednesday this week raised over £400. We are looking forward to working in partnership again in new during the summer term.

A Fond Farewell

Today we say goodbye to Mrs Powers who finishes her maternity cover contract. Unfortunately, Mrs Powers has been absent due to illness this week but we are really pleased that she has been able to return to school today and say goodbye to all the children in reception. We are sure that you will join with us to give her a lovely farewell and thank her for her hard work and commitment to the school and wish her the very best for the future. Miss Cookson, who returns from her maternity leave after the holidays, has already been working alongside Mrs Powers over the last few weeks to ensure that she knows all the reception children as individuals and together they can build on their learning and have a successful summer term.

Next week, we also say goodbye to our Caretaker Mr Allen, who will start his new job after the school holidays. We want to thank Mr Allen for his commitment to the school and his hard work ensuring the entire site runs smoothly so we can get on with our core business of teaching and learning. We wish Mr Allen all the very best and we will all miss his big smile and his lively sense of humour around school. We know he is sad to leave but also excited about the new opportunity he has secured.

A Warm Welcome

After the holidays, we will welcome two new teaching assistants to our Early Years and Key Stage 1 team. Miss Walmsley and Mrs Carney will start with us full time from Tuesday 19th April. We know they will be excellent additions to Miss Sharrock's fantastic team and that they will be made to feel welcome by the Northbrook family.

Holiday Activity Programme and Food Programme

South Ribble Borough Council is delivering a programme of holiday activities on the school site over the second week of the holidays (Monday 11th to Thursday 14th April 9:00am-1:00pm). The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) scheme aims to provide healthy food and enriching activities for children aged 5 to 16 who are eligible for free school meals. There will be a variety of activities on offer at venues across the borough. This provision is:

- Free of charge
- Offers fun activities and experiences
- Includes a meal and refreshments

For more information please check the website www.southribble.gov.uk/haf2022

Family Support

Many parents have commented positively this term on the work undertaken by Mrs Cole (Inclusion Co-ordinator) and Mr Aindow (Pastoral & Behaviour Manager) in supporting our children as individuals but also our families as a whole. After the holidays Mrs Cole will be working in partnership with Sharon Beirne, our link CAMHS practitioner, to host support sessions for parents to encourage their children to develop positive behaviour choices. These sessions will help to empower parents to cope effectively and strengthen relationships with their children as well as build up support networks. The sessions will run from 9:00am-11:30am on Thursdays on the dates listed below.

- Thursday 5th May
- Thursday 12th May
- Thursday 19th May
- Thursday 26th May
- Thursday 9th June
- Thursday 23rd June

Refreshments will be available during each session and If you are interested in attending please contact us at school after the break.

Support and Signposting – Personal Support and Mental Health

We would like to remind parents that there is a range of support available even when we are not in school. On our 'Parents/Carers' section of our school website [here](#) as there are contact details for further help and signposts to reliable information and support.

Uniform and Appearance

As you know we have had a number of issues with our uniform supplier linked to the supply issues all schools have faced. The vast majority of issues have now been resolved and we have been working hard to ensure we find solutions to avoid problems in the future. We are very hopeful next year of adding a local supplier in addition to Monkhouse and will confirm these plans next term.

We would like to remind everyone of our expectations related to uniform and the key information can be found on our website [here](#). A key feature of our policy is what we wear (uniform) and how we wear it (appearance). In summary, some key points of note are:

- Grey skirt/pinafore, trousers. In summer grey tailored shorts or purple and white gingham dress.
- Leather style and sturdy school shoes for non-PE days – *trainers and ballet style pumps are not permitted.*
- Full PE kit required for PE days (NPA hoodie & t-shirt, plain black shorts, plain black jogging bottoms and trainers)
- Plain black jogging bottoms (on PE days).
- Hair colour should be natural with no severe cuts or styles.

We will be enforcing our uniform and appearance policy rigorously after the holidays.

You can find further information on our website link <https://northbrookpa.org/parents-carers/school-uniform> . Please can parents also ensure their children's uniform is clearly labelled with their name and that children have a coat for school even when the weather is warm. Than you.

Covid-19 Guidance

The government is due to publish further guidance around Covid-19 later today. Once we have had the opportunity to digest this information we will write to you to confirm what it means for school attendance. What we do know, is that the focus is on 'living with Covid-19' and that free testing for the general public ends today. In addition, schools are no longer required to offer online learning for those children absent due to Covid-19. As the current advised isolation period is 5 days and is likely to reduce. This removes the expectation for children to complete work from home and for them to simply recover from the virus before they return to school. A recent news article from the government can be accessed here <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-sets-out-next-steps-for-living-with-covid>

And Finally

We would like to thank you once again for your support, patience and kindness in what has been another testing term. Your supportive messages for what we have been doing have been very much appreciated by the staff team. We have tried really hard to make sensible decisions in the best interest of everyone in school and community and as ever, we are stronger together and your support is pivotal to make sure that our children thrive.

We look forward to welcoming all our children and staff back to school on Tuesday 19th April. Enjoy a safe and well rested break.

Yours faithfully,

C Adams
Mrs. C. Adams
Executive Headteacher

M Cunniffe
Mr. M. Cunniffe
Head of School