



INSPIRING SUCCESS BEYOND EXPECTATION

Head teacher: Mrs Jane Scardifield

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well – what a week! Thank you to all of you for your patience and support this week. Your children have been absolutely superb coming back to school after all this time and the Northowram Primary School family is finally together again! We have near-full attendance in classes across school and, as always, your children have been a credit to you. They have settled quickly into their new classes and are impressing their teachers by how much they have remembered from before Summer! I must say a very special well done to all our Nursery and Reception children who were starting school for the very first time this week and who were very grown up coming into the classroom and following all our new safety rules! Classroom learning has got off to a flying start – there have been some super lessons across the curriculum this week which I hope your children have enjoyed. We've learned a lot this week and I'd like to share the following important updates with you:

Face coverings required at drop off and pick up

Despite our staggered start, it's still really busy in school at drop off and pick up times and there are certain points around the one-way system where I cannot guarantee that you, as parents and carers can retain a distance of 2 metres from other adults. Therefore, from Monday, please can I ask that all adults dropping off or collecting children wear a face covering on entering the school grounds from Baxter Lane. The outdoor staff team and staff receiving children into class will also be wearing face coverings and I ask that you respect social distancing with them too. Children do not need to wear face coverings and staff will usually remove face coverings once in the classroom.

Staggered starts

You can really help us with reducing the business of drop off and pick up by not arriving early for your start time or pick up time. The school gate into the one way system will not be open before 8.40am for drop off and 3pm for collection so please do not arrive earlier than this. Whilst we will do our best to support families with siblings, please do not ask staff to accept children early into classes or expect an early release from class at the end of the day.

PE Lessons

Wherever possible, PE lessons will take place outside so it's extra important that children in years 1-6 have trainers and a hoodie or jumper for outdoor sessions

Dogs outside school

Dogs are not allowed to be tied to the gates outside school or to be brought into school grounds (no matter how small or cute!) This is especially important currently as we need maximum space on the pavements on Baxter Lane

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Reading Books

Within the two weeks, children will be given their reading books and reading record. For safety, children need to return books on a Friday only and will change their reading books on a Monday. This allows the books to be left safely in school over the weekend for the required 48 hours to ensure they are virus free before being reincorporated into the reading system the following week. Children will still have opportunities to read their home reading book in school during the week.

After school clubs

We are trying hard to find ways to recommence our after school clubs as we know that these are so important to the children. However, there are challenges due to government guidance around additional risks linked to exercising in our small hall (with clubs like dance and gym) and with singing inside (so no choir for the moment). We are aiming to re-start some clubs after the October half term so please bear with us as we work through this planning.

I think the children may well be tired out after this week so I wish you and them a very restful and enjoyable weekend. The weather looks good so I hope that you all manage to enjoy some Autumn sunshine!

Sending my very best wishes,

Jane Scardifield