

Ready for Learning - Ready for Life -

Newton Hill Community School Update - Term 2 2023/2024

February 2024

Dear Parents & Carers,

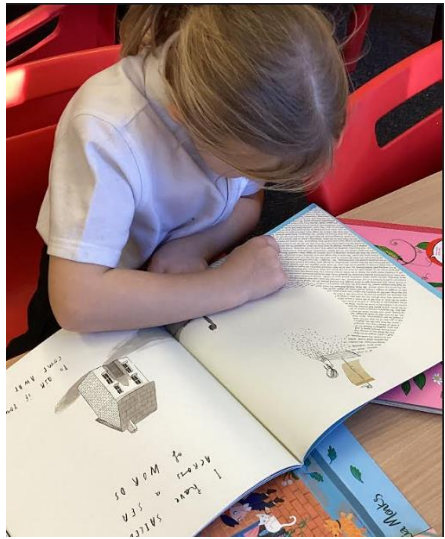
Here are some of the things we have enjoyed this half term:

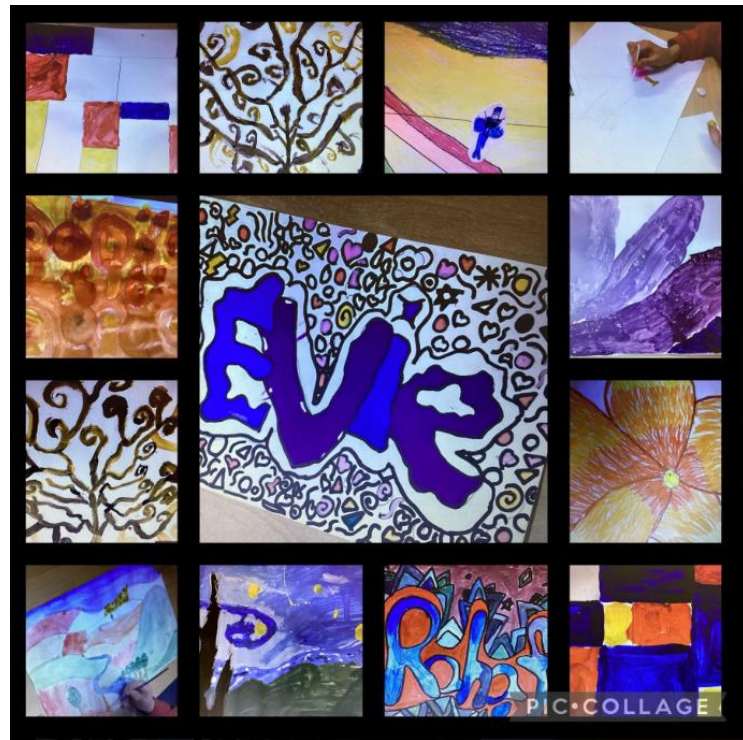
- Whole school Art week
- Children's Mental Health Week,
- Safer Internet Day,
- NSPCC Number Day,
- Year 5 and Year 6 Parent Workshop – building Anderson shelters,
- LKS2 workshop on fossils,
- KS1 workshop on toys,
- Nursery's Teddy Bear's Picnic,
- An assembly and workshop from UK Parliament for KS2,
- Boys Year 6 football tournament,
- Girls Year 6 football tournament,
- Year 3 and 4 World Sports Festival Competition,
- Celebrating Chinese New Year,
- All classes have received 50 new amazing books for their reading corners,
- Forest school sessions,
- Year 5 swimming lessons
- and Music lessons (optional).



**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**







We have set a Battle of the Bands competition on Times Table Rock Stars for the children to take part in over the half term holiday. This will see Year 3 and 4 (Lower Key Stage 2) compete against Year 5 and 6 (Upper Key Stage 2) to see who are the ultimate rock stars! The children can play for a maximum of 60 minutes per day, anything after this will not count towards their scores. The competition begins today (Friday 9.2.24) at 3:30pm and finishes Sunday 18th February at 5pm. The winner will be the Key Stage who have answered the most questions correctly and they will receive a special treat! Thank you for your support with your child's times tables. Good luck and let battle commence!



Staffing Update

Welcome to Ms Collinson and Mrs Rawson who join our lunchtime supervisor team.

Thank you for your continued support. Wishing you a restful half term.

Kind regards,

Mrs Wheatley

<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
Wednesday 21 st - Friday 23 rd February	Year 6 Residential visit to Robin Wood.
Tuesday 27 th February	Year 5 visit to Cannon Hall Farm for a WWII evacuee day in conjunction with Barnsley Museum.
21 st & 28 th February 6 th March	KS1 Family Numeracy Programme (see previous letter)
Tuesday 5 th and Wednesday 6 th March	Parent Consultations A letter will follow after half term. Appointments will be 3:30-6:00pm.
Thursday 7 th March	World Book Day (a letter to follow after half term with further details)
Friday 15 th March	Save the Date: <u>Parent & Carer Wellbeing Coffee Afternoon</u> Please arrive at 2:00pm for refreshments. The session will start at 2:15pm until 3:15pm. Information sharing session by our Future in Mind practitioner: Understanding and Managing Big Emotions
Thursday 21 st March	EYFS Parent Workshop 9:15am
Thursday 13 th June	Save the Date – NHCS Summer Fair 3:30pm

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.



Telephone: 01924 303680

admin@newton-hill.org.uk

www.newtonhill.wakefield.sch.uk

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 senior member of staff 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						
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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