

22ND SEPTEMBER 2023

It was lovely welcoming our Year 3 parents and carers into school on Wednesday this week for our first Open Classroom event. It was enjoyable to watch the children showing their adults around their new classrooms and proudly showing them the work they have completed so far this term. Thank you all for taking the time to pop in and see us. Please get in touch if we were not able to answer all of your questions on the evening.

Class Attendances—Week beginning 18th September 2023

Our current overall attendance for the term is **95.4%**. Thank you for your support with promoting good attendance in school, it is much appreciated so far.

Class 1	96.7%
Class 2	94.7%
Class 3	98.3%
Class 4	98.4%
Class 5	97.3%
Class 6	98.6%

Class 7	96.2%
Class 8	97.2%
Class 9	95.8%
Class 10	95%
Class 11	92.7%
Class 12	83.3%



Please remember that I am still *unable* to authorise any term-time leave of absence requests this year and, in the majority of cases, these will incur fines. These requests should be made in advance and not retrospectively please.

Kind regards,
Mrs J Hill

Inclusion Coffee Mornings

Thank you to those parents who attended our first Coffee Morning last week: you gave Mrs Costema and Mrs Clarke plenty of ideas for planning future sessions and we hope to be able to plan these so that they are useful for you in supporting your children at home.

Our next Coffee Morning is on Wednesday 4th October with doors opening at 9am for tea and coffee ready for a 9:30am start and the guest visitors are the team from Bridge The Gap, who will be on hand to talk about children's mental health and emotional wellbeing. Please come along and join us.



School Dinners

Next week we will be on Week 1 from our new Autumn/Winter dinner menu. Please remember that dinners now cost **£2.40** per day (£12 per week) and children can switch between dinners and sandwiches from home daily if they wish.

[Week 1 Menu](#)

Year 6 Height & Weight Measurement

Your child brought home a letter in the summer term about the team who will be visiting school on **Friday 29th September** to measure the height and weight of our Year 6 pupils. All results will also be noted in your child's health record, and a member of the school nursing team or your GP may contact you if they have a concern about your child's weight. All information and results will be treated confidentially - no child's height or weight measurements information will be given to school staff or other children. If there are any concerns regarding your child's height and weight, as well as a possible contact from the School Nursing team, you will be sent your child's results through the post, including information about healthy lifestyle services. If your child is assessed as being a healthy weight, you will not receive feedback from us but can contact your school nurse who will be happy to talk to you should you wish.

For further information, please visit the following website: <https://www.nhs.uk/change4life/your-childs-weight/home> which gives tips on healthy eating and being active.

Opting your child out of the programme:

If you are happy for your child to be weighed and measured, you do not need to do anything.

You should have written to the team in the summer term when you received the letter if you did not want your child to take part. **If you did not do this at the time, we advise you to let the NCMP Team know as soon as possible by email to dmh-tr.NCMPteam@nhs.net** You must state your child's full name, date of birth and school in your email. Children will not be made to participate if they do not want to.



Punctuality and Attendance

Improving attendance remains an area for improvement across the Federation of schools this year. Whilst we saw an increase in our overall attendance for the school year compared with 2021-22—thank you for your support with this—our percentage of pupils who were persistently absent (attendance below 90%) for the year increased to 12.1% - a total of 44 children across the school.

Missing this amount of school will have an impact on the progress a child is able to make within a school year as they will be left with gaps in their learning and may find it difficult to catch up when they are back in school, despite their best efforts and the support of staff.

Of course, we understand that children get ill, and some illnesses will prevent them from being in school, but if they **can** manage a day in school 'dosed up' then we are more than happy to support you with this and the office staff will happily give you a call if further dosing is required later in the day!

Having a day off, or leaving school early, for birthdays, is also not an acceptable reason for absence!

We understand that there have been issues with traffic locally at the start of term but please try to factor this into your journey to school in the mornings and again in the afternoon for pick up. Missing the start of the school day can be disorientating for some children as they miss the start of Literacy or maths lessons and, even when you ring to let us know you are running late, some of our younger children can become distressed if they are not collected as expected at home time. Please continue to let us know if you are running late by giving the school office a call (01332 760372). Ridgeway are still operating their Before and After School provision if that helps with drop off and collection arrangements—details can be found [here](#).



Breakfast

This week we have provide breakfast to **68** children who needed it each morning. Children can come to the hall when doors open to collect a breakfast bar if they wish.

breakfast
fuel for learning

Reminders

- Please make sure you send your child to school with a waterproof coat this term: we try to avoid keeping the children in at playtime if we can, but cannot allow them outside without a coat if it is drizzling slightly at lunchtimes.
- Children may bring a healthy snack with them to eat at playtime if they wish: snacks such as vegetable sticks, cheese strings, yoghurt pouches, fruit or cereal bars. Children should bring their snacks in their bags, not their lunchboxes/sandwich bags please. Snacks can be left in bags or trays until playtime.
- PLEASE be mindful of our neighbours when you are parking locally to drop off or collect your children near to the school. We are aware that parents are still blocking residents' drives when parking and we would remind you to be considerate of where you park please.
- PLEASE also try to avoid driving down the last section of Gayton Avenue, up to the school gates. I spotted two near misses this week when cars reversed onto the pavement to turn around and almost hit parents and children walking up to the gates. **THIS IS AN ACCIDENT WAITING TO HAPPEN.** Please consider adding 5 minutes to your school run, parking further from school and walking.
- The deadline for harvest donations is **Friday 29th September**—see next page for collection list—thank you for your support.
- And finally, a reminder that we like to encourage the children to keep hydrated, as this helps them to concentrate better throughout the day. To avoid ruining work if there are spillages, we have a **still water only rule for drinks in the classroom**. Children can bring in their own, named water bottles—ideally with a sports cap or similar to drink from—which they should take home daily to be cleaned please.



Swimming Kit

The Pool have sent this reminder regarding what is and is not appropriate swimwear for swimming lessons. Please note that watches, earrings and religious jewellery must be removed, so it may be easier to leave these items at home on swimming days.



Please do not send children with swimwear which is not chlorine-resistant. **They advise that weak or non-swimmers wear close-fitting swimwear.**

Swimming staff will not allow children to enter the pool if their swimwear is considered to be unsafe, too baggy or too heavy.

Children must wear swimming hats.

Class 1 swim on Tuesdays
Class 2 swim on Wednesdays
Class 3 swim on Thursdays

Class 4 swim on Thursdays
Class 5 swim on Wednesdays
Class 6 swim on Fridays

Young Children

- 1 Swimming trunks 2 Swimming shorts
- 3 Bikini's/Tankini's 4 Swimming costumes
- 5 Float suits 6 Neoprene "float jackets"
- 7 Knee and elbow-length suits 8 Swim nappies

Please make sure your child has their kit with them. Swimming is not optional: it is a National Curriculum requirement.



HARVEST NEEDS LIST

Below are the items we would love you to donate at
Harvest Festival Campaign.

GRAVY GRANULES - **BISCUITS** - **COOK-IN-SAUCES** - SUGAR
SAUCES (RED, BROWN, MAYONNAISE) - JAM - PASTA - RICE - TINNED FRUIT
TINNED MEAT - **TINNED TOMATOES** - **TINNED FISH** - **TINNED RICE PUDDING**
TINNED VEGETABLES - TINNED BAKED BEANS - TINNED CUSTARD - FLOUR - FRUIT
SQUASH - **LONG LIFE MILK** - TEA - **COFFEE** - **CEREAL**

DEODORANT - DISPOSABLE RAZORS - KITCHEN ROLL - TOILET ROLL - **SHAVING
FOAM** - SHAMPOO - CONDITIONER - **SHOWER GEL** - SANITARY PRODUCTS -
LAUNDRY DETERGENT - WASHING UP LIQUID

CLOTHING, **SHOES**, **UNUSED UNDERWEAR** OF ALL GENDER AND SIZES
BOOKS - BRIC A BRAC - JEWELLERY - BEDDING - COATS - HATS, GLOVES, SCARVES

If you would like to donate money for us to purchase these items you can do so
online at <https://checkout.justgiving.com/obz7x76txn> or scan the QR code



Items listed in
GREEN are what
we need most



**SCHOOL DIARY
2023-24 DATES**

Friday 29th September	9:15am onwards	Year 6 Weight & Height Measurement
Friday 29th September	AM	Padley Harvest Collection Deadline
Friday 29th September	All Day	Year 3 Markeaton Park Trip—See letter
Wednesday 4th October	9am-11am	Inclusion Coffee Morning — All welcome
Thursday 5th October	8:30am for family photos	Individual & Family Photos (main entrance)
Friday 20th October	All Day	Year 5 Trip to Creswell Crags—See Letter
Friday 27th October	All Day	Reward Day—non-uniform for all pupils
Friday 27th October	3:30pm	End of Autumn 1 Term—BREAK UP FOR HALF TERM
HALF TERM		
Tuesday 31st October	Midnight	Deadline for applications for Year 7 places for September 2024
Monday 6th November	All Day	INSET 3
Tuesday 7th November	8:55am	Autumn 2 Term begins—BACK TO SCHOOL
Friday 22nd December	3:30pm	End of Autumn 1 Term—BREAK UP FOR CHRISTMAS
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS		
Monday 8th January 2024	All Day	INSET 4
Tuesday 9th January 2024	8:55am	Spring 1 Term begins—BACK TO SCHOOL
Friday 16th February 2024	3:30pm	End of Spring 1 Term—BREAK UP FOR HALF TERM
HALF TERM		
Monday 26th February 2024	8:55am	Spring 2 Term begins—BACK TO SCHOOL
Thursday 28th March 2024	3:30pm	End of Spring 2 Term—BREAK UP FOR EASTER
EASTER HOLIDAYS		
Monday 15th April 2024	8:55am	Summer 1 Term begins—BACK TO SCHOOL
Monday 6th May 2024	All Day	May Day Bank Holiday — School Closed
Monday 13th—Thursday 16th May 2024	Mornings	Year 6 SATs Week
Friday 24th May 2024	3:30pm	End of Summer 1 Term—BREAK UP FOR EASTER
HALF TERM		
Monday 3rd June 2024	All Day	INSET 5
Tuesday 4th June 2024	8:55am	Summer 2 Term begins—BACK TO SCHOOL
Tuesday 23rd July 2024	3:30pm	End of Summer 2 Term—BREAK UP FOR SUMMER