



# Wallsend Jubilee Primary School Newsletter - Autumn Term 2021

DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATES: [www.wallsendjubileeps.org.uk](http://www.wallsendjubileeps.org.uk)



## Head Teacher's Blog

First of all I would like to welcome you back to a new school year and inform you of how well your children have settled down to work. It has been a very strange time in school over the last two years, however I am hoping that this year will begin to resemble something like normality. In my previous correspondence you were informed that many of the restrictions in schools have now been stood down, however a detailed risk assessment and outbreak management plan have been produced to guide us should we need to introduce restrictions back into school life. We will still be washing our hands more regularly and ensuring all spaces in school are well ventilated. Thank you for continuing to support us when you access the school site with your efforts to socially distance. Face masks are now a choice, so please understand that some of my staff may choose to wear a face mask when talking to you.

Many of the children have been asking when assemblies, after school clubs and other activities are going to start. We are busy developing a plan for the careful reintroduction of these activities and you will receive further correspondence on this in the coming weeks.

Uniform is looking great and I hope that enabling the children to wear PE uniform on some days helps you as much as it helps us. Could I remind you that PE kit should be blue or black joggers/hoody/sweatshirt, a white T shirt and trainers. Please ensure that school uniform shoes/trainers are all black & earrings (small studs only) should be taped up daily. Once the 6 week healing period is up, they should be removed for school altogether.

## School Library Plans

Our new school Library is now finished & we are delighted with the finished product. We are busy planning how we all can use it to enjoy reading for pleasure. Look out for more information coming soon.



## Attendance

Over the last academic year, we have all worked very hard to ensure that the children have good attendance. Mrs Bryson takes the lead on this very important issue and has worked in conjunction with yourselves and the children to ensure good attendance remains a high priority. Obviously over the last two years, attendance policies have had to be very flexible to account for Covid. Now that we are in back in school with less restrictions, I am taking this chance to refine our attendance procedures & you will soon receive a letter on Parentmail outlining the changes. May I remind you that our school target is the same as the national target for attendance which is 96% and above, & to achieve this target, children need to be in school, & learning as much as possible. Finally I would urge all parents & carers to ensure that their child is in school for the start of the day. Recently we have had a significant increase in the amount of children arriving into school late. Doors open at 8.55am and close at 9.00am. Any child who is after that time will access school through the main office, and be marked as late.



## Operation Encompass

I would just like to remind all parents and carers we are an Operation Encompass school. The purpose of Operation Encompass is to safeguard and support children and young people who have been involved in an incident of domestic abuse. Following an incident at home, children will often arrive at school distressed, upset and unprepared for the day.

North Tyneside Council's Children's Services, Northumbria Police and nominated Key Adults in school work together, to make sure that school staff are made aware of an incident early enough to support pupils in school. Schools across North Tyneside have nominated two members of staff who are known as Key Adults, all of whom attend training specific to the role.

Each morning a police officer reviews all domestic abuse incidents that occur outside of school but which might have an impact on a child attending school the following day. Where children were either present, witnessed or were involved in a domestic abuse incident, and are aged between 4 & 16 years old, police officer sends this information to Children's Social Care Front Door Service. Staff from the Front Door Service send this information, in a secure format, to the identified Key Adult. The Key Adult checks their emails every day and the staff in contact with those pupils will then be in an informed position to support them in the correct manner. This information will be shared on school days during school term and, when incidents occur on a Friday, Saturday, Sunday or over a holiday period, the police will contact the Front Door the following Monday, who will then inform school.

## Operation Encompass

Supporting children through key adults

## Availability of Staff

As you are aware you are all now able to come back onto the yard to drop off your children from 8.45am. Please be aware that school staff will also be outside to answer any questions or queries you have. If the staff member feels that your query needs to be discussed in greater detail, they will organise a meeting after school. Thank you.



### Covid Guidance—update

Parents and carers are reminded that lateral flow tests are **not** recommended for pupils in the primary age range.

Current guidance states:

#### Who needs to isolate?

Anyone with COVID-19 symptoms or a positive test result should stay at home and self-isolate immediately. If you have symptoms of COVID-19, you should arrange to have a PCR test as soon as possible. This still applies even if you have received one or more doses of COVID-19 vaccine.

#### Close contacts

Identified close contacts including household contacts are **not** required to self isolate if any of the following apply.

- They are fully vaccinated
- They are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
- They have taken part in, or are currently part of, an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- They are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

You are encouraged to seek a PCR test but **DO NOT** have to isolate while you wait for the results

Close contacts who **DO NOT** meet the above criteria **must self isolate for 10 days** even if their PCR test is negative

#### If you have already had COVID-19

Individuals should not arrange to have a PCR test if they have previously received a positive PCR test result in the last 90 days, unless they develop any new symptoms of COVID-19

### Parentmail



As part of our whole school commitment to better communication with parents & carers we introduced Parentmail last year. Can you please ensure that you can access this via your smart phone or other digital device? To do this you have to provide school with a working email address that you use on a daily basis. As the year moves forward it is my intention to support my commitment to using less paper, & therefore the majority of correspondence from school will be via this platform. If you need any help please do not hesitate to see Mrs Hayes or Mrs Willis in the office who will be happy to help.

### School Meals

We have been working hard with Catering Services to revamp the school meals they are providing our children to make them more inviting and enticing for young people, and we have now agreed a new 3 week cycle of menus especially developed for our school. These menus are now in operation and you can access these on our school website.



Could I encourage you to look at the menu and talk about school dinners with your child? We have worked hard to choose more child-friendly dishes, whilst maintaining the healthy balance of the ingredients. It would be great to get more children back to accessing school dinners as there has been a significant reduction in numbers throughout the pandemic and Covid restrictions.

Parents/Carers of Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils are reminded that meals are free under the universal infant free school meals initiative. **All** pupils in these year groups **MUST** register, even if they prefer to have a packed lunch. The link is :

<https://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/category/238/free-school-meals> or register by calling 0191 6432288.

You only need to do this once, not every year.

If you have not done this yet for your Reception, Y1 or Y2 child, please do this as soon as possible.

### School Holiday and Training Days

In any one school year, we have a set number of teaching days, holidays and training days. This academic year we have five training days which will take place in term times.

Our first four training days have now been booked & they are:

**Wednesday 1st September 2021 - Completed**

**Tuesday 4th and Wednesday 5th January 2022**

**Thursday 21st July 2022**

One of our training days has yet to be confirmed as this day will be a whole staff training refresher on Read Write Inc and we are awaiting confirmation of this date. I will forward this to you as soon as I know.

You may not be aware there is also discussions concerning an extra bank holiday this year to celebrate the Queen's seventy year reign. Again this has not been clarified and I am awaiting further instructions. As soon as we know we will inform you of this. I hope this enables you to plan your child care and family time in advance. I have attached a full breakdown of the school holidays on the school's website.

### Science Award



Miss Robson has been working tirelessly in Science to raise its profile & give children rich opportunities in scientific investigations.

I am delighted to announce that the school has been awarded the 'Primary Science Quality Mark' in recognition of excellent science teaching and learning. & I would like to take this opportunity to thank Miss Robson for her dedication and hard work in achieving this award.

### Parents' Evenings

Look out for our parents' evenings information coming to you very soon. Parents' evenings will take place on 19th & 20th October. We intend to offer a socially distanced, face to face meeting with teaching staff in school.

