



Ringway, Guidepost, Northumberland, NE62 5YP

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Headteacher: Mrs L Robson

Newsletter 2

2nd November 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers,

I hope you have all enjoyed a lovely half term break, have made the most of the autumnal weather we have had and enjoyed the Halloween festivities.

Well done to those who completed their Autumn House challenge – I have enjoyed looking through all of these and I am very impressed with the creativity! Class teachers will be issuing Class Dojo/ House points for each uploaded picture.

We are looking forward to a very busy half-term although this will be very different to our traditional Christmas term but we are determined to make it as special as ever for the children.

I would like to thank everyone for everything you have done to make the first term's transition a smooth and successful one. The children have been amazing and so resilient, the staff have worked so hard and gone above and beyond to make sure that the children have felt safe and happy, and parents have been fabulous in supporting us all with following health and safety procedures and supporting children's learning. With the news of the second national lockdown commencing later this week, we will continue to do our best to work together to keep our children, families and staff as safe as we can, while still providing the best education we can for the children.

I am awaiting guidance for schools in light of the new announcements to determine if we need to make any changes to our systems in place but, in the meantime, we will continue to operate as we have been. For your own safety and ours, please can all parents and carers stick to their allocated drop-off and collection times (please do not abuse this or we will need to rethink siblings being picked up together), only one adult should be on site per family to drop off/pick up, please do not arrive early or wait on school premises and please follow our one-way system, leaving the school premises immediately. This is for everyone's safety. If an older sibling is off school due to being told they must isolate, they must NOT come onto our school site. No one should be entering the school building unless for emergencies, this includes the school office. Please continue to communicate via telephone, email or Class Dojo.

We understand during these unprecedented times, anxieties are heightened however, recently members of staff have been subjected to rudeness, both verbally and in written communications. Can I politely remind you that we do not make these rules, we simply put the rules into place. Our only aim in doing this is to keep children, staff and our wider school community safe. Please can we ask parents and carers to consider the tone in which they speak and address the school in written forms. At this time the wellbeing of our staff as well as our children are of high priority and we cannot tolerate rudeness or abuse of our staff.

Thank you in advance for all of your support and understanding.

Mrs L Robson

Information

Attendance

Our half termly attendance for Autumn one was 97% (our school target for the whole school year is 97%).

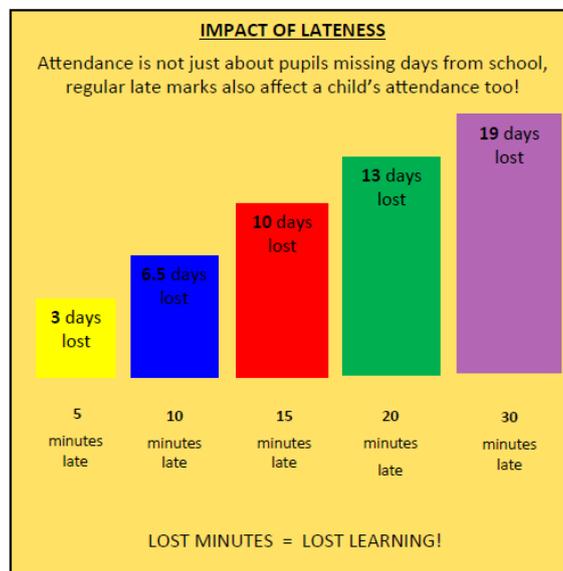
Attendance at school is vitally important for every child in order that they can develop to their full potential. Our aim is for all of our children to strive to achieve 100% attendance for the academic year (any illness due to Covid or having to isolate does not effect a child's attendance score). We work closely with our Education Welfare Officer to identify any child with poor attendance and have systems in place to monitor and support families to improve this.

Attendance during one school year	Equals this number of days absent	Which is approximately this many weeks absent	Which means this number of lessons missed
95%	9 days	2 weeks	50 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	150 lessons
80%	38 days	8 weeks	200 lessons



Lateness

Lateness also has a big impact on attendance, any child who is late after their class register closes (5 minutes after their class' allocated drop-off time) is marked as absent for that session.



Homework

A reminder of how homework is set this year:

Times Table Rockstars (KS2) – Children will access using their personal login details and complete times table challenges to earn points which can be spent on their avatar. New tables will be set weekly.

Maths Shed (KS1) – Children will access using their Edshed login and complete maths based games and activities. A new activity will be set weekly.

Spelling Shed – Pupils will access using their personal login details and complete spelling based activities to earn points. Spellings lists will be set fortnightly (weekly for Key Stage One) and spelling tests will still be conducted in school on a Monday. Spelling lists can also be found on class pages on our website.

Staff check weekly which pupils are accessing the online learning portals for homework and give out stickers for children who have completed their tasks.

We have a celebration assembly at the end of each half-term where certificates will be awarded to pupils who have consistently accessed their home tasks every week.

Reading Challenge

Please ensure you have read separate information about how our reading challenge works.

House points

All of our children belong to one of 4 Houses. Siblings are always in the same house. Our houses are:

Earth – Green

Fire - Red

Lightning - Yellow

Water – Blue

Children collect House (Class Dojo) points across each week for various reasons, these points are added up each week – the winning house earns a star on their House shield – results are reported on Class Dojo weekly. The House with the most stars each half-term is rewarded with a non-uniform day on the first day of the next new term.

Our aim is to hold House challenges/family challenges each term where children can earn points for their House.

House points are collected across the year and are added up to give a total. The House with the most points for the year will win a reward at the end of the school year.

Reception Class Teachers

This term, Miss Orchover will join our Reception team as Class teacher alongside Mrs Runciman.

Positive Cases

So far, we have been lucky to only have had to close one of our bubbles. We were informed immediately which allowed us to act quickly and inform parents out of school hours. This worked effectively and the children were able to commence their home learning the next day.

If your child is tested, please inform school of the results as soon as possible. I would also like to ask you not to discuss cases via social media. This is to respect the privacy of the poorly person but also to stop panic amongst the wider school community. School will work closely with Public Health England to identify who may have been in close contact with the positive person and

inform these parents if their child needs to isolate. Those identified as NOT having to isolate must continue to attend school - anyone who does not attend school when they should, without a valid reason, will be marked down as having an unauthorised absence.

If your child's class is sent home to isolate, they must remain home for 14 days and must not leave the house. We are aware of families having days out and or eating in restaurants when they should have been at home isolating. It is important that we all follow procedure to keep our local communities safe.

PE Days

PE days may have changed this half-term – please check with individual class teachers so you know what day your child is to come into school in their PE kits.

School Calendar

We have tried to plan for many events that we normally would celebrate but some of these may need to be done slightly differently or virtually in line with Government guidance for schools. Please note all dates are subject to change depending on the Covid/bubble/staff situation at the time.

Monday 9 th November	Non-uniform day for a donation towards our school Christmas raffle.
W/B 9 th November	Maths week
Wednesday 11 th November	Remembrance day
Friday 13 th November	Children in Need - children can wear anything Pudsey or pyjamas.
W/B 16 th November	Anti-bullying week
Monday 7 th December	Y3 Polar Express movie night (3.15 – 5pm) more details to follow
Monday 7 th December	Virtual performance videos
Monday 7 th December	Flu immunisations
Tuesday 8 th December	Y5/6 film afternoon
Wednesday 9 th December	Christmas dinner and bingo
Thursday 10 th December	Reception Christmas party (am)
Friday 11 th December	Christmas jumper day and virtual pantomime
Friday 11 th December	Xmas raffle drawn
Monday 14 th December	Y4 Polar Express movie night (3.15 - 5pm) more details to follow
Monday 14 th December	Reception Tiddlywinks session
Monday 14 th December	Y2 Christmas party
Tuesday 15 th December	Year 1 (am) and 3 (pm) Christmas party
Thursday 17 th December	Year 4 Christmas party (am)
Friday 18 th December	School closes for Christmas break
Tuesday 5 th January	School reopens to students