



1<sup>st</sup> October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Autumn is just around the corner and as the mornings get colder and wetter, please make sure that all your children have a warm, dark coloured coat to wear when they come to school.

### COVID-19

Unfortunately, we are still seeing high numbers of cases in Newcastle. <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus> Wherever possible, please follow the national guidance. If a member of your household has received a positive PCR test result then we now ask that the rest of the family access a PCR test prior to any siblings coming into school. On receipt of a negative PCR any other children can immediately return to school, but this extra layer of accessing PCR test will really help us to control against the spread of infection. I really appreciate your support and help with this as we want all of our children to remain in school as much as possible.

### Parent Survey

Your views are important to us and on Monday, we will launch a parent survey via the school website. I look forward to reading all your responses. If you would like a paper copy please let the office know.

### World Mental Health Day

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/> On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October, all pupils will be encouraged to come into school dressed in something yellow. They will take part in activities all day to learn about and celebrate the work of world mental health day.

### Entry/exit from school

A quick reminder that pupils do not go into their classrooms until between 8:40am-8:50am. Please make sure that your child arrives in school between those times. Any pupil arriving late will be marked on the register as late, it is also very disruptive to both the child and their peers if pupils keep coming into the class as late.

I have been asked by a couple of parents to remove the staggered leaving times after school, this is not possible as otherwise too many of our children would be leaving school in a single group which would not be safe or the alternative would be that they miss out on time in class to leave early. I appreciate all your support with this.

### Reception/Nursery Entry exit times

Please see the specific letter which outlines the timings of the school day as the settling in arrangements come to an end. Remember your reception children can walk down on their own now as we are trying to encourage their independence, well done to all of those parents who have started encouraging their little ones to have a go.

### Curriculum Evenings

Curriculum Information ppt's are now on the school website for your information – please take the time to read them as they contain a lot of useful information.

### Acceptable use policy

A quick reminder, please can you all read the new online acceptable use policy and complete the relevant permissions form for all of your children, which are now on the website news page. Completed permission forms should be returned by **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2021**.

### **SJV Facebook page**

We are so excited about this new way of communicating with parents and I am sure you will start to see and celebrate with us all of the wonderful things your children do in school too. As part of signing the acceptable use policy you are giving permission for your child's photograph to be used on the school Facebook page. This will be an excellent way to celebrate and share with you all the amazing things happening in school. There is a separate letter on the school news page which has more details about this and the QR code to access the page.

### **Harvest Festival/Charitable Food Bank Collection**

With Harvest on the horizon, we wanted to use this year's Autumn school charitable endeavour and ask families to help us support the needier in our community, so we are going to collect items for Newcastle West End Foodbank. We cannot overstate how important donations are for their Charity as they face an ever-increasing demand for their services, particularly as the proposed £20 Universal Credit cut and energy price increases come in to force. Please visit [www.newcastlewestend.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.newcastlewestend.foodbank.org.uk) for more information. If you can donate any non-perishable food stuffs or toiletries then we will quarantine them in school and create a single large collection. Please could donations be brought to school by **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2021**.

### **School Place Applications**

Primary school places for Reception starters need to be applied for by 15<sup>th</sup> January 2022 and secondary places (Our current Year 6 pupils) need to apply for their secondary school places by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021. Please make sure you all apply for your school places before these dates as no one wants to end up in a position without any school place, the following link [www.newcastle.gov.uk](http://www.newcastle.gov.uk) will take you to the 'apply for a school place page'

### **Attendance figures for each class**

As you know, attendance is regarded as hugely important in school. If a pupil is not in school they cannot learn, and being that as we move out of the bubble closures we all can recognise the negative impact of pupils missing time in school. If you are having problems and need support please contact school, the attendance officer and parent support adviser can work with you and your child to improve attendance.

Class Group	Attendance figure for the week	Class Group	Attendance figure for the week
Year 6 (Mrs Spencer)	93.60%	Year 6 (Mr Peacock)	89.53%
Year 5 (Miss Dolphin)	97.32%	Year 5 (Miss MacMaster)	90.88%
Year 4 (Mrs Rutherford)	95.00%	Year 4 (Mr Bonnar)	96.55%
Year 3 (Mrs Meldrum/Mrs McLean)	94.35%	Year 3 (Miss Dean)	94.67%
Year 2 (Miss Cherry)	96.00%	Year 2 (Miss Prayle)	93.39%
Year 1 (Mrs Langford)	94.30%	Year 1 (Mrs Watanabe)	88.04%
Reception (Mrs Duffy)	89.77%	Reception (Mr Cowan)	89.44%
Nursery Rainbow (Mrs Lake)	83.23%	Nursery Sunshine (Mrs Lake)	78.72%

The attendance officer will continue to telephone families where concerns about attendance start to emerge. The last week of this half term all families will be issued with traffic light attendance letters to highlight any concerns. If you need any support with being on time or getting your child to school please do not hesitate to contact us.

I hope you have a great weekend and as always, we keep all of our parish community in our school prayers.

Best wishes,

A D Thorpe

Mrs A. D. Thorpe  
Head teacher