



4th September 2018

Welcome back to a new school year. Hope you had a fun-filled, action packed summer holidays and are ready to embrace the new school year with energy and enthusiasm!

New starters

Welcome to our new starters in Reception; William, Kate, Jacob, Arthur, Alfie, Katlyn and Jack. As you are aware, Reception children will start full time straight away. Please collect children from the back door at 3.05pm.

A warm welcome also to Cayden and Johnny who are starting in Year 2 and Year 4.

Breakfast club

Mrs Phillips will continue to run Breakfast club every morning from 8-8.50am. The club will be based in the hall so please enter through front door.

Swimming

The children will be swimming this half term and the first session is on **Thursday 6th September**.

Please return the permission slip with £24 (8 sessions @ £3) to the office as soon as possible.

As usual children will need to bring a **swimming costume/trunks, goggles and a towel in a suitable bag**.

We will travel by bus at 10.30am to the Wentworth Leisure Centre. The lesson is 11-11.30am and we return to school for lunch.

We already have a number of experienced volunteers so there is no need for you to come and help your child to change, however you are welcome to sit in the foyer and watch the lesson.

PE and Sports club

We welcome Mr Dimmick our new PE teacher who will teach PE across the school and also run an after school sports club on Mondays.

The after school club will start on **Monday 17th September 3.05-4.15pm**. **A permission letter is enclosed in your pack.**

Please return the slip to the Office by Friday 7th September.

We will be doing PE outside in the autumn term, so please make sure your child has a suitable PE kit in school and trainers that he/she can fasten independently. PE kits can be brought in at the beginning of the half term and kept in school. Kits will be sent home each holiday to be washed and returned to school.

Other clubs

Messy Church starts on Tuesday 18th September 3.05pm-5.15pm

Zumba Dance club starts on Thursday 20th September 3.05pm-4.15pm

Forest School

From next week - FRIDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER, Forest School will start again which will be led by Miss Osborne and Mrs Phillips. This is a rich and stimulating curriculum experience for the children and the intention is to go up to Humshaugh woods every week, whatever the weather.

On Fridays, children will need to wear practical outdoor trousers/leggings and sturdy waterproof shoes or boots to school rather than ordinary school uniform.

We still would like children to wear their Humshaugh First School sweatshirt or cardigan.

If possible, we would like parents to provide their child with a clearly labelled pair of wellies, waterproof coat and trousers that can be kept at school. If anybody has difficulty providing these please let us know.

Harvest Festival

We would like to invite parents, relatives and friends to our **Harvest Festival and Community Soup lunch on Thursday 4th October**. The children will help prepare the vegetables in the morning and the Friends volunteers will make the soup ready for approximately 1.15pm. Guests are invited to stay for the Harvest Festival which will include songs and poems to celebrate Harvest.

We would ask that all children bring in a decorated shoe box with a few goodies in it such as tins, packets of pasta or biscuits. The children will then deliver these gifts around the village on **Monday 8th October**.

In addition to bringing in a box, the Friends would also like to run a competition for best decorated vegetable. More information about when to bring in boxes and entries will be sent out nearer the time.

Lunch money-Autumn 1st -4.9.18-25.10.18

The cost is £2.30 per day therefore £87.40 for the first half of the term (38 days at £2.30 per meal)

Please send all monies to the school office in a clearly labelled envelope with your child's name, class and the amount enclosed.

Children in Reception, Year 1 and 2 still receive Universal Free School meals.

Letter check

It is vital that you check your child's book bag every day to ensure any messages, letters or permission slips are dealt with as soon as possible. It makes the organisation of activities and events so much easier for the teachers and Mrs Rowcroft.

Please find enclosed with this letter, the following...

Home School Agreement (children and parents to sign and return to Office)

Website/Photographs permission (return to Office)

Going Home Arrangements (return to Office)

Local visits and trips permission (return to Office)

Sports club letter and permission slip (return to Office)

Messy Church letter and permission slip (return to Office)

Zumba Dance club letter and permission slip (return to Office)

Holiday dates

Information about Free School meals

Parents of Reception children only need to send the Home School Agreement and After School Club permission slips back

Attendance

Many children had very good attendance and hit the target of 98% or above last year. However, a worrying number of children had well below this expected target.

It states in the Hexham Partnership of School Policy for Leave of Absence during term time leaflet, "If your child's attendance falls below 93% it is of great concern to us and we have to discuss the issue with our Education Welfare Office."

Please ensure your child is in school every day unless unwell. Parents must contact the school office or leave a message on the answer machine giving a reason for absence.

To celebrate excellent attendance, we will be announcing the year group with the best attendance each week during our Friday Star of the week Collective Worship. The children in that year group will be given a sticker and presented with the Attendance cup to look after for week. If there is a tie, each year group will share the cup for an equal amount of time. The Year group Attendance percentages will be displayed in the front window and on the website.

Routines

Please remember to arrive promptly to school in the morning. The bell is rung for school to start at 8.50am.

Please do not leave children unattended until you are sure that Mrs Phillips is on duty in the yard.

Late book-we are going continue monitoring punctuality using our Late Book from the beginning of term. If children arrive after the back doors are locked, they are required to be dropped off at the front door. A member of staff will fill in the late book and escort your child to their classroom.

Please also ensure you arrive on time at 3.05pm to pick your child up at the end of the day.

Other dates for your diary.

Thursday 6th September: Swimming starts

Friday 7th September: RE Day (NO FOREST SCHOOL)

Friday 14th September: First Forest School session (**please remember wellies and waterproofs**)

Monday 17th September: Sports club starts (3.05pm-4.15pm)

Tuesday 18th September: Messy Church starts (3.05pm-4.15pm)

Thursday 20th September: Zumba Dance club stats (3.05pm-4.15pm)

Thursday 4th October: Soup day and Harvest Festival (Soup at approx. 1.15pm and Harvest Festival at approx. 2.15pm)

Mon 8th, Tues 9th October, Wed 10th October: Parent Consultations (Letter will be sent out in the next few weeks)

Thursday 25th October: Break up for half term

Friday 26th October: Teacher Day

Monday 5th November: Autumn 2nd starts

