



Dear Parents,

These weeks are flying by, I can't believe that we are at the end of week four already! As we are in Autumn now, it would be a good idea to ensure your child has a cardigan or jumper and then a coat too for those colder mornings or wetter breaktimes.

We are really excited about Newby Leisure starting work on the play ship for KS1/Reception children and on upgrading the Sensory Garden in the coming fortnight. The company have worked in our school before and installed the very popular tunnel a few years ago, they are very safety conscious but also very good at chatting to the children through the fence about what they are doing!

Attendance

School attendance over the last couple of years has taken a dive nationally due to the Covid issues. This has now become high profile again as we attempt to get back to some sort of 'normal'. Over the year 2021/22 our whole school attendance was 91.8%, slightly below the national figure of 92.8. More concerning however, is the number of pupils who count as 'persistently absent' these are pupils missing 10% or more of their school time. We had 16.5% of pupils who count as persistently absent with some year groups a particular concern. In the current Year 6, there were 40% of pupils who count in this category, with the current Year 3s also significantly higher than expected. I know that in many cases, children have medical needs with associated appointments or have had Covid or sickness and this cannot be avoided. However, please be aware that we will be monitoring attendance very carefully over this year and will be sending letters where attendance is a concern. Term time holidays or other unauthorised absences will continue to generate a Fixed Penalty Notice. Please note that this will incur a cost of £60 per child and per parent so can become very costly. School does not authorise term time holidays. I know that this can be difficult in the current economic climate where we are all trying to save money and the holiday companies continue to offer cheaper prices during term time.

Going home arrangements

If there are any last-minute changes to any pick-up arrangements, we must know as far in advance as possible. An email or call to the office to inform us of the changes and who will be collecting your child prior to the end of the day is vital to ensure the end of the day goes as smoothly as it can for all.

We realise that as children move through Key Stage Two the opportunity to walk home can sometimes become more common. We will not release any children to walk home alone without confirmation from a carer or parent. The office staff sent out a parent mail last week asking for you to fill out the form in order to state if and when your child can walk home on their own. Please can this be filled out and returned as soon as possible if you would like them to do this.

Dates:

October

7th- Change for Life Transition- Year 3

10th - Parents' evening appointments released

14th- Year 5/6 girls football tournament

18th - Harvest Service St Helen's

18th - Parents' evening early

19th - Flu Vaccinations

20th - Parents' evening late

21st- Treat Sale (PTA)

21st - End of term

November

4th- PTA AGM

7th- NQ Media photos



Singing Lessons

Last Tuesday, Charlotte; a singing teacher came in to talk to the children about starting up singing lessons, the children took part in some warm up games and enjoyed singing together. If your child would like to take up singing lessons; even if you have previously expressed interest to Mrs Bedford, then please email enquiries.

Spare Pants

If your child has grown out of their old pants (ages 4 upwards) and they are in good condition; please could you bring them to the office so they can be stored in Polar Bear's classroom.

Class Learning

On Wednesday, the Polar Bears took a walk around the village so they could locate some of the key landmarks in the village. When they returned to school, they then plotted the key points on a map. These places included the fire station and the church.

In Forest School this week, the Leopards have been learning how to filter dirty water into clean water. It took some trial and error but they were so proud once they had finally done it.

White Tigers spent Friday afternoon testing out their incredible volcanoes that they made for their homework. It was great to see such excitement and amazement on their faces. They have also written some beautiful descriptions about Pompeii.

This week, the Pandas have written up their final copy of their non-chronological report. They have spent four weeks researching the welfare of the workers, the environmental impact and the process cotton goes through in order to make a t-shirt.



Parents' Evening appointments

Appointments for parents' evening will be released on 10th October via Parent Mail. You will then be asked book a slot to see your child's teacher. Each slot will be 5 minutes long and a chance to talk about how your child has settled in and their progress so far. Parents' evening will take place on Tuesday 18th October as a face to face appointment and Thursday 20th October will be via Zoom.

Harvest Service

A date for your diary: Our Harvest Service will take place at Saint Helen's Church on Tuesday 18th October at 9:15. Parents are welcome to join us.

Celebration Worship

Learning

Elsie, Annabel and Emily from Leopards shared their learning about how chocolate is made. They had ordered the steps and matched the pictures to the description.

In Pandas, Esme and Ava BW shared their sewing. They now have knowledge of what a running stitch and a gathering technique is. Molly and Henry D shared their non-chronological reports on how t-shirts are manufactured.

White Tigers also shared their homework project; volcanoes and talked about how they made them and the science behind making them erupt.



Awards

Tobin was awarded this week's learning award in Polar Bears for how well he has settled into school, always being positive, hardworking and making Mrs Curtis smile. Christie also gained his award for the huge smile he had on his face on the first day of school and every other day since; he is also trying his hardest to be a great role model.

In White Tigers, William received an award for showing such a great attitude to his learning, working hard, putting his hand up, showing Miss McLachlan he is listening and doing his best to reach his targets.

This week's out of school awards

- Sophie took part in a sailing treasure hunt
- Ebony gained first place in a gymnastics competition
- Elsie gained a second place in a gymnastics competition
- Martha gained a 4th, 5th and 6th place in a show jumping competition
- Hattie gained 2nd in a show jumping competition
- Alex earned his silver Scout award

Future weeks will be as follows for Celebration Worship:

Week:	Showing work:	Awards:
7/10/22	Polar Bears and White Tigers	Pandas and Leopards
14/10/22	Pandas and Leopards	Polar Bears and White Tigers
21/10/22	Polar Bears and White Tigers	Pandas and Leopards