

Autumn Term 2023 Newsletter 1



Message from Mrs Lakey:

Thanks to everyone for helping us get off to such a smooth start to the new school year.

If you park at school in the back car park, please be aware that between 25th September and 27th September the village road will be closed for resurfacing, so you will have to use the main school car park.

Kathy will continue to produce these regular newsletters and we will update you via Facebook. Effective communication is central to our school, please ask us if you have any questions.

Queries can be dealt with quickly by Kathy: in the office face to face, or by phone/email, or an appointment can be made if you would like to see a teacher. We are always happy to help.

Please check for Parentmail emails. There is an App available from App store to make it easier to receive the communications. It is called IRIS Parentmail.

All newsletters and important texts are sent out via this method. We do not have access to your information, so you must remember to keep it up to date. Our Facebook page is used for regular reminders and links to our web site.

Our Enquiry Curriculum is split into topics and will be as follows:

Splash (EYFS) Miraculously Made

Space Base (Y1/2) Coming and Going

Earth Works (Y3/4) Earth Matters/Source to Sea

Timezone (Y5/6) Living Locally



More detailed information is in the curriculum section of our website.

Please remember we now start school at 8.45am and finish at 3.15pm. Children may be left from 8.30am

We don't allow mobile phones in school. If your child needs to bring in their phone, to receive an important message, they must leave it in the school office. We are always happy to pass on messages and this would be a better option. Please don't allow the children to bring in Fitbits, or other expensive items, as we cannot be held responsible for their safe keeping. Smart watches with cameras are also not allowed in school, for e-safety reasons.



All money needs to be sent in to school on a Monday morning, in a clearly marked envelope, detailing what you are paying – please do not send in loose cash with a child who has just been told 'give it to Kathy', or cheques that have no indication of what they are paying! All cheques, unless advised otherwise, need to be payable to Northumberland County Council.

You are able to pay over the phone with your credit or debit card. This facility is only available on a Tuesday. If it is possible to pay by cheque, this would limit the amount of money that has to be handled by the office

As explained in the Parentmail letter last term, all school lunches will be £2.50 per day, £12.50 a week. (regardless of pupil age) We have subsidised the fruit for Y3 – Y6 for many years, however from this term, Earth Works and Time Zone will no longer be offered a piece of fruit at morning break, but will be free to bring in a healthy snack themselves, (fruit or cereal bar).

Nursery to Y2 will continue to receive a free daily piece of fruit, through the Government Fruit Scheme.

Reception to Y2 will also continue to receive a free school meal through the Universal Free School Meal government scheme.

Please have a PE kit in school. Always bring a coat. Don't forget swimming on Fridays (Earth Works). Please stay away from school for 48 hours if you have been sick or have diarrhoea. Please contact school by 9am if your child is sick.


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Milk will continue to be available for Nursery to Y4. The cost is worked out at the end of each term. (Milk remains free until the term your child turns 5.)

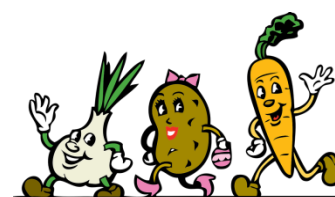
Lunch costs this term are £2.50 per day, £12.50 per week. If you wish to pay this in full, the first half of the term is £95.00 and the second half £85.00. The full term is £180.00.

Milk will be charged at the end of the term retrospectively. Milk remains free for all the children who are under 5 for the whole term and is available to all children who have school lunch, as an alternative to water.

Swimming for Earth Works is £4.00 a  session. There are 14 sessions this term at a cost of £56.00.

We are hoping to be able to provide a sample menu from October. Our suppliers are still reporting occasional shortages and Josie has to cook with the available ingredients, not necessarily the planned menu. We will of course continue to provide lovely, home cooked meals.

For those children bringing a packed lunch from home, please remember we have Healthy School status. Please try and make the lunch as healthy and varied as possible. No fried snacks, fizzy drinks or sweets/chocolate will be allowed. Please get in touch if you are not sure what you can send. **WE ARE A NUT FREE SCHOOL**



Please send your child with a clean, named water bottle every day. We gave them all free ones in the summer term and have spares for new pupils, if needed.

We have got off to a great start with our After-School Clubs. There are still a few places left for the Sports clubs and Forest Craft. We have after school care available every night until 4.15pm. If you are interested please ask Kathy for more information. These sessions can be booked adhoc if you suddenly need child care. All sessions are £5.00 an hour unless it is a Sports club which is subsidised by us, and costs £2.50 per hour.

Invoices for After School clubs, lunch and swimming will be sent out shortly.

Thank you for sending your children in with PE kits. Cricket and Tag Rugby have got off to a great start.

PE days for this half of term will be as follows:

Time Zone and Earth Works; Tuesday and Wednesday. Earth Works also swim on a Friday
Space Base; Tuesday and Wednesday
Splash; (including Nursery). Tuesday and Thursday Forest School

These days can change at short notice, it is a good idea to always have your PE kit in school.

Thank you to the parents who have electronically signed the annual permission slip. This is in your Parentmail accounts. Please sign as soon as possible if you have not already done so. If you are using the App to read Parentmail the link appears underlined at the top of the page (not blue!)

The electronic consent for your child's flu immunisation, (R-Y6) is also in your inbox. This is a direct form back to NHS.

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Border Embroideries, who supply our uniform, are shortly going to be offering reduced price ordering windows, to help with the cost of living crisis.

They will be offering 20% discount for school uniform in 3 time slots.

1st October – 15th October 2023

15th December 2023 – 7th January 2024

22nd April 2024 – 19th May 2024

<https://www.border-embroideries.co.uk/schools/ellingham-c-of-e-primary-school.html?p=1>

Anyone interested in football, Newcastle United have asked us to let you know about this.

Newcastle United Foundation will be delivering football sessions on a Friday Evening at Alnwick Town Juniors, Weavers Way, Alnwick, for the following school years:

Reception and Year 1 1615-1700 - Mixed session

Year 2 and 3 1700-1800 - Mixed session

***WildCats - Girls Only 1800-1900
Ages 5-11***

To book, or for anymore information, please contact Paul.Yeadon@nufc.co.uk

For anyone who uses our After-School clubs, are you aware of the tax free childcare scheme?

This is for children up to the age of 12 and for families with two working parents who earn less than £100,000.

Many people are unaware of the help that is available. You can check if you are eligible using this link

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

For every £8.00 you put in your account the Government adds £2.00. The money can be paid to us directly.

If you want to take up this offer, please let us know this is how we will be paid. This will just be for After School Clubs this does not include lunches, swimming etc.

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