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Newsletter No. 1 ~ September 2016

This newsletter is an important link between school and home. I hope you will find it useful as it gives news of forthcoming events and a list of dates for your diary.

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome:

A very warm welcome to all of our parents and carers. The staff and I hope that you had a lovely summer holiday. We would like to extend an especially warm welcome to all of our new starters and their families. Our theme this term is 'Starting with a Sculpture'! We will be launching our topic with a whole school trip next Thursday - More details to follow! We will also be inviting you to share our learning at the end of half term when we have our very own South Otterington School Sculpture Park. We have lots of exciting events planned for this term, and are very much looking forward to working in partnership with you.

"Meet the Staff"

You are warmly invited to 'Meet the Staff'. We will also be launching our exciting new learning resource 'Purple Mash'. Please join us from 3.30 - 4 p.m. in the hall on Wednesday 14th September 2016. You're more than welcome to have a look around the classrooms too!

Friends:

The school is extremely fortunate to have a particularly active and supportive fund raising and social group known as "The Friends". Every parent is automatically a member and we hope that you will join in with the varied programme of activities. You are warmly invited to join us for coffee and cake from 3.30 p.m., on Friday 23rd September for the AGM in the school hall.

Peripatetic Music Tuition:

If you have a child in KS2 who would like to be taught how to play an instrument please contact the school office for an application form. Alternatively you can now book lessons online at www.northyorkshireremusicclub.co.uk. The scheme is run by NYCC County Music Service (01609 532783). At present we have the following tuition available in school:-

Strings, keyboard, woodwind, brass, drums and guitar.
Please note music lessons commence week beginning 12th September.

Dinner Money:

The cost of a school dinner remains at £2.20 per day or £11 per week. Please pay for KS2 children on the Gateway.

Do note: We can cater for special diets - e.g. vegetarian, dairy free etc. Please discuss your needs with the office.

Nut Allergy:

Nuts, particularly peanuts, can cause serious allergic reactions in some children. Please do not send them as part of a snack or packed lunch. Thank you.

Breaktime Snacks:

As part of our Healthy School Initiative, we would be grateful if morning break time snacks can be restricted to a small amount of healthy food, i.e. a piece of fruit and a drink of water. The children in Orange and Yellow Classes are provided with a piece of fruit or vegetable at break time so there is no need to provide any snacks from home.

Water Bottles:

We encourage the children to drink plenty of water during the day. Please provide a named water bottle for your child. Water bottles are available from the school office at £2. If you would like to purchase one please pay on the gateway and collect from the office.

Important - Keeping School Informed:

If any of your children's details change in a way that may affect how we contact parents/carers i.e. address or telephone numbers, do let Kelley or Claire have your new information to help keep our records up to date. It is especially important that our medical records are accurate. Please keep us informed of any changes. We will shortly be sending out a Data Capture sheet for you to check and return to school.

School Gateway: <https://login.schoolgateway.com/>

Please have a go at accessing the gateway. You will receive a text when you may access the system.



Please ask if you would like us to provide written information in a more helpful language or format e.g. large print.

Playground Supervision:

Please note that the school grounds are not supervised before or after school and ball games are not permitted at these times for safety reasons. Teachers will be in the gated area to welcome children from 8.45 a.m. Once children are collected from the staff at the gate after school, it is then the responsibility of parents and carers to ensure their safety. We also ask that school grounds and property are respected and that the children's safety is taken into account.

Parking:

We are aware that there is limited parking available near the school. Please try to park considerately. Parking is not permitted on the school drive as this blocks access for the school bus. Also, please remember that the Road Safety Officer has deemed the drive unsafe for children using bikes or scooters. They are to dismount and use the pedestrian entrance.

Swimming:

This term all Year 3 pupils will have swimming lessons at Thirsk on Tuesdays from 10 - 10.30 a.m. The first session will be on Tuesday 13th September. The children will receive a separate letter with further information. Please contact Kelley or Claire in the school office if you are able to accompany the swimming trip. Note: Some children from higher years who have not yet met the National Curriculum requirements for swimming will also be required to attend.

Helpers in School:

We love having visitors in school! If you would like to help, either in the classrooms or with other school activities, please contact Kelley or Claire in the office. Parents, Grandparents and friends welcome!

Leave of Absence:

If your children require leave of absence for medical appointments or exams please send in a short note or e-mail to school.

Holidays in term time

Due to changes in the law, holidays in term time are now only granted in "exceptional circumstances". Please do not book a holiday in term time without consulting the guidance on our website. Application forms are available on the website or from the office. A list of term dates is on the website for your information.

Uniform:

As you are sorting out the children's cupboards for the autumn, and you have any used school uniform in good condition, Mrs Peacock would be pleased for contributions to our second hand uniform stall. Please send it into school for her attention.

PE:

Please remember that in order to meet North Yorkshire Healthy and Safety guidelines, children are not permitted to wear earrings for PE. This includes swimming.

Collective Worship

We are proud to be a church school and you are warmly invited to join us for daily collective worship from 3-3.20pm; especially on a Wednesday when we have guest speakers.

Information for Year 5/6 Parents:

The dates for local secondary school open evenings are below. These apply to parents and children in Years 5 & 6. For further information please contact the secondary school directly:

Thirsk School - 21st September at 5pm.

Allertonshire School - 26th September at 6pm.

Message about absent children:

Please ensure that you telephone school before 9.10 a.m., if your child is absent for any reason. Registers can then be marked accordingly. We would appreciate a short letter or email detailing the reason for the absence on your child's return.

Family and Friends' Lunches:

On a monthly basis we hold a lunch in school for family and friends. The dates for this term are: Thursday 22nd September and Wednesday 19th October and the cost of the meal is £3. Also if you know of any Friends or Senior Citizens who would like to join us, do encourage them to come along. Lunch will be served at 12.00 noon and prior booking is essential. Due to large numbers please book your place and pay on the gateway by 9am on the day **before** the lunch. Late bookings cannot be taken.

Please remember that we do have an open door policy. Your first point of contact is either the office or your child's class teacher. Please do use the homework diary to keep in touch too.

I look forward to seeing you in school soon.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs K. Williamson,
Headteacher



Please ask if you would like us to provide written information in a more helpful language or format e.g. large print.

Dates for your diary - September 2016

Monday 5 th	Training Day - school closed to pupils
Tuesday 6 th	School reopens at 8.45am
Wednesday 7 th	Collective worship with Jen Holder
Tuesday 13 th	Swimming for Year 3 and invited others. French after school club Football after school club with Mr Darcy
Wednesday 14 th	Collective worship with Jim Wilkinson 3.30-4p.m. Open evening - Meet the staff and Purple Mash Launch!
Thursday 15 th	Whole School trip to Yorkshire Sculpture Park - letter to follow.
Tuesday 20 th	Swimming for Year 3 and invited others. French after school club Football after school club with Mr Darcy
Wednesday 21 st	Collective worship with Hayley Liversidge Year 5-6 Netball after school club
Thursday 22 nd	Friends and Family Lunch - Please book via the gateway by 9am.
Friday 23 rd	The Big Coffee Afternoon in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support from 3pm Friends AGM 3.30pm
Tuesday 27 th	Swimming for Year 3 and invited others. French after school club Football after school club with Mr Darcy
Wednesday 28 th	Collective worship with Kathie Heathcote Year 5-6 Netball after school club
Thursday 29 th	M&M Production of "A Twist in Time" in school at 2.15pm
Future dates:	
19 th October	Friends and Family Lunch 2pm Harvest Festival in church
21 st October	South Otterington School Sculpture Park Afternoon Tea
3 rd December	Friends of South Otterington Winter Ball - Details to follow.....



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