



## Newsletter Autumn 1 2023

Welcome back to the new school year!

I hope you have all had a wonderful summer, spending time together as a family. Typical that the sun decides to shine this week on our return to school!

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.

I would like to give 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.

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 2023 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**.

## 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.

## Earrings

Where our uniform policy allows one small pair of stud earrings, we would also like to remind parents that earrings cannot be worn for PE lessons. If your child wears earrings for school, these will either need to be removed by the child (or by parents before the school day) or covered using medical tape (this should only be a short period of time when ears are healing) for PE lessons. Tape will need to be provided and applied by the child - staff are not able to assist the children with this .

As per the Association for PE guidance and Blyth Sports Centre policy, earrings must be fully removed and are not permitted to be covered during gymnastics and swimming sessions (even if ears are still in the healing period). Therefore, due to the 6 weeks healing time needed for pierced ears, we strongly advise that children do not get their ears pierced during the school year as it will have a significant impact on the access to their PE lessons in school.

## School Term Dates 2023-2024

NORTHUMBERLAND SCHOOL HOLIDAY AND TERM DATES 2023/2024

HOLIDAY OR OCCASION OF CLOSURE	DATE ON WHICH SCHOOL WILL CLOSE	DATE ON WHICH SCHOOL WILL REASSEMBLE
TEACHER TRAINING DAY	MONDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 2023	
Summer 2022	Friday 21 July 2023	Tuesday 5 September 2023
TEACHER TRAINING DAY	FRIDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2023 *	
October Mid Term 2023	Friday 27 October 2023	Monday 6 November 2023
TEACHER TRAINING DAY	Monday 8 JANUARY 2024	
Christmas/New Year 23/24	Friday 22 December 2023	Tuesday 9 January 2024
TEACHER TRAINING DAY	FRIDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2024 *	
Spring Mid Term 2024	Friday 16 February 2024	Monday 26 February 2024
Easter 2024	Thursday 28 March 2024	Monday 15 April 2024
MAY DAY	MONDAY 6 MAY 2024	
TEACHER TRAINING DAY	FRIDAY 24 MAY 2024	
Summer Mid Term 2024	Thursday 23 May 2024	Monday 3 June 2024
Summer 2024	Friday 19 July 2024	Tuesday 3 September 2024

## New School Update

Things are finally moving on our new school build and over the holidays, the plans were shared with all staff, governors, parents and local residents. More information can be found here:

<https://dppukltd.com/ringway/>

[http://www.ringwayprimaryschool.co.uk/web/our\\_new\\_build/661516](http://www.ringwayprimaryschool.co.uk/web/our_new_build/661516)

As the project evolves we will be keeping you informed of any updates.



## School Times/ Lateness

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 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.

## 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

**Our Safeguarding Children Team**

Role	Name	Title
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Lisa Robson	Headteacher
Designated Safeguarding Deputy	Kaye Smith	Assistant Headteacher / SENDCo
Designated Safeguarding Deputy	Kari Sparrow	Assistant Headteacher
Designated Safeguarding Deputy	Carolyn Mackay	Nursery Lead Practitioner

If you are concerned about a child please talk to us

September 2023

## E-Safety Guides

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>



At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trained adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children. Should they feel the need, this guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe parents should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, facts and for help.

## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SOCIAL MEDIA & MENTAL HEALTH

An estimated one-third of children have a social media account, so it's important that trusted adults know what content young people are consuming, what they're posting and the interests they're having. On social media, it can be easy to go down 'rabbit holes' that aren't beneficial to our wellbeing. As platforms grapple with managing such 'rage' but harmful content, lives are being impacted - sometimes to tragic effect. We might be daunted by the scale of the tech giants and their content, which so entrails young people, but we can still help children to be aware of their mental wellbeing, recognizing when something isn't OK - and knowing what to do about content that upsets them.

- ### 1. UNDERSTAND THE ALGORITHM

Algorithms rank content by user interest, someone who views many posts from a certain creator will see the 'main feeds' come first, and if they're interested in that content, the algorithm will show more of that content. This can cause harm, there's a risk of being exposed to content that is harmful, upsetting or offensive, and for some young people, it can lead to them feeling isolated and less like they fit in.
- ### 2. AVOID THE MAIN FEEDS

Avoiding the main feeds on social media platforms like the amount of time spent on the app shows users can opt to only see content from people they follow. Use restricted modes, or 'highlight' posts that they don't want to see. If you're a parent, you can set up a 'parental control' to see how your child is using the app and what they're seeing when they open the app.
- ### 3. DISCUSS WHAT THEY'VE SEEN

Chatting about what your child's seen online helps you create a conversation that's not scary. Some content that platforms are screening out might still be visible to your child. Being honest about what they're seeing, what posts they're seeing, and how they're feeling about it, can help you to discuss what they're seeing and how they're feeling about it.
- ### 4. LEARN HOW TO HIDE CONTENT

If your child stumbles across something that's upsetting or harmful, there's an option to hide that post or to report it. You can also be suggested in the future. On some platforms, you can also choose to block posts that contain specific words or phrases. Encourage your child to report or what they're seeing.
- ### 5. SET DAILY LIMITS

Phones and most apps can tell you how much time is being spent on the app. You can set a limit on how much time you can spend on the app. You can also set a limit on how much time you can spend on the app. You can also set a limit on how much time you can spend on the app.
- ### 6. MONITOR THEIR ACTIVITY

Keeping a discreet eye on how your child is using social media can help you to see if they're seeing anything that's upsetting or harmful. You can also see if they're posting anything that's upsetting or harmful. You can also see if they're posting anything that's upsetting or harmful.
- ### 7. TURN OFF PUSH NOTIFICATIONS

Even for adults, it's tempting to check a small set of push notifications to see what's new. For children, these notifications can be a constant stream of things that are upsetting or harmful. Turning them off will help your child to focus on what they're doing and not on what they're seeing.
- ### 8. USE DEVICES TOGETHER

Using children internet-enabled devices and computer hardware together can help you to see if they're seeing anything that's upsetting or harmful. You can also see if they're posting anything that's upsetting or harmful.
- ### 9. ENCOURAGE OTHER ACTIVITIES

Mental health professionals often highlight the importance of other activities. Encouraging your child to do other things that they enjoy can help them to feel better about what they're seeing on social media.
- ### 10. TALK ABOUT PEER PRESSURE

Most platforms default children's profiles to be public. This means that anyone can see their posts. Encourage your child to think about what they're posting and how they're feeling about it.

**Meet Our Expert**  
 Rhonda Searson, Adm is executive headteacher at a specialist primary school. She has worked with schools across the UK, focused on mental health and wellbeing. She is a member of the National Association of Headteachers and the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers.

**National Online Safety**  
 #WakeUpWednesday

[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) @nationalonlinesafety /NationalOnlineSafety @nationalonlinesafety

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## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SHARING PHOTOS ONLINE

Schools often do a 'check' of photos taken by children, and you may well be eager to share their photos. But it's important that you know what you're sharing and how it might be used. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe parents should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, facts and for help.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

**INVASIONS OF PRIVACY**  
 Even with the right settings, photos can be shared with people you don't want them to see. This can be a problem for children, as they may not want their photos to be shared with people they don't know or people who might use them in a way they don't want.

**REVEALING PERSONAL DETAILS**  
 Small details in photos can reveal personal information that you don't want to be shared. This can be a problem for children, as they may not want their photos to be shared with people they don't know or people who might use them in a way they don't want.

**MISUSE OF IMAGES**  
 Photos can be used in a way that you don't want them to be. This can be a problem for children, as they may not want their photos to be shared with people they don't know or people who might use them in a way they don't want.

**ONLINE GROOMING**  
 Photos can be used to groom children online. This can be a problem for children, as they may not want their photos to be shared with people they don't know or people who might use them in a way they don't want.

**PRESSURE TO PLEASE**  
 Photos can be used to pressure children to do things they don't want to do. This can be a problem for children, as they may not want their photos to be shared with people they don't know or people who might use them in a way they don't want.

**IMPACT ON DIGITAL FOOTPRINT**  
 Photos can be used to create a digital footprint that you don't want. This can be a problem for children, as they may not want their photos to be shared with people they don't know or people who might use them in a way they don't want.

**Advice for Parents & Carers**

- REVIEW SETTINGS REGULARLY**  
 Make sure your social media's settings in terms of who can view your content or post your content. Even family and friends might not be the best audience for some of your photos. Reviewing your settings regularly is also a good starting point for conversations with your child about managing their own social media when they're older.
- CHECK YOUR PHOTOS**  
 Photos of your child shouldn't provide any clues to where they go or to activities they're involved in. If you're posting a photo of your child, make sure you're not including any information that could be used to identify them or their location.
- THINK AHEAD**  
 Try to consider the longer-term implications of what you post. Would you be happy with that photo being online to see for a long time? Would you be happy with that photo being used in a way you don't want? Think about these things before you post.

**Meet Our Expert**  
 Lisa is a social media expert and author of the book 'Social Media for Parents'. She has worked with schools across the UK, focused on mental health and wellbeing. She is a member of the National Association of Headteachers and the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers.

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## Forest School Dates

Week	Forest school
1 Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 6
2 Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 5
3 Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> September	Year 4
4 Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 3
5 Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 2
6 Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 1
7 Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Reception
8 Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> October	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

Please continue to be mindful of our local residents when parking outside school and **remember the yellow lines should not be parked on at any times**. this applies to all parents at all times during the day.

We need to rely on parents/carers to help keep all our children safe outside of our school.

## School Calendar for Autumn 1 Term 2023

Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	Teacher Training Day
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 6 Forest School
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 5 Forest School
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> September	Jeans for Genes Day
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> September	Year 4 Forest School
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> September	Macmillan Coffee Morning KS1 (year 1 and 2) 9.30am-10.30am
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> September	European Day of Languages
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> September	Macmillan Coffee Morning Nursery/Reception 9.30am-10.30am
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> September	Macmillan UKS2 Coffee Morning (Year 5 and Year 6) 9.30am-10.30am
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> September	Flu Immunisations
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> September	Macmillan LKS2 Coffee Afternoon (Year 3 and Year 4) 9.30am-10.30am
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 3 Forest School
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> October	Space Week
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 2 Forest School
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	'Hella Yellow' Mental Health Day
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 1 Forest School
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> October	Assessment Week in School
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> October	Harvest Collection
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> October	School Photographer
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Autumn Reports to Parents
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Reception Forest School
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	Parent's Evening
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	Parent's Evening
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> October	Halloween Disco 4.30pm-6pm (KS2)
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> October	Nursery Forest School
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> October	Halloween Theme Day - Whole school
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> October	Halloween Party - Nursery/Rec/Year 1 and Year 2
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> October	School Finishes for October Half Term Break at 3.15pm

Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	Children Return to School
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> November	House winners Non-uniform
WB Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> November	Anti-Bullying Week
WB Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> November	Maths Week
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> November	Children in Need
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> November	Non-Uniform Day – Fayre Donation
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> November	Christmas Fayre Evening 5pm – 6.30pm
WB Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Visits TBC
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 3 /4 Movie Night 3.15pm – 5pm
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Jumper Day
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Years 5 and 6 Performance 9.30am
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Nursery/Reception Performances 9.30am
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 1 and 2 visit to Pantomime
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Years 1 and 2 Performances 9.30am
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 3 and 4 visit to Pantomime
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Years 3 and 4 Performances 9.30am
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 5 and 6 visit to Pantomime
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 1 and 2 Christmas Party (pm)
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Nursery/Reception Christmas Party (am) Years 3 and 4 Christmas Party (pm)
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Dinner Day
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	Year 5 and 6 Film afternoon (pm)
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	School finishes for Christmas break at 1.30pm

• Autumn 2 Forest School dates to be confirmed

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<https://www.facebook.com/RingwayPrimarySchool/>