

North Walkden Primary School

Spring Term 2017



Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New year to you all! I hope you all had a lovely Christmas break. All the children have returned to school safe and sound and are ready for another term of learning. Let's hope this cold weather doesn't continue for much longer and we see signs of Spring very soon!

Staffing

We are pleased to welcome Mrs Richardson, our new deputy head teacher, to North Walkden. She has had a very busy, but welcoming first week! In addition, I would like to welcome Miss Gorvette, who is our new teaching assistant in Years 1 and 3. Miss Sharrat, our office clerk has returned to work after her maternity leave.

Winter weather protocol

In the event of extreme weather over the winter months, schools will keep parents informed via text. You will find our extreme weather protocol on the website so please refer to this should you require any further information

Diary Dates,

We have another jam packed term ahead of us with lots going on. Attached to this letter are the diary dates for the Spring term. On occasions, dates may change and new events may be added on so please make sure you check your child's bag on a daily basis for letters etc. Mrs Nolan may also advise parents of any changes via the text messaging service or on the website so check these regularly.

Telephone numbers

Please advise the office straight away if any contact details change. There have been occasions recently where we have needed to contact a parent but have been unable to do so as the mobile number had changed.

Dinner Money

Please ensure you pay all dinner monies every Monday to avoid getting into arrears. The office staff are very busy and have very little time during

the rest of the week to chase up outstanding dinner money. All dinner money should be labelled clearly with your child's name, class and amount sent in.

Parking

PLEASE DO NOT PARK on Whittle Drive during morning drop off and afternoon collections as this compromises the safety of all children and adults walking into school.

Happy Birthday North Walkden

This academic year marks 90 years since North Walkden was opened so our school sure is very old! Week commencing 23rd January we will be celebrated this occasion in school. Classes will undertake some historical studies about the history of North Walkden and there will be a special 1920's tea party and dressing up day on the Friday. Miss Bosnjak, our History leader, will send out further information and requests soon .

Class Newsletter

You should have received a newsletter from your child's class teacher, highlighting what is being covered in class this half term. Please support your child's learning at home by ensuring all homework is completed on time as well as encouraging your child to read, learn tables and undertake research tasks on any topics they are learning.

School Improvements.

As a school, we are continually striving to improve all areas of teaching and learning to make North Walkden the best it possibly can be so that all children can achieve their very best and make good progress. During the first term of my headship, I spent much of time monitoring teaching and learning throughout school to ascertain how we could improve further.

The remainder of the academic year will see gradual changes taking place, which children, staff and parents will be kept fully informed about. This term, we are having a huge focus on ensuring presentation of all books is of an exemplary standard across school. The children are fully aware of these high expectations and are working really hard on the changes! I can already see an impact this is having in some of the books I have seen.

Also this term, we are focussing on the teaching of English across school, particularly writing, spelling and grammar. Teachers will be planning

cycles of 'writing journeys', where the children will develop writing and language skills, sentence structure, spelling and grammar over a sequence of carefully planned lessons, building up to a piece of high quality writing. Proof reading and editing their work will also be a big focus.

There will also be a lot more opportunities for all children to write in Science, History, Geography, PSHE and RE.

Later in the term, we will be implementing a new marking policy, which will be introduced carefully to the children.

Celebration of learning

So that we can continue to involve you with your child's learning and progress, we have decided to invite parents into school at the end of every half term so that you can look at your child's topic work and other books and celebrate their work with us. There are specific dates for these which are included on the diary dates.

These drop in sessions will run from 3.20 until 4pm. We would like to see as many parents as possible celebrating learning!

PSHE

At North Walkden, we see the need to have weekly discreet PSHE lessons, focussing on a variety of themes and topics to meet the needs of children. Some of the themes are around relationships with others. Each half term there will be a common theme for all classes to follow. Miss Briggs, our PSHE lead, will write to parents at the start of every half term, providing you with a more detailed outline of the content and language which may be taught/used in some of the lessons. Should you wish to have any further information about your child's PSHE lessons, then please don't hesitate to contact either your child's teacher or Miss Briggs.

Thank you

Finally, I would just like to say a very big thank you to each and every one of the hard working staff here at North Walkden. I see a lot of 'behind the scenes' here at school and I know that everybody works tirelessly to

provide the best education for your children. The care and pastoral support they offer to ensure your children are safe and happy is excellent. The children are lucky to have such skilled, caring and dedicated staff.

Also thank you to parents, carers and families for your continued support and co-operation.

Together we are 'Team North Walkden!'

Yours faithfully

Mrs. H Warburton
Head teacher