



Executive Headteacher Mrs C Adams

Head of School Mr M Cuniffe

northbrookpa.org

Friday 17th December 2021

Dear Parents,

As we approach the end of the Autumn 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 and many of the traditional activities have safely returned to school. Many of which have been shared through our website, social media and ParentApp. These successes included:

- Using our new school values to set the foundations for our development of the school culture and ethos. They have become the HEART of the school and something that we are very proud of.
- Re-establishing our House system and introduced house points across all our classes. The children have really enjoyed collecting house points and adding them to the schools' totaliser. Last half-term it was the red team that won the team reward and this half-term the Yellow Team have taken the lead!
- The restart of the full extra-curricular activities programme including a range of sport and physical activities and competitions has really helped our children feel part of a thriving school.
- Hosting our first 'Parents' Information Evenings' to set out the key information for each of our classes and the areas that we have developed over the term. We were very pleased with the support that we received for these events and will plan to hold them earlier in the new academic year.
- It was really pleasing to be able to host a 'face to face' Parents' Evening during the first term. The attendance at the event was very pleasing and the feedback from you as parents through the feedback questionnaire was overwhelmingly positive!
- Launching our new approach to homework and have been extremely impressed with how the children have engaged with completing the tasks and activities over the half-term. We will be launching the new homework activities on Wednesday 5th January.
- Developing our children's leadership skills. In Year 6 & 5 we have trained and developed a number of 'Playground Leaders' who have been superb working with our infants. Similarly, the Year 6 'buddies' have had a tremendous impact in helping our new reception children



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settle into school so quickly. Again, these are areas we want to develop further in the new year.

- Supporting a number of charitable causes during the term and have been really impressed with how the children have been so keen to support others less fortunate than ourselves. These demonstrations of empathy were further extended to work we did during Anti-Bullying week.
- Further developing our website (www.northbrookpa.org) and our ParentApp platform to ensure that our communication is as strong as it can be.
- More recently, we were so proud of all our children with both the KS1 Nativity and our KS2 Christmas Show, which were so well supported by our wider community. If you have not seen the images use the link [here](#) to our 'Latest News' section of our website.
- Being able to establish the Friends of Northbrook (FON) has 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. Both the 'Kids Night In' and the 'Christmas Eve Boxes' were a real success. We are looking forward to working in partnership again in new year!

A Fond Farewell

At the end of this term we will say goodbye to Miss Gwynne who has been working with Miss Hall in Year 6. In January she will be moving on to her new placement as she continues her School-Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT). We are sure that you will join us to give her a lovely farewell and thank her for her hard work and commitment to the school.

Holiday Activity Programme and Food Programme

South Ribble Borough Council is delivering a programme of holiday activities for children over the Christmas holidays. 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
- Families attending the HAF scheme this Christmas can also pick up a food parcel

For more information please check the Parents/Carers section of the website [here](#).

Support and Signposting – Personal Support and Mental Health

As we move into the Christmas break, 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. We hope to have the final issues resolved as soon as we return after the Christmas break. Therefore, 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 or shorts.
- 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, black shorts, black jogging bottoms and trainers)
- Plain black jogging bottoms (on PE days).
- Hair colour should be natural with no severe cuts or styles.

Confirmed Cases of Covid-19 over the Break

Please remember, you need to tell school if your child has Covid-19 and you should report this to school by emailing enquiries@northbrookpa.org. You will receive an automated reply at this will be monitored on the INSET day. Please include your official notification from NHS Test and Trace so that we can administer this correctly on the school system with regards to isolation related absence.

And Finally

School is closed over the Christmas break and this extends to all of our colleagues who work for the Endeavour Learning Trust in the Central Team. If you do contact school over the break, you will receive an automated response and the messages will be reviewed on Tuesday 4 January. The Spring Term starts on Tuesday 4 January and this is a calendared INSET day for staff, **children are not expected in school. School reopens on Wednesday 5 January at 8.45am**. In line with the message from the Department for Education, attendance is compulsory for all students. However, if the situation changes dramatically for schools please be prepared for a delayed start as the potential new advice and guidance will take time to plan and implement effectively.

We would like to thank you once again for your support, patience and kindness in what has been another testing term for everyone in the whole community. 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 students thrive.

On behalf of all of the staff here at Northbrook Primary Academy, we would like to wish you a safe and well rested break. Happy Christmas and best wishes for a safe and healthy 2022.

Yours faithfully,

C Adams
Mrs. C. Adams
Executive Headteacher

M Cunniffe
Mr. M. Cunniffe
Head of School



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