

Newton Hill Community School Update - 2024/2025

September 2024

Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope you are well. Please find an update below and some additional dates for your diary.

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

We hope you have had a chance to read our Ofsted report from July 2024. We are delighted that Newton Hill Community School continues to be a good school. We have been implementing some of our existing and new leadership roles in school. We already have in place: Student Council representatives from each class, Class Buddies (Year 5/6 and Reception) and our 'Lunchtime helpers'. We look forward to reading the applications for Head Boy and Head Girl roles.



This week we have been taking part in Wakefield's 'Our Year - Moving Festival'. We have been trying to be as active as possible throughout the week trying different challenges!



Our photographer will be visiting school to take individual photographs on Tuesday 1st October.

On **Friday 18th October** we will be celebrating Show Racism the Red Card by asking everyone to Wear Red Day on Friday the 18th of October 2024. This day will be an optional non-uniform day. As our uniform is red, children may prefer to just wear their uniform to mark this occasion or their red jumper/cardigan with non-uniform.



School Field: As the weather is starting to change, we are limited to the time we have to use our school fields. Please can we ask that you do not cut across the grass at drop off and pick up as the grass and mud quickly spreads through school onto our floors and carpets. Thank you.

School Uniform

Thank you to everyone who follows our uniform expectations.

Please can we ask that all uniform/property is clearly labelled as we already have a large amount of lost property without names - this includes brand new jumpers, lunchboxes, coats etc.

The pre-loved uniform is always available - please contact the school office for further information or support through admin@newton-hill.org.uk. We have a range of uniform for all ages so please make use of the free uniform available - all requests will be dealt with confidentially.

PE Kits

On PE days children can continue to wear their PE kit to school all day. **Please note that the PE kit should be a plain white T-shirt, plain navy/black shorts and a plain navy/black tracksuit top, football tops/kits are not permitted.**

Packed Lunches

In line with our lunch box policy, only cold food can be brought to school. Hot food/liquids are not permitted. Please note that all unwanted food etc will come home in your child's lunchbox. This is to enable you to monitor the contents of your child's lunchbox.

Entry to School

Please note unless you have prior permission, please do not use the car park/main entrance for drop offs/pick up due to safeguarding. School doors are open at 8:50 and close at 9:00am. The gates remain open until 9:10am. If you use the main entrance, you will be required to complete a form and arrivals at the main entrance will be monitored. If you are using Newts, please do not use the car park at the front of school. Thank you for your cooperation.

Forms

There is a page on the school website under 'Parent Zone' which has useful forms and information.

Music Update

There has been a great response to our new music lessons in school. There are still some spaces available for *Get into Guitar* in Year 4, 5 and 6 if your child is interested.

Harvest

We will be celebrating Harvest in school during the week commencing 7th October. This year we would like to continue to donate food to the food bank at St Catherine's Church in Wakefield and we would also like to visit some of our local senior citizen residents with our older children and deliver a small harvest parcel. If you know a senior citizen who lives within the Newton Hill community (and who would like a door step visit from children at school) please could you pass their name and address to the school office through admin@newton-hill.org.uk or pass the details in a note to your child's class teacher. Thank you!

If you would like to donate any food for the food bank and/or our harvest parcel deliveries please send all donations to school by Friday 11th October. As the donations are for the food bank, please do not send any fresh food. All donations are welcome. Thank you.

Special Menu Day

This is a great opportunity for all children to try a school meal. All meals in Reception and KS1 are free. Please see poster below for more details.

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. For more information see the poster below regarding penalty notices. 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.

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, 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.



Adverse Weather

As we enter the Autumn term, please see below for our procedures for unplanned school closures and adverse weather.

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 due to adverse weather at the earliest opportunity and appreciate that this may be at short notice.

In the unlikely event of a school closure, for adverse weather or for reasons out of our control, we will contact you via Parent Hub. We may 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. 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.

Dates for your diary	Event
<i>Please note that dates for educational visits will be shared with you through directly through parent hub.</i>	
INSET Days 2024/2025 (School is closed on the following days).	Monday 2 nd September Friday 25 th October Friday 20 th December Friday 24 th January Thursday 8 th May (Polling Day)
Tuesday 1 st October	Individual school photographs
Tuesday 1 st October	West Yorkshire Poetry Week - we will have a Poet visit school to share poetry with the children.
Tuesday 8 th October	Reading Meeting for parents and carers in Reception Class 4:30-5:00pm. Further details will follow.
Thursday 3 rd October	Special Menu Day - see poster for more details. This is a great opportunity for all children to try a school meal. All meals in Reception and KS1 are free.
Week commencing 7 th October	We will be celebrating Harvest in school. If you would like to send a donation for the food bank, please send items to school on Friday 11 th October.
Monday 14 th October - Thursday 17 th October	Scholastic Book Fair
Parent Consultations	Tuesday 15 th October 3:30-6:00pm. Wednesday 16 th October 3:30-6:00pm. <i>*Please see the additional letter sent out 25.9.24. *Nursery have also received a different letter.</i>
Friday 18 th October	Show Racism the RED card. Optional non-uniform day/wear something red
Friday 24 th October	INSET day - school is closed
Week beginning Monday 11 th November	Anti-Bullying Week
Wednesday 13 th November	Open session 5:00-6:00pm for prospective parents for September 2025 Reception starters. Please contact the school office to book a place.

Wednesday 11 th December	Y3/4 Christmas Concert for parents/carers 2:30pm *Tickets will be allocated for each family
Thursday 12 th December	EYFS (Nursery & Reception) Christmas Song Medley for parents/carers at 9:15 *Tickets will be allocated for each family
Friday 13 th December	KS1 Christmas Show for parents at 9:30 *Tickets will be allocated for each family
Monday 16 th December	Y5/6 Christmas Sing-a-long with Parents & Carers at 2:45pm *This will be outside - weather permitting.
Friday 13 th December	Christmas Jumper Day - children can wear Christmas jumpers/outfits on this day. This is an optional non-uniform day. All donations will go to Save the Children.
Friday 20 th December	INSET Day - school is closed
Monday 6 th January	Term 1b - School Open

Please do not hesitate to contact school if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,
Mrs Wheatley

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- = Bank Holidays
- = School Holidays
- = There are currently no scheduled elections although schools are asked to consider reserving an INSET day in case of any unscheduled 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



PENALTY NOTICE FINES FOR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE ARE CHANGING!

With the introduction of the New National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following changes will come into force on 19th August 2024.

PENALTY NOTICES WILL BE ISSUED FOR

Term time leave: Penalty Notice Fines will be issued for Term Time Leave of 5 or more consecutive days

10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10 week period: A Penalty Notice may be considered/issued when a pupil has had 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10 week* period.

*School Week's

PER PARENT/PER CHILD

Penalty Notice Fines will continue to be issued per parent per child.

For example: 3 Siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines.

FIRST OFFENCE

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for a Term Time Holiday or Irregular School Attendance the Penalty Notice will be charged at:

£160 per parent, per child if paid within 28 days of issue, reducing to £80 if paid within 21 days**.

SECOND OFFENCE (within 3 years of the First Offence)

Where it is deemed appropriate to issue a second Penalty Notice to the same parent for the same pupil within 3 years of the first notice, the second Penalty Notice will be charged at:

£160 if paid within 28 days (no reduced fee for paying early).

(**Unpaid Penalty Notice's after 28 days may result in a parental prosecution)

THIRD OFFENCE (within 3 years of the First Offence)

On the third time that an offence is committed for either a Term Time Holiday and / or Irregular Attendance a Penalty Notice will not be issued, the case may proceed straight to Parental Prosecution under the Single Justice Procedure. If found guilty of the offence of 'Failure to send a child to school' the Magistrates can impose a fine up to £1000.