

North Walkden Primary School
Executive Headteacher's Newsletter
Autumn 2015



Introduction

After the summer break, it has been lovely to return to school and see how happy and refreshed the children look. For those parents/carers new to North Walkden I would like to take this opportunity of welcoming you and your children to our school. I am sure your child will soon feel very settled and happy here.

You should by now have received a Home/School topic letter from your child's teacher, introducing themselves and outlining work to be covered this half-term. These are also available on our school website. I hope you find these to be interesting, and useful when supporting your child with homework. After school "Meet the Teacher" meetings are to be held on the following dates;

- 9th September: Y3
- 10th September: Y4
- 11th September: Y2
- 14th September: Y5
- 15th September: Y6
- 24th September: Y1

The children are looking very smart in their uniforms, which have hopefully all been labelled. Staff will be checking sweatshirts in the next couple of weeks and writing names on the labels of any without a name. Please note that trainers are NOT allowed in school, the correct footwear is black shoes. The only bags needed in school are reading folders and PE bags. A small number of children have arrived in school with inappropriately shaved hairstyles. Please note that any "tramline" haircuts are not acceptable in school.

Health and Safety Issues

Please note that the only jewellery permitted are watches and stud earrings. Any children who come to school wearing hoop earrings, or any

other jewellery, will receive a letter to take home and be asked to take them out and keep them in their tray until home time. Also, children are not permitted to bring any toys to school, they will be provided with equipment and games for use at breaktimes.



Punctuality and Attendance

Please remember school starts at 8.55am. Last year there were a small number of families with children who were persistently absent or regularly late for school. Please note that all lateness is monitored by the Education Welfare Officer, Nicola Walsh and I. Persistent lateness or poor attendance could result in a fine.

Similarly, please ensure your child is collected on time. We have a clear policy on Safe Arrival and Collection of Children. This is available to read on the school website or on a paper copy on request from the office.

Should there be any matters of concern regarding your child you should first discuss these with the class teacher or teaching assistant, who will normally be able to resolve the concerns. They are the people who know your child best and who are aware of incidents that happen during the school day. Should you feel that your concerns have not been resolved, or if there is an urgent matter you need to discuss with me, I am happy to meet with you at a convenient time that can be arranged via the office.



School Meals

Again, this year, children in Reception Class, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free school meal. I would encourage you to take full advantage of this. For parents/carers choosing to provide a healthy packed lunch, please note that large chocolate bars (e.g.; Mars Bar) and sweets are not suitable items. A smaller chocolate biscuit such as a Club Biscuit is fine. A healthy drink e.g.; carton of fruit juice is fine.

All infant children are provided with a piece of free fruit every day, and all children in school have access to fresh water should they require it.

Staffing

We are delighted to welcome several new members of staff to North Walkden. Our new School Business Manager, Mrs Nolan, has now taken over the running of the school office. Sue Reeves, who has been the school clerk at our school for many years, left us at the end of August. I know you will all join me in thanking Sue for her many years of service to the families of North Walkden.

Miss Prince joins us as our new Year 5 teacher and we welcome Mrs Worsley, Miss Lord and Mrs Riding to our team of teaching assistants. Site Officer, Mr Thomas and all staff worked extremely hard during the summer to ensure school was ready for the children to start back. The Year 6 classroom was extended and, thanks to Mr Thomas and Mrs Morrison, was beautifully resourced and decorated. We now await the commencement of the building work at the school entrance.

Family Support Worker

Grace Thomas will be covering the maternity leave of Mrs Blemmings. Grace will be based at North Walkden on Mondays and Tuesdays, or can be contacted at St Andrew's on Wednesdays or Fridays. Families who worked with the FSW last year found her to be a very useful contact and a great source of information and support.

I am delighted to inform you that Mrs Blemmings had a lovely baby boy, Oscar, during the summer holiday. We look forward to seeing them soon.



Family Worship

Some of our classes will be leading assemblies this term and families are warmly invited to attend. All class assemblies start at 9am.

The classes and dates for this term are as follows:

23rd September: Y6

30th September: Y5

8th October: Y4 (Thursday)

14th October: Y3

21st October: Y2

Worship led by the younger children will be in the spring term.

Work With Families



Coffee Morning

We will be hosting a Macmillan Cake Sale on 25th September in the school hall to raise money for MacMillan Cancer Fund. The sale will be held at the end of the school day at 3.20pm.



Harvest

The annual school Harvest Celebration will be held in St John's Church on the morning of 23rd September at 9.15am. The children will lead the celebration, and families are warmly invited to join us.

For our Harvest effort we are asking for donations of non-perishable foods e.g.: tins, packets and bottles. Once again, we are donating all the food collected to the Life Share Charity. I am sure you will agree this is a worthy cause and find it satisfying to know that our donations will go directly to people who need them. Donations can be sent in from 21st September.

News from the School Council

The children have been electing their new representatives on the school council. We are hoping the new School Council will be instrumental in the development of a new Quiet Garden at the back of school. We are also keen to gain their perspective on behaviour and addressing the issue of bullying.

School Photographs

The photographer will be in school on 7th October to take individual and family photographs.

Parent/Pupil Consultations

These will be held on 25th November from 3.30-6.30pm. Your child's teacher will be able to report on how your child has settled into their new

class and the progress they are making. You will receive an appointment with the teacher nearer to the time and we request that you make every effort to attend, as it is so important that we work together and find out how best to help your child. We ask that all pupils from Y2 -Y6 accompany their parents/carers to the appointment to discuss their progress and future targets.



Music Tuition

Miss Bosnjak's (Y4) class will have instrumental tuition each Thursday morning. Pupils should ensure that they have their instruments in school on the allotted days.

Diary Dates

21st September: Reception phonics/reading meeting for parents/carers

25th September: MacMillan Cake Sale at 3.20pm

1st October: Y4 class to visit St John's for "Experience Harvest."

7th October: School Photographer/Individual photos

12th October: Poetry Week

13th October: KS1 Family Learning Workshop

23rd October: Break Up for Half Term

25th November: Y6 visit to Crucial Crew

25th November: Parent/Pupil Consultations



Extra Curricular Activities

As was the case last year, the clubs available will vary each term. Individual staff will send out details of any clubs they plan to run. Could you please take careful note of the finishing time of the club and ensure your child is collected on time.

Consent Forms

Mrs Nolan will be sending out data collection sheets for each child containing important details and contact numbers. It is very important that you ensure your contact details are up to date in case we need to contact you in an emergency and return to school as soon as possible.

Finally

I hope you have found this newsletter to be interesting and informative. I look forward to working closely with you and your children over the coming school year.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs A Smith
Executive Headteacher