



Ringway, Guidepost, Northumberland, NE62 5YP

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Headteacher: Mrs L Robson

Newsletter 1

3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Welcome back! This year more than ever, it has been a long time coming! I hope that you have had a lovely summer break, I have enjoyed hearing lots of stories about what the children have been up to.

Over the summer, we have had lots of building work going on in school, we have converted our old porch areas into rooms and now have a meeting/ intervention room, a teacher PPA room and a Key Stage 1 intervention area. We have had two external doors put into the Year 3 and 4 classrooms and the area outside of these classrooms has been cleared and concreted to allow for access. We have also had our school hall painted and new blinds fitted – it has certainly been a very busy time for us!

We have also spent a long time planning for everyone's safe return and it is very important school and parents work together to make school drop offs and pick-ups as smooth as possible. Please refer to the back to school guidance sent out last week (uploaded on our school website). There will be times when parents may need to queue so please be mindful of social distancing guidelines, blocking the one-way system route and local residents if queuing on Ringway. **No-one should arrive any earlier than their allocated time slots and must follow the one-way system in school.** I would like to thank you all for your understanding about the new rules and for having patience as we run through some teething problems. Like anything, it will take a few days until we are all familiar with the new normal.

We are very excited to begin the new school year and I'm confident that all the new measures in place will become second nature as the first few weeks pass by. It has been lovely to see all of our children looking very smart, eager and excited to begin the new term. I am very impressed with how quickly and sensible they have coped with the new systems and routines within school and I am looking forward to seeing all that they can achieve this half term as they settle back into Ringway life.

I look forward to continuing our partnership with parents. We do maintain an 'open door' policy to parents but due to current restrictions, we ask that you communicate with school via email or a phone call.

Mrs L Robson

## Information

### PE Kits

We have had a rethink about PE kits and it will work best if children wear their PE kit for school on PE days (hoodies/tracksuit can also be worn).

Rec – Tuesday (Starting week 4)

Year 1 – Wednesday

Year 2 – Wednesday

Year 3 – Wednesday

Year 4 – Thursday

Year 5 – Wednesday

Year 6 – Wednesday

### ParentPay

Please ensure you have signed up to ParentPay – school is becoming paperless and cashless as much as possible this school year and most communication, permissions and payments will need to be made via ParentPay. Please contact the school office with any queries.

### Homework

Homework will start from Monday and will consist of spelling practise on Spelling Shed and times table or maths practise on Times Table Rock Stars or Math Shed – each teacher will send their own instructions for weekly homework to their individual classes.

### Collecting children

For safeguarding reasons, if someone else is picking your child up from school, it is important you inform school.

### Reading

We would like to encourage you to ensure your child reads every day. This makes a significant difference to their progress. Children will start bringing home a reading book from Monday as well as our new reading challenge booklets.

### Clubs

Breakfast club and after school club are now running again but must be booked no later than 48 hours before through ParentPay. We are currently working through how we can safely offer other extracurricular clubs safely and will send more information out on these soon.

### School dinners

School dinners need to be paid for via School Grid (Live Kitchen). No cash or cheque payments will now be accepted - the preferred method is direct debit but if you choose to pay by debit card, this must be paid at the start of each week.

### Class Dojo – School reward system

We will be continuing to use Class Dojo this term but teachers will only be available during school hours for simple class communication. Most messages and ALL absences must be reported to the school office. In the event children may need to self-isolate, class teachers will upload work to be completed on here.

Class Dojo will be used as part of our reward system this year. Whenever a child earns a Dojo point, parents will be informed via the app. Points can be earned for many things including handing your homework each week, working hard, persevering and being helpful.

Points will accumulate throughout the school year and children will earn a Bronze award for 50 points, Silver award for 75 points and a Gold award for 100 points.

For every Dojo point the children earn, they will also earn a point for their house. At the end of each half term, the house with the most points will be rewarded with a non-school uniform day.

## School Calendar

Usually, at this time of year, our school calendar would be quite full for term. We have still tried to plan for many events that we normally would celebrate but some of these may need to be done slightly differently or virtually in line with Government guidance for schools.

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| 14 <sup>th</sup> September                 | <b>Roald Dahl week</b> – children will be studying a class book by Roald Dahl this week and producing writing based on their story.   |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> September                 | <b>Jeans for genes day</b> – children can wear their jeans to school for a small donation towards this charity who support children affected by genetic disorders.  |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> September                 | <b>European day of languages</b> – each ‘double bubble’ will take part in language challenges today around a given European country.  |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> September                 | <b>Macmillan coffee morning</b> – children will have the opportunity to buy a cake (these will be bought, individually wrapped cake bars) and juice from their individual class tuckshop for a small donation towards Macmillan charity.                  |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> October                    | <b>National poetry day</b> – children will be reading, reciting and writing their own poetry within their classes.  |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> October                    | <b>Space theme week</b>   |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> October                   | <b>Harvest</b> - we will not be able to hold a festival in school this year but we will still be asking for food donations that we will take to a local food bank. Each class will perform a poem, reading or song that will be uploaded onto Class Dojo. |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> October                   | <b>Bikeability</b> - for Years 5/6 - more details to follow.  |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> October | <b>Parent Evenings</b> - (most likely be via phone calls – timed appointments will be scheduled nearer the date)  |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> October                   | <b>Halloween day</b> – fancy dress and crafts day within individual classes.  |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> October                   | <b>School closes</b> for half term  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> November                   | <b>School reopens</b> to students   |