



Dear Parents,

5th November 2020

The children seem to have had a good half term but are also pleased to be back in school. Here are a few updates for you regarding the start of this half term.

Start of the School Day

We've had the first week of our tighter school arrival time and this is working well.

The following now applies:



Children in Reception, Y2, Y3, Class 56T and 6P should **arrive between 8:45 and 8:55**.
If they arrive after 9:00 this will be late and classed as an unauthorised late.

Children in Pre-School, Y1, Y4 and Class 5M should **arrive between 9:00 and 9:10**.
If they arrive after 9:15 this will be late and classed as an unauthorised late.



This helps us to keep each bubble separate and ensure all classes get a prompt start to their learning.

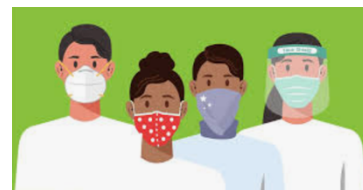
Teacher Training Days

Our first two teacher training days are rapidly approaching. As stated on the Dates for your Diary newsletter, these will be held on Thursday 19th and Friday 20th November. This means that school will be closed for all children on these two days.

On the Thursday all staff will be learning more about how to get learning to stick – what further strategies we can use to help children remember what they have learnt.

On the Friday some staff will be updating their First Aid training whilst Subject Leaders will be carrying out a work scrutiny, looking at their subject area and assessing how children are progressing with it across the school.

After that our other 3 training days are at the usual time in May – 26th, 27th and 28th May 2021.



Face Coverings

Can I remind you all that from Monday 2nd November we have requested that all adults who come on to the school site wear a face covering, unless they have any medical reason which prevents them from doing so. Thanks for adhering to this.

Extended School Day

From next week, 11th November, every Wednesday afternoon will be an extended school day. This gives us an extra hour in the week to give us chance to catch up with some of the lost learning due to the lockdown during the last academic year. Every Wednesday from next week the pick-up/finish times are as follows:

Pick Up Time	Year Groups
3:45 to 4:00	Reception, Y2 and Y3
4:00 to 4:15	Pre-School, Y1 and Y4

Finish Time	Classes
4:00	56T and 6P
4:15	5M



Maths Sessions for Parents of children in Reception

Unfortunately, due to the lockdown starting today it will not be possible to hold the Maths sessions we had planned for Mrs Geach and Mr Durham's parents on Monday 16th November and Monday 23rd November. We will be creating a presentation which will be uploaded on to our website to share the information with you, just as we did for the phonics meeting. You'll receive an email once this is completed and available.

Northern Children's Book Festival – Author Visit

The NCBF are going online this year and offering children the opportunity to meet an author through a live online presentation of 30 minutes and then a 15 minute question and answer session. Our Y5 and Y6 children are going to be lucky enough to take part in this next Thursday – 12th November. The author they will meet is Chris Callaghan. He has written one book so far and it's called 'The Great Chocoplot'. It's about the end of chocolate. A subject that could horrify many! There will be an opportunity to purchase his book and receive a signed bookplate. I'll send you more details about this soon. Don't forget to ask your children all about it after next Thursday.



Christmas

Yes, I have dared to mention it already!!

Christmas Cards

We've had a parent ask us about Christmas Cards and if the children are able to send them to friends in school. We've given it some thought and recognise that we can't use our school post box this year but we are happy for the children to send cards to any other children in their own bubble i.e. Y1 can send them to their Y1 friends, Class 5M can send them to their class 5M friends. **We are not going to let children give cards beyond their bubble.** When they bring their cards in, if they give them to their teacher then they will arrange for them to be given out.

Please don't send any in before the 1st December.



Christmas Decorations

We have been successful in our application to be part of a European Christmas Tree Decoration Exchange. This is a cultural exchange project. Our Y3 are going to make 30 Christmas tree decorations to send to other schools across Europe. We will also produce an information pack about Christmas in our country which will be sent out with the decorations. Through this our children will learn more about our own culture and traditions and then, in turn, when they receive the decorations and other materials from all across Europe, they will learn about Christmas in other countries as well as learning about other aspects of each country such as their language, their geography, history and culture. Watch out for more on twitter [@TanfieldPrimary](https://twitter.com/TanfieldPrimary)

