



High Peak Federation



Executive Head Teacher – Mr Ashley Parry

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4.9.19

Dear Parent,

Welcome back to another year at Newtown. A special welcome is extended to our new children and families and we look forward to getting to know you. We have lots of fantastic learning opportunities planned for the year and we hope the children will quickly get excited about their new topics. Class teachers will be sending out newsletters in the next few days too. Please read on for some useful information / reminders about the year ahead...

Contacting school

We will always endeavour to answer any questions you may have as quickly as possible. We try to be an accessible school, but would ask parents to:

Contact the school office / email to arrange appointments with school staff.

Only phone the school office during the day when absolutely necessary, so Miss Tinker can manage her workload effectively.

Try to avoid discussions with teaching staff prior to the start of the school day, as they are busy getting the learning organised for the children.

Swimming

Our new swimming program starts on **Wednesday 25th September for Class Two children (plus others who have not met National Curriculum expectations)**. Please make sure your child has suitable swimming kit every Wednesday.

PE Lessons

Please have all PE kit in school as soon as possible please, as lessons will start shortly.

School Uniform

Please mark **ALL** school uniform with your child's name and ensure children have appropriate black school shoes. There will be a range of lost property school uniform after school on Friday in the hall – please feel welcome to find it a home.

School Dinners

All KS1 children receive a free school meal of their choosing. KS2 School meals cost **£2.10** per day (£10.50/week) and needs paying IN ADVANCE either on-line (School Money) or cash / cheque (payable to



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DCC) to the school office. Please label any envelopes with your child's name. If you wish to pay up until October half term the total is £77.70. To be eligible for free school meals you must be in receipt of Income Support or Income based Jobseeker's Allowance or Child Tax Credit (with an annual income of less than £16,190). Those claiming Working Tax Credit are not eligible. Please contact the school office if you need support or advice as you feel this may apply to you.

The School Day

Please ensure children are arriving at school promptly for an 9am registration, but not arriving on the playground prior to 8.40am. Please do not use the staff car park for pick ups and drop offs.

Safeguarding Issues

If as a parent you have any safeguarding concerns about your own child, or another, please contact Head teacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) Ashley Parry or Assistant Head teacher and Deputy Designated Safeguarding lead (DDSL) Rita Belli.

Sports Team Kit

We have PE kit for all the children for when they are representing the school in PE competitions and festivals. It is important that it is returned clean and promptly in time for future events. Parents of children taking part in PE events will be sent a TEXT the week before.

Permissions

We organise lots of activities for the children and sometimes need permissions returned to school. It is vital that these permissions are returned promptly with accurate drop-off / pick-up arrangements highlighted. Last year, too much time was taken up for staff in providing replacement letters, chasing permissions and dealing with changes to the information recorded on the permissions. Next week there will a couple of really important permission letters (consent for out of school activities / use of social media) – it would be really helpful if these were returned promptly.

After School Clubs

A letter for Peak Active Sports (PAS) Club will be sent next Monday – the club starts on Monday 16th September.

Medical

Please make sure children with asthma have 'in date' inhalers at school.

Helping out in School

We have a number of adults who volunteer to support the school each week. Please let us know if this is something you would like to get involved with.

Term-time Absence Requests

Our Governing body, along with all other New Mills PEGs schools, have a joint policy which states that NO TERM TIME ABSENCE will be authorised apart from 'exceptional circumstances' in line with statutory guidance. In the meantime we are expected to maintain a minimum of 95% attendance. DCC fines EACH parent £60 per child for any unauthorised holidays.

For sickness absence parents are expected to call the school on the first day of any sickness absence and daily thereafter. A written note of explanation is required on return, as well as a Doctor's note for more serious identified/notifiable illnesses. Guidance on Infection control in Schools recommends that children be kept away from school for 48 hrs from the last episode of vomiting or diarrhoea.



Text messages

Most of our messages will be sent out using our Text Messaging Service – please ensure we have an up to date Mobile number so all messages are received.

Diary Dates

We complete these a term in advance and these can be found on the school website. Any changes are updated on the website prior to the event. They are also available by the School APP – the calendar lets you all know what is happening.

RESPECT Curriculum

As outlined previously, we will be introducing a new curriculum initiative from September 2019. Topics will be based around missions and inspirational people from the past and present. You will get to hear more as the term progresses.

Toddbrook Reservoir

A message from Derbyshire County Council:

“We are aware that some of our pupils will have been directly or indirectly affected by the difficult situation regarding the threat to the dam wall at Toddbrook Reservoir over the summer. All of our staff are looking forward to welcoming new and current pupils back to school at the start of the new term. If you have any concerns about your child’s wellbeing in relation to those events the first point of contact is Mr Parry and he will be available to discuss any concerns. We are confident that the start of the new term and the return to school will be a positive event for all of our pupils and look forward to welcoming everyone back into the school community in September.”

INSET and Holidays 2018/19

The 2019/20 term dates have been on the website for several months and are as follows:

- 4 September 2019 to 24 October 2019 (37 days)
- 4 November 2019 to 19 December 2019 (34 days)
- 6 January 2020 to 14 February 2020 (30 days)
- 24 February 2020 to 3 April 2020 (30 days)
- 20 April 2020 to 22 May 2020 (24 days)
- 1 June 2020 to 17 July 2020 (35 days)
- INSET DAYS (3 September, 25 October, 20 December, 20 July and 21 July)

- 8 May 2020 (VE Day)

2020/2021 First day of term will be 3.9.20

Many Thanks,

Mr Parry and the Newtown team





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