

North Walkden Primary School
Headteacher's Newsletter
Autumn 2016



Welcome back!

I am delighted to be writing my first newsletter as acting Headteacher! 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.

Happy Birthday North Walkden!

North Walkden Primary is celebrating a very special birthday this year! Our school is 90 years old! Later in the term we will be having a local history week and will be finding out what life was like in our school all those years ago. We will be keen to hear stories from anybody in the community who came to our school, so if you know anybody who will be willing to share their experience, then please do let us know!

School Website

Over the summer we have updated our school website, which is now live. This is a new, improved and interactive website and the staff are looking forward to sharing this with the children. All relevant policies, newsletters, diary dates, class information and updates can be viewed on our website so please do get into the habit of checking the website for information. We are an eco-friendly school and it is our aim to go paperless eventually. However, parents without access to the internet can opt in to still receive letters in paper form.

You should by now have received a Home/School topic letter and welcome letter from your child's teacher, introducing themselves and outlining work to be covered this half-term. These will be 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;

8th September: Year 1 and 2
12th September: Year 4 and 6
13th September Year 3
15th September: Y5

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. Staff will also be doing regular uniform checks to ensure all uniform is in line with the schools uniform policy.

The full policy can be viewed on our school website

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.

Health and Safety Issues

Please note that the only jewellery permitted are plain 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. Nail varnish and false nails are NOT to be worn at school. 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 was 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, Nick Townley and I. Persistent lateness or poor attendance could result in a fine.

Please adhere to school policy when reporting absences.

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.

However, if you are in receipt of financial support it is vital that you still claim your free school meal entitlement to ensure school receives the correct funding . Should you wish to check your entitlement, please contact 0161 909 6508.

For parents/carers choosing to provide a packed lunch, at North Walkden we actively encourage healthy eating and therefore certain foods and drinks are not allowed. The list of suggested items and 'banned' items can be viewed on our website.

All infant children are provided with a piece of free fruit every day, and we actively encourage all junior children to bring a piece of fruit to eat at playtime. All children in school have access to fresh water should they require it.

Building work.

I am very pleased to say that our new school office and entrance is finally finished and what a fantastic entrance to school this is! Both Mr Thomas and Mrs Nolan have worked extremely hard over the summer to ensure that school was up and running in September.

Mrs Gardner has been working very hard to develop our EYFS quad, which is looking fantastic and has really maximised the learning space for our children.

Staffing

We are delighted to welcome several new members of staff to North Walkden.

We have two new teachers; Miss Kelbie is our new nursery teacher and Miss Bradley will be teaching year 3 this year.

In our EYFS we have 2 new teaching assistants, Miss Berry and Miss McCrae, both of whom will be a wonderful asset to the team.

In Key Stage 1 and 2 we are delighted to welcome Mrs Brownley and Miss Dunraven, who are joining our team of fantastic teaching assistants.

Mrs Riding and Mr Claig are joining us this year as trainee teachers and will be teaching in Reception and Year 2, working closely alongside Mrs Gardener and Miss Briggs.

Family Support Worker

We are delighted to welcome back Mrs Blemmings after her maternity leave. Mrs Blemmings will be on site at North Walkden every day. Families who worked with the FSW last year found her to be a very useful contact and a great source of information and support.

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:

21st September: Y6

28th September: Y5

12th October: Y2

19th October: Y1

9th November: Y4

16th November Y3

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

Coffee Morning

We will be hosting a Macmillan coffee morning on 30th September, and on the same day, will be holding a cake sale after school at 3.20pm to raise money for MacMillan Cancer Fund. Further details will be sent nearer the time.



Harvest

The annual school Harvest Celebration will be held in St John's Church on the morning of 29th September at 9.30am. 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 to donate to a worthwhile charity.

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 new initiatives in school. We are also keen to gain their perspective on behaviour and addressing the issue of bullying and keeping safe.

School Photographs

The photographer will be in school on 5th October to take individual and family photographs.

Parent/Pupil Consultations

These will be held on 23rd 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.

Important Diary Dates

Please note, from time to time some of the dates may have to change due to unforeseen circumstances. In such cases, you will be given as much notice as possible.

I am sure there will be lots of other events coming up too!

Class assemblies	See above
Meet the teacher	See above
29 th September 9.30am	Harvest celebration in Church.
30 th September 9am	Mc Millan coffee morning
30 th September 3.20pm	Mc Millan cake sale
5 th October	Individual and family photos
6 th October	Y4 to visit Church for a 'Harvest Experience'
6 th October	NSPCC event at school
6 th October 3.20pm	Key Stage 1 reading and phonics meeting.
10 th October 9am	EYFS come and play day.
13 th October 3.20pm	KS2 maths meeting for parents.
13 th October	Sponsored event for NSPCC
14 th October am	'No Pens' day
14 th October pm	Enrichment Day
19 th October 5.30pm	KS2 Halloween Disco
21 st October	Non Uniform Day for £1
21 st October	Break up for half term
31 st October	School re opens 8.55am
8 th November	KS1 Family learning workshop
23 rd November	Parent's evening
25 th November	Year 6 visiting crucial crew
7 th December 2PM	Nursery nativity for parents
12 th December	KS2 Christmas movie night
13 th December	KS2 trip to the Octagon Theatre
13 th December 2pm	KS1 Christmas play for parents
14 th December	Christmas dinner
14 th December 6pm	KS1 Christmas play for parents
19 th December 2pm	Ks2 carol service in school
19 th December 3.30pm	KS1 supper with Santa
20 th December	Break Up for Christmas

**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 has sent 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.

Kind Regards,
Mrs H Warburton
Acting Headteacher