



January 2024

Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome back to school, we are looking forward to working with you in 2024.

The government has launched a new campaign regarding attendance – ‘Moments Matter, Attendance Counts’.

“From the first day of term to the last, the small moments in a school day make a real difference to your child. #AttendanceCounts”

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

Following on from December 's school update, here are a few facts about attendance. If you need any support with attendance, please do not hesitate to contact school. Please note we will be contacting families to arrange meetings to offer support where school attendance is a concern.

Attendance - The Top Facts to Know! (Shared by the Local Authority)

The link between attendance and attainment is clear:

- *In 2018/19, just 40% of persistently absent (PA) children in KS2 achieved expected KS2 standards, compared with 84% of pupils who were regular attenders.*
- *And 36% of PA children in KS4 got 9 to 4 in their English and maths GCSEs, also compared with 84% of regular attenders.*

And it's never too late to benefit from good attendance:

- *More than half (54%) of pupils who were PA in Year 10 and then rarely absent in Year 11, passed at least 5 GCSEs, compared to 36% of pupils who were persistently absent in both years.*

But attendance is important for more than just attainment:

- *Regular school attendance can facilitate positive peer relationships, which is a protective factor for mental health and wellbeing.*



Please see below the information again from the Chief medical officer.

There is wide agreement among health professionals and educational professionals that school attendance is vital to the life chances of children and young people. Being in school improves health, wellbeing and socialisation throughout the life course. The greatest benefits come from children and young people attending school regularly. It is usually appropriate for parents and carers to send their children to school with mild respiratory illnesses. This would include general cold symptoms: a minor cough, runny nose or sore throat. However, children should not be sent to school if they have a temperature of 38°C or above.

Please see the following link for more information (NHS Guidance: Is my child too ill for school?).

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

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Physical Education (PE)

This half term we will be trialling a new system relating to PE. Starting next week, we ask that children come to school in their PE kits on their PE day. All children need to wear an outdoor kit (joggers and hooded top/tracksuit) as they will also be outside for break and lunch. Please contact Mrs Dundas if you would like any pre-loved uniform.

Below is a reminder of our uniform expectations taken from our Uniform Policy.

4. Expectations for school uniform

4.1 Our school's uniform

Our school does not require branded logo uniform.

Our Uniform is a white polo shirt, red jumper/cardigan and black trousers, skirts, pinafore, or shorts. Red/white gingham dresses/skirts can also be worn. Children may wear plain shorts underneath skirts, dresses and pinafores. Please note leggings/joggers are not permitted unless agreed by the Headteacher for special/exceptional circumstances.

Full black sensible shoes should be worn – pumps, high heels, trainers, large boots and open toe sandals are not permitted. Medical exceptions will be made. If your child wears shoes with laces there is an expectation that they can be tied independently. Small black ankle boots may be worn in winter months.

Socks and tights should be plain black or white.

PE Uniform

PE uniform is a white T Shirt and blue/black dark joggers/shorts and blue/black jumper/hooded top/tracksuit. No crop tops are allowed. A pair of trainers is also required suitable for indoor and outside use. A small PE bag that will hang on your child's peg is required.

Earrings should be a plain, small stud and children will be asked to wear a plaster to cover whilst participating in PE/swimming if they cannot be removed. No other earrings are permitted.

Watches may be worn – smart watches with cameras are not permitted.

No other jewellery may be worn.

Children will require a bag of their choice for school to fit an A4 homework folder inside– book bags are not required.

Hair – hair beyond shoulder length should be tied back.

A suitable outside coat is required.

Nail polish and temporary transfers/tattoos are to be removed for school.

Hair accessories must be neutral, red, white or black.

Swimming (KS2) is swim trunks and full costume (board shorts/baggy shorts are not permitted).

<u>Dates for your diary</u>	<u>Event</u>
INSET Days 2023/2024 (School is closed on the following days).	Monday 4 th September Monday 20 th November Friday 22 nd December Thursday 2 nd May (Polling Day) Monday 22 nd July
Week beginning Monday 8 th January	Whole school Art week
Monday 15 th January	Teddy Bear's Picnic – Nursery Parents/Carers (see previous information)
Friday 19 th January	Year 3 and Year 4 visitor/workshop - Fossils
Monday 22 nd January	Parliament visitor – KS2 assembly and Year 5/6 workshop
Tuesday 23 rd January	Year 5 and Year 6 Parent Workshop (see previous information)
Friday 26 th January	KS1 Toy Museum Visit to school
Friday 2 nd February	NSPCC Number Day – children can come dressed as a digit/number themed outfit on this day.
Week beginning Monday 5 th February	Children's Mental Health Week
Tuesday 27 th February	Year 5 visit to Cannon Hall Farm for a WWII evacuee day in conjunction with Barnsley Museum.
Wednesday 21 st -Friday 23 rd February	Year 6 Residential visit to Robin Wood.
21 st & 28 th February 6 th March	KS1 Family Numeracy Programme (see previous letter)
Thursday 13 th June	Save the Date – NHCS Summer Fair 3:30pm

Kind regards,

Mrs Wheatley

For your reference:

Attendance

Please can you let school know if your child is going to be absent from school.

If we do not know the reason why your child is absent, we will follow our procedures - this is a telephone call to all contacts and a home visit. If we are unable to make contact with you, we will refer the absence to the local authority. If you know your child is going to be absent, please complete an absence request form (available from the school office). Please note holidays in term time are not permitted. Following Local Authority guidance, penalty notices may be issued for holidays taken in term time. If your child is absent from school, please let the school office know as soon as possible by leaving a voicemail through the school telephone system or emailing admin@newton-hill.org.uk. Thank you for your cooperation.



Free School Meals

If your circumstances have changed you may be eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) until Year 6, please contact school as the application process is changing. There is no difference for how children order or receive meals if they are eligible for FSM. If your child receives FSM (Reception to Year 6) the school will also receive additional funding to support your child. Children in receipt of FSM also received confidential support with educational visits.

School meals for children in Reception and KS1 are FREE – this is part of the universal free school meal offer.

Our Local Community

Just a polite reminder to park safely and to be respectful to our local residents when picking up and dropping off particularly on Newton Avenue and East Street. Thank you.



School Uniform

Please can we ask that all uniform/property is clearly labelled.

Thank you to everyone who follows our uniform expectations. The pre-loved uniform is always available – please contact Mrs Dundas for further information or support. We

have a range of uniform – all ages. Please make use of the uniform available - all requests will be dealt with confidentially.

Safeguarding

If you have any safeguarding concerns or need any support or advice, please do not hesitate to contact the school.



Our Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) are: Mrs Wheatley, Mrs Whelerton, Mrs Luck, Mr Paine, Mrs Dundas, Mrs Myton and Miss Land.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/> This website offers advice and guides for parents which you may find useful.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/pants-underwear-rule/>

If you need support or advice, you can also contact Wakefield Social Care Direct on 0345 8 503 503. There are other numbers you may find useful on our school website under Safeguarding.

Keeping Safe Online

You may find the following sites and information useful:

[Keep Children Safe Online: Information, Advice, Support - Internet Matters](#)

[What is the metaverse? - What parents need to know | Internet Matters](#)

[Social Media Checklists | SWGfL](#)

Mental Health Team

We have a number of staff members who are mental health first aiders who can offer advice and support for your child and you. Please contact the school if you would like any support.



Unplanned School Closures – Snow/Adverse Weather

Although snow is welcomed by our children it can, as you know, cause issues with schools. We will always aim to notify you of any closures at the earliest opportunity and appreciate that this may be at short notice.

In the unlikely event of a school closure, for reasons out of our control, we will contact you via Parent Hub. We will also display messages/updates on our school website www.newtonhill.wakefield.sch.uk.

We will always do our best to stay open, but if for any reason we have to close *during the day* we will contact you via Parent Hub, and information will be displayed on our website. A member of the Leadership Team will always stay on site until all children have been collected.

Newts Provision – Adverse Weather

During adverse weather conditions, various considerations need to be assessed to see if school can open safely – for example the number of members of staff who can get to work safely, site safety and access.

Therefore, if there are any occasions of adverse weather (snow/treacherous conditions), Newts provision will not be open for breakfast club. This is to allow sufficient time for school to assess if school can open safely and if there are enough staff able to travel to school safely.

Messages will be sent to all parents via Parent Hub as reminders should this be the case and we will always give advance notice if weather warnings are issued. We will aim to notify you by 7am should this be the case. We will always try to stay open during adverse weather conditions and school may offer a later opening time rather than a full closure depending on the circumstances.

August 2023						
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28	29	30	31			

September 2023						
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October 2023						
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November 2023						
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December 2023						
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January 2024						
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February 2024						
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March 2024						
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April 2024						
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29	30					

May 2024						
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27	28	29	30	31		

June 2024						
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July 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

- = Bank Holidays
- = School Holidays
- = UK Parliamentary, West Yorkshire Combined Authority Mayoral and District Council Elections (schools will need the authorisation of the Returning Officer if they are to be used as a Polling Station and wish to remain open on this day. Otherwise schools used as a polling station should be closed for INSET). Schools not used for election purposes may arrange alternative closures for INSET. Individual schools may decide the dates of the remaining 4 INSET dates.

Number of pupil days:	195
Less INSET days to be fixed:	5
Total number of pupil days:	190