



Executive Headteacher Mrs C Adams
Headteacher Mr M Cunniffe
northbrookpa.org

Friday 6th January 2023

Key Information for the New Spring Term

We hope all our children, staff and their families had a great break and wish everyone the very best for the New Year. We have been really pleased with how the children have returned to school and they have impressed us with their positive behaviour and great attitude to learning.

Engagement Gauge:



Our school values focus this half-term is 'Aspiration' and we have been considering the importance of believing in our potential, aiming high and supporting others to be the absolute best they can be! This has coincided with the launch of our new 'Behaviour Gauge' that is used in all our classrooms across the school. We believe through our positive culture and ethos all our children arrive in lesson 'ready to learn' and we want to support them through high quality teaching to be the best learners they can be – learning is hard and takes a really positive attitude and a great deal of focus and effort! Children who demonstrate these attributes will find that they will move up the gauge and our 'NPA Superstars' will be awarded their superstar sticker at the end of each day. This is something that needs to be celebrated at home as being awarded NPA Superstar status is a real achievement!

We have also spoken how each one of our children has the right to learn in safe and calm environment. Sometimes, however, children may make a choice not to work to the best of their ability or to distract others. If this happens, teachers will support them to make the right choice and give them 'time to think' and explain what they need to do to change. If their behaviours do not change, they will then be collected from their classrooms so they have 'time to reset' whilst class teachers can continue to teach. When they are collected from class they will be taken to our 'Reset' classroom where they will reflect on their choices and complete work. They will then return to class when they are 'ready to learn'. Parents will be informed when children have needed 'time to reset'. During the half-term we will working with the children so they fully understand our expectations and what they need to do to regularly move up the 'Engagement Gauge'.

Attendance & Punctuality:

Attendance and punctuality continue to be the one of the key factors in determining how well a child achieves. It is great to see our attendance figures return to their usual high levels this week. School opens each morning at 8:45am and 'late' marks are issued from 8:55am. Being just a few minutes late each day can have a significant negative impact on learning.

Remember our target is that children achieve a 98% attendance for each academic year and we write to parents termly to make sure you are fully aware of your child's attendance figure.

We are aware that there continues to be a number of seasonal illnesses prevalent in the community and following simple steps can help protect children, minimise the spread of illness and protect wider communities:

- Routine handwashing. Helping children to learn about the importance of good hand hygiene is also key, so practice regular handwashing at home with soap and warm water. Catching coughs and sneezes in tissues then binning them is another simple way to help stop illness from spreading.
- High Temperature or Fever. It's important to minimise the spread of infection in schools and other education and childcare settings as much as possible. If your child is unwell and has a fever, they should stay home from school or nursery until they feel better and the fever has resolved.
- Positive Covid test. If your child has symptoms that lead you to test for Covid and they test positive, they should stay at home for 3 days following the positive test and only return if they do not have a high temperature and they are well enough to participate.
- Get a Flu Vaccination. Remember that flu vaccination is still available for all eligible groups and is the best protection against the virus. Flu can be very unpleasant and, in some cases, can lead to more serious illness. Getting your child vaccinated protects them and others they come into contact with.

Uniform and Appearance:

A smart uniform is important to us in school as it helps foster a sense of belonging and equality. Please remember that our uniform and appearance policy states grey trousers or skirts and school shoes (trainers are only for PE days). With PE kit shorts, tracksuit bottoms/jogging bottoms or leggings must be plain black. Some key points around our appearance policy are also listed below:

- In the interest of health and safety and to avoid loss, no jewellery should be worn to school. The only exceptions might be for medi-alert items and some religious artefacts.
- We would prefer children not to wear earrings, but if they do they must be no more than one stud (not hoops or hooks) in each ear lobe.
- Children are not allowed to wear any jewellery during PE/Forest School/Swimming lessons for Health and Safety reasons. Children must either not wear earrings on these days, be able to remove earrings themselves or cover their studs with plasters (brought from home). Members of staff will not remove studs from a child's ear.
- Children in Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and 6 may wear watches in school, but they should be inexpensive and not 'gimmicky' or a 'smart' watch. School is unable to accept responsibility for loss or damage.
- Nail polish, make up and temporary tattoos are not acceptable as part of the school uniform.
- Sunglasses are not allowed to be worn by pupils at school unless there is a medical need to do so.

- Children are not allowed to wear headwear during class time or inside school buildings, except for religious or medical reasons.
- Children's hairstyles should not be extreme and must be appropriate for school. Children with hair longer than shoulder length must have their hair tied back with a suitable hair accessory, to not restrict vision, so that they can safely enjoy all activities at school.
- Hair accessories should be discreet and in line with the colours of our school uniform. Large bows and novelty hair accessories must not be worn.

You can find key information on our uniform and appearance policy on our academy website <https://northbrookpa.org/parents-carers/school-uniform> . Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or require support around ensuring your child has appropriate uniform.

Free School Meals & Pupil Premium

Northbrook Primary Academy actively encourages all families entitled to **benefits-based Free School Meals** to apply, including families with children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 as this will ensure not only your child receiving delicious, healthy meals without the bills and fuss of making packed lunches, but also additional school funding that will help us support your child further in school. This extra funding is known as the 'pupil premium'. The pupil premium grant is funding provided to schools to focus additional resources on helping pupils who are eligible to reach their full potential. The more pupils that are registered for free school meals, the more funding the school receives on their behalf.

Please remember registering for free school meals does not mean your child has to take up free school meals if they do not want to but it does bring this 'top up' funding to enable us to ensure they are supported in other ways to ensure they can do their best.

Your child may be able to get benefit-based free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Universal Credit with a household income of less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)
- Income-Based Jobseekers' Allowance
- Income-Related Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit, **not** entitled to Working Tax Credit and household income less than £16,190
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Income Support
- Working Tax Credit 'run on' – the payment you receive for a further four weeks after you finish work

If you believe you are entitled please contact [Lancashire County Council](#) on 01772 532109 to register/re-register children for 'benefits based' Free School Meals. Further information is available on the government website [Apply for free school meals GOV.UK](#). If you need any help or support with your application please do not hesitate to contact us at school.

National School Breakfast Programme

We are delighted to let you know that from Monday 9th January 2023 we will be taking part in the National School Breakfast Programme. The free breakfasts will be open to all our children from 8:30am-8:40am each morning in the dining hall. Children attending the breakfast club need to enter school through the main reception. They will be signed in before making their way to the dining hall. The club will be staffed by Northbrook Primary Academy teaching assistants, who will oversee the children and then ensure they move to their classrooms at 8:45am in time for registration. The breakfast on offer will include bagels, a range of cereals and porridge. We are undertaking this offer so all children can have access to a free healthy breakfast each morning, helping them to have the best possible start to the school day. We hope this venture will be a real success!

Finally, Key dates for the term

Monday 9 th January	National School Breakfast Programme runs daily 8:30am - 8:40am
Tuesday 17 th January	Key Stage 1 Multi-Skills Cluster Comp (Selected children only)
Tuesday 31 st January	Young Voices 2023
Monday 6 th February	Final hand-in day for Spring 1 Homework
Monday 6 th February – Friday 10 th February	Children’s Mental Health Week 2023
Friday 10 th February	School closes for half-term at 3:10/3:15pm
Monday 20 th February	School re-opens for all children at 8:45am
Thursday 2 nd March	World Book Day
Friday 17 th March	Comic Relief (Non-uniform Day)
Thursday 23 rd March	Parents’ Evening 3:30pm-6:30pm
Friday 31 st March	School closes for the end of term at 2:10pm
Monday 17 th April	School re-opens for the Summer Term at 8:45am

Kindest regards,

M Cunniffe

Mr Cunniffe
Headteacher