



Newsletter Autumn 1 2024

Welcome back to the new school year!

I hope you have all had a wonderful summer, spending time together as a family.

It has been lovely to see the children back in school this morning, catching up with their friends and becoming familiar with their new classrooms and routines.

A special welcome to our new playgroup, nursery and reception children who have joined our Ringway family today, it is an exciting time for them all.

This term we welcome our new caretaker, Mr Fisher to our Ringway team. During autumn term, Mrs Atkinson and Miss O will be starting their maternity leave. Miss Wilson has joined our team this year to cover Mrs Atkinson's maternity and is our Year 5 class teacher.

After our successful Ofsted at the end of last term, myself and school staff are all excited to get started with the academic year and look forward to continuing our partnership with parents in supporting children's learning.

Please ensure you have read the 'September 2024 Information' letter that was given to the children in their new school bags on transfer day back in July (this can also be found on our website in the ['Letters Home'](#) tab). This explains more about important systems and procedures in school.

As a reminder, I have attached some of the information to this newsletter. I have also included important dates for the term at the end of this newsletter – more information about each event will be given closer to each date.

As always, thank you for your continued support, it really is appreciated.

Mrs L Robson

Healthy Snack



All children in Early Years and Key Stage 1 will be provided with a fruit/vegetable snack each morning. Children in Key Stage 2 are welcome to bring their own **fruit/vegetable snack** to eat during their morning break. Please note, no other snack is permitted. This will support us in maintaining our Healthy School status.

As a reminder, children's bottles should contain **plain water only**. Children should not bring glass bottles into school.

Breakfast Club/ Afterschool Club



Places at Breakfast club and Afterschool Club must be booked in advance using ParentPay. Due to staffing ratios, we can not guarantee places booked on the day.

School Dinners



School dinners will continue to be ordered using ParentPay. School dinners cost £2.30 per day (£11.50 a week). We request that these are ordered a week in advance by the Thursday each week. If you do not select choices for your children by the Thursday, your child will automatically be given the hot option each day.

School starts for all pupils at 8.45am, with registers closing at 8.50am. If your child arrives after this time, they will be marked as late. Anyone who is late must enter school through the main reception door to ensure they are signed in.

School will close for all pupils at 3.15pm.

If your child has permission to walk home (Year 4, 5 and 6 - written consent must be provided for this), they will be dismissed at 3.15pm.

Any absences must be reported to the school office on each day of absence. Attendance and lateness will be recorded and monitored and school will follow the procedures to refer to the EWO (Educational Welfare Officer) if and when needed.

Term Time Holidays

SCHOOL PENALTY NOTICE FINES FOR ATTENDANCE ARE CHANGING FROM AUGUST

PLEASE BE AWARE

<p>Per Parent/Per Child</p> <p>Penalty Notice Fines will now be issued to each parent for each absent child.</p> <p>For Example: 3 Siblings absent for leave during the term time would result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines.</p>	<p>First Offence</p> <p>The first time a penalty Notice is issued for Term Time leave or irregular attendance the amount will be: £160 per parent, per child when paid within 28 days. Reduced to £80 per parent per child if paid within 21 days.</p>
<p>5 Consecutive Days of Term Time Leave</p> <p>Penalty Notice Fines will now be issued for term time leave of 5 or more consecutive days. Inset Days are school days and can be included in the 5 or more consecutive days where there was intent to be absent for term time.</p> <p>10 Sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10-Week period</p> <p>Penalty Notice Fines will be considered when there has been 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10 week period.</p>	<p>Second Offence (within 3 years)</p> <p>The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave the amount will be £160 per parent, paid within 28 days.</p>
	<p>Third Offence (and any further offences within 3 years)</p> <p>The Third time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave the case will be presented straight to the Magistrates court. Where fines of up to £2500 per parent, per child can be issued.</p> <p>Note: Cases found guilty in Magistrates Court can show on Parents future DBS certificates as a 'Failure to safeguard a child's education'.</p>

ATTENDANCE WHAT THE NEW RULES MEAN FOR ME

WITH EFFECT FROM 19 AUGUST 2024

1 I'm a single parent of one child and we want to go on holiday for a week.
 Your holiday will not be authorised and you must talk to the school before you book anything.
 Because your child will miss 5 school days you will be given a penalty notice fine.
 The fine is £160 but if you pay it in 21 days it will be reduced to £80.

£160

2 FOR EVERY CHILD A PENALTY IS GIVEN

+£160 +£160 +£160 +£160
4 children & 1 parent = £640
 Reduced to £320 if paid in 21 days

3 IRREGULAR ATTENDANCE

10 IN 10

If your child is absent for 10 or more sessions in 10 weeks and their absences are unauthorised, the school will consider prosecution.

1 DAY = 2 SESSIONS

4 FOR A FAMILY OF TWO PARENTS

+£160 +£160 +£160 +£160

4 children & 2 parents = £1280
 Reduced to £640 if paid in 21 days

5 If in any period of not more than 3 years, your child has a 2nd and 3rd leave of absence or pattern of irregular attendance...

2ND TIME

2 parents and...

1 child - £320
 2 children = £640
 3 children = £960
 4 children = £1280

No discount for early payment

3RD TIME

A penalty notice fine will not be given.
 Your case will be taken to court.
 A magistrate can fine each parent £2500 for each child.

1 parent & 4 children = £10,000
 2 parents & 4 children = £20,000

Historically, school has not issued fines for unauthorised absences and term time holidays however in August, the Government implemented a national threshold for all schools to follow for issuing fines. The threshold is set out on the attached documents.

Please familiarise yourself with our attendance policy (this is available on our website). As always, letters will be issued by school but the fine itself will come from the Local Authority and the money is not given back to our school.

We understand there will be thoughts and frustrations around these fines being issued but please remember that it is the Government that has set out this threshold for schools to follow and staff will not tolerate any abuse from parents who are issued fines.

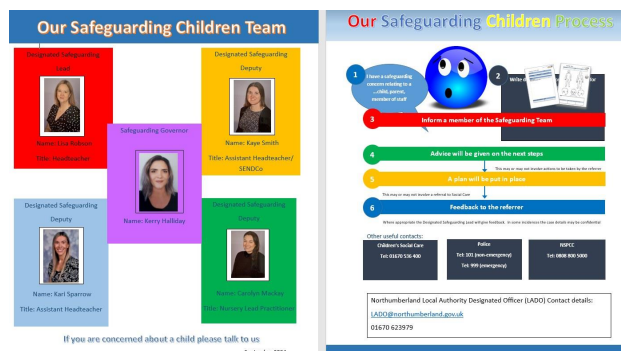
We encourage parents to continue to be truthful when it comes to taking holidays and inform school of the holiday. If a child is off for a period of time we are required to carry out regular welfare checks via phone/home visits.

Curriculum Coverage



Parents can view the curriculum covered in their child's year group, detailing the topics and areas within the curriculum they will cover, on our school website. They will also receive topic overview letters electronically (via Class Dojo) each half term.

Our Safeguarding Team



Children's Whatsapp Groups

We are seeing an increased number of issues relating to pupil Whatsapp groups and social media accounts which are then being brought into school. In order to help us tackle this problem, please monitor your child's activity on such accounts and ensure you have set up parental controls on devices. Please think carefully before allowing children to have certain Apps, these often have age guidelines that should be considered.

On our school website you will find an E-Safety link to many online safety guides for Parents/Carers.

[Fact Sheets and Guidance Link](#). These can also be found at <https://nationalcollege.com/guides>

Please speak to school for further advice if/ when needed.

At the National College, our **WakeUpWednesday** guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit www.thenationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP

With more than two billion active users, WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service. It's end-to-end encrypted, so only addressees messages to be viewed by the intended recipients. Not even WhatsApp itself can read them. The UK's Online Safety and Protection Act (OSPA) has introduced encryption on private messaging but for the time being this controversial feature remains.

AGE RESTRICTIONS 13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EVOLVING SCAMS

WhatsApp is popularly known as a secure messaging platform for documents. Recent examples include posing as the parent's child, requesting a money transfer because of a 'spurious emergency' - plus a scam where 'household' is used to get to your account, they attempt to log WhatsApp's code in, and try to repeat the code back to them, giving them access.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

To start a chat, someone only needs the phone number of the WhatsApp user that they want to message. Therefore, if a child has ever given their number to someone they don't know, that person could have access to their WhatsApp. It's their parents that should be responsible for a group chat or community (by one of their friends, for example) containing other people that they don't know.

CHAT LOCK

In 2023, WhatsApp introduced a feature that will allow users their chats in separate 'locked chats' folder, saved under their parent's Instagram or Facebook ID authentication. This subsequent development, an additional unique password for their locked chat, will mean that this feature has the potential for young people to hide their contacts from their parents (or other people) who suspect their contacts are in a category of LOACH (Inappropriate Material).

COMMUNITIES AND GROUPS

Community is a collection of related groups on WhatsApp. They can consist of thousands of users. Communities can often be used by members to target large groups, leaving someone else on their list or responds to their requests. In communities and groups, there are multiple ways to leave messages, which results in messages to generate a large volume of messages for each other's contacts - will be able to see any messages sent into the group.

'VIEW ONCE' CONTENT

The ability to send images or messages that will only be viewed once has led to some WhatsApp users sending inappropriate material or abusive texts, knowing that the sender won't be able to see evidence of misbehavior. There used to be a 'disappearing messages' feature, but it recently added 'View Once' feature (and locks it), citing protection of privacy.

FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp's connectivity and ease of use means it has become a regular source of fake news. Messages forwarded more than five times on the app have been shown to be forwarded more than 100 times. Fake news users aware that the message they've just received is not true in original, it might not be entirely factual, either.

VISIBLE LOCATION

WhatsApp's 'live location' feature lets users share their current whereabouts, which can be helpful for friends meeting up or parents checking that their child is safe during a weekend. However, anyone in a user's contact list can track their location - potentially using a group chat to share their location with other users or journeys that they make regularly.

Advice for Parents & Educators

EMPHASISE CAUTION

Encourage children to treat unexpected messages with caution; get them to consider whether it sounds like something a friend or relative would expect them to receive. Advise them to share personal details on WhatsApp, and to be wary of clicking on any links in messages. Settings up their phone restrictions can be a further layer of protection to their WhatsApp account.

ADJUST THE SETTINGS

It's wise to change a child's WhatsApp settings to specify which of their contacts can add them to group chats without needing approval. You can give permission to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except...'. Additionally, if a child needs to use 'live location', emphasise that they should enable this function for only as long as they need - and then turn it off.

DISCUSS GROUP CHATS

Make children aware that there could be members of a group that they don't know well and that words can be misinterpreted. Encourage them to have a good opinion, to avoid posting if conversations turn towards bullying, and to respond to such situations in an appropriate way. Make sure they know that it's OK to leave a group chat if it makes them uncomfortable or for any reason, in fact.

THINK BEFORE SHARING

Help children understand why it's important to stop and think before posting or forwarding something on WhatsApp. It's very - just as for general - for content that is not yours to be shared freely, even publicly on social media. Encourage children to consider how an impulsive message or forwarding might damage their reputation or upset if there are sent something to them in confidence.

CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY

Check in with the child about how they're using WhatsApp, making sure they know you only have their contact info. If you've a 'locked chat' folder, you might want to talk about the sort of content they've stored in there, who they're talking to, and why they want to keep these chats hidden. Also, if children send any 'disappearing' content, it could be helpful to ask them why.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written webinars, e-books, guides and created toolkits for the education sector on bullying, cyber and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

OSPA WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: <https://www.whatsapp.com/faq/en/whatsapp/20230901> | www.thenationalcollege.com | www.thenationalcollege.com/whatsapp

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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Release date: 20.09.2023 Last reviewed: 20.05.2024

Home/School Communication

As a school, we recognise that parents have WhatsApp groups or Facebook class pages set up and acknowledge these can be very useful for communication between parents. However, we kindly ask that if you have any issues or concerns to please speak to school first as these can usually be dealt with quickly and professionally. Please be mindful of discussing individual members of staff and pupils in a derogatory manner on social media/ Class dojo – school will take action if we are made aware of this having happened.

If you would like to discuss a matter with a member of staff, a suitable time can be arranged by contacting the school office.

Telephone: 01670 813463

Email: admin@guidepostringway.northumberland.sch.uk



Communication Concern Pathways for Parents.

Please use these pathways so we can best respond to your query or concern.

Concern	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
If you're concerned about a friendship issue or an incident at breaktime.	Contact your child's Class Teacher via admin email address or phone call via the school office.	If unresolved, contact Assistant Headteacher via admin email address or phone call via the school office. EYFS/ KS1 – Mrs K Smith KS2 – Mrs K Sparrow	If unresolved, contact Headteacher, Mrs Robson via admin email address or phone call via the school office.
	Response time: Within 24 Hours		
If you're concerned about an aspect of your child's learning.	Contact your child's Class Teacher via admin email address or phone call via the school office.	If unresolved, contact Assistant Headteacher via admin email address or phone call via the school office. EYFS/ KS1 – Mrs K Smith KS2 – Mrs K Sparrow	If unresolved, contact Headteacher, Mrs Robson via admin email address or phone call via the school office.
	Response time: Within 72 Hours		



Communication Concern Pathways for Parents.

Concern	Step 1	Step 2
If you're concerned about a member of staff	Contact Assistant Headteacher via admin email address or phone call via the school office. EYFS/ KS1 – Mrs K Smith KS2 – Mrs K Sparrow	If unresolved, contact Headteacher, Mrs Robson via admin email address or phone call via the school office.
	Response time: Within 24 Hours	
If you're concerned about the safety and welfare of a child.	Contact either of the school's safeguarding leads : Mrs Robson – Designated safeguarding lead. Deputy designated safeguarding leads: Mrs K Smith Mrs C Mackay Mrs K Sparrow	If you're not happy with the response, call One Call on 01670 536400
	Response time: Within 24 Hours	



**INSULTING OR ABUSIVE
BEHAVIOUR MAY RESULT IN
YOU BEING BANNED FROM
THE SCHOOL PREMISES**

Verbal and written abusive or insulting language, threatening behaviour or physical attacks towards anyone on the school premises will not be tolerated and will result in a ban from the school site



THINK BEFORE YOU ACT

THINK BEFORE YOU POST

Verbal abuse in person or online could result in a ban from school premises and may be a criminal offence

Clennell **THINK BEFORE YOU ACT**

Forest School Dates

Week	Forest school
1 Friday 6 th September	Year 6
2 Friday 13 th September	Year 5
3 Friday 20 th September	Year 4
4 Friday 27 th September	Year 3
5 Friday 4 th October	Year 2
6 Friday 11 th October	-----
7 Friday 18 th October	Year 1
8 Friday 25 th October	Reception/Nursery

Please ensure your child comes to school with appropriate clothing and a change of footwear for their allocated session.

School Uniform



Please find our [School Uniform Policy](#) attached. This includes PE Uniform expectations.

School uniform consists of the following:

- White polo shirt
- Purple jumper or cardigan
- Grey trousers/skirt/pinafore/shorts
- Purple gingham summer dress
- Black school shoes/plain black school trainers with black soles (no large distinctive logos) Boots can be worn in winter months – these must be plain black, ankle height and with no heel.
- Wellies (optional)
- One small watch and a pair of stud earrings (no other jewellery or smart watches permitted). For health and safety reasons, children must be able to remove their own earrings.

PE Uniform:

Our PE uniform consists of:

- Plain white t-shirt
- Plain black shorts or jogging pants
- Plain black hoody (optional)

- **Black** trainers (as plain as possible) or suitable black footwear for outdoor PE sessions.

We have a selection of pre-loved uniform in school, please contact the school office if you would like to come in and look through this. We will also display this outside, at home times, a few times over the next half term.

Parking - Local Residents and Yellow Lines



Traffic and parking continues to be a concern outside of school, on the yellow lines and along Ringway. Please be mindful of our local residents when parking outside school and **remember the yellow lines should not be parked on at any times. This is for the safety of the children** and applies to all parents at all times during the day.

Within school we will continue to educate the children of the importance of their parents/carers not stopping here and the safety reasons for this but we really need to rely on parents/carers to support us with this.

Term Dates

RINGWAY PRIMARY SCHOOL HOLIDAY AND TERM DATES 2024/2025

HOLIDAY OR OCCASION OF CLOSURE	DATE ON WHICH SCHOOL WILL CLOSE	DATE ON WHICH SCHOOL WILL REASSEMBLE
TEACHER TRAINING DAY	MONDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 2024	
Summer 2024	Friday 19 July 2024	Tuesday 3 September 2024
TEACHER TRAINING DAY	Monday 4 NOVEMBER 2024	
October Mid Term 2024	Friday 25 October 2024	Tuesday 5 November 2024
TEACHER TRAINING DAY	Monday 6 JANUARY 2024	
Christmas/New Year 24/25	Friday 20 December 2024	Tuesday 7 January 2025
TEACHER TRAINING DAY	FRIDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2025 * This falls within the holiday	
Spring Mid Term 2025	Friday 21 February 2025	Monday 3 March 2025
Easter 2025	Friday 11 April 2025	Monday 28 April 2025
MAY DAY	MONDAY 5 MAY 2025	
TEACHER TRAINING DAY	MONDAY 2 nd JUNE 2025	
Summer Mid Term 2025	Friday 23 May 2025	Tuesday 3 June 2025
Summer 2025	Friday 18 July 2025	Tuesday 2 September 2025

School Calendar for Autumn Term 2024

Monday 2 nd September	Teacher Training Day
Friday 6 th September	Year 6 Forest School
Friday 13 th September	Roald Dahl Day
Friday 13 th September	Year 5 Forest School
Friday 20 th September	Jeans for Genes Day
Friday 20 th September	Year 4 Forest School
Monday 23 rd September	Macmillan Coffee Morning (Nursery/Reception Parents) 9.30am-10.30am
Wednesday 25 th September	Macmillan KS1 Coffee Morning (Year 1 and Year 2) 9.30am-10.30am
Thursday 26 th September	Macmillan LKS2 Coffee Morning (Year 3 and 4) 9.30am-10.30am
Thursday 26 th September	European Day of Languages
Friday 27 th September	Macmillan UKS2 Coffee Afternoon (Year 5 and Year 6) 9.30am-10.30am
Friday 27 th September	Year 3 Forest School
Monday 30 th September	Flu immunisations
Friday 4 th October	Year 2 Forest School
Monday 7 th October	Assessment Week in School
Thursday 10 th October	'Hello Yellow' Mental Health Day
Thursday 17 th October	School Photos
Friday 18 th October	Autumn Reports sent to parents
Friday 18 th October	Year 1 Forest School
Monday 21 st October	Harvest Collection
Monday 21 st October	Parents Evening – all classes except Year 4/Year 1
Tuesday 22 nd October	Parents Evening – all classes
Wednesday 23 rd October	Parents Evening – for Year 4/ Year 1 only
Thursday 24 th October	KS2 Halloween Disco
Friday 25 th October	Halloween Theme Day/ Nursery, Rec, KS1 Halloween parties
Friday 25 th October	Reception/Nursery Forest School
Friday 25 th October	School finishes for Half term at 3.15pm

Monday 4 th November	Teacher Training Day
Tuesday 5 th November	Children Return to School
Friday 8 th November	House winners' non-uniform
Monday 11 th November	Armistice Day
WB Monday 11 th November	Anti-Bullying Week/Maths Week
Tuesday 12 th November	Odd Socks Day
Friday 15 th November	Children in Need
Friday 22 nd November	Non-Uniform Day - Fayre Donation
Thursday 28 th November	Christmas Fayre Evening 5pm - 6.30pm
Monday 9 th December	Nursery/Reception Performance 9.30am
Monday 9 th December	Years 3 and 4 Performance 2pm
Tuesday 10 th December	Years 1 and 2 Performance 9.30am
Wednesday 11 th December	Years 5 and 6 Performance 9.30am
Thursday 12 th December	Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 13 th December	Year 1 - Year 6 visit to Pantomime
Monday 16 th December	Nursery/Reception Christmas Party (am) Years 3 and 4 Christmas Party (pm)
Tuesday 17 th December	Year 5 and 6 Film afternoon (pm)
Wednesday 18 th December	Years 1 and 2 Christmas Party (pm)
Thursday 19 th December	Christmas Dinner Day
Friday 20 th December	School finishes for Christmas break at 1.30pm

- Autumn 2 Forest School dates to be confirmed

Facebook



We have decided to stop using our Facebook page - all communication will continue through ParentPay and Class Dojo. The Facebook Page will be disabled over the next few days.