



# NCEA Warkworth Primary School

## Summer Newsletter

### Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

The sun is (mostly!) out, the wildflowers are blooming, the children are smiling on the field every break and lunch time, and the feeling of positivity is everywhere - summer is finally here!

As per my letter at the end of last half-term, we had Ofsted visit which certainly was an interesting way to end my first half-term as headteacher. We remain limited in what we can say but we continue to be very proud of how the children and staff conducted themselves and look forward to sharing the final report with you as soon as we can. That will, hopefully, be before the summer holidays arrive.

I held informal drop ins for interested parents last half-term and amongst the many positives one piece of constructive criticism that came up repeatedly was ensuring adequate notice for dates. Whilst parents reported enjoying the close communication Class Dojo provides, they wanted further notice of events - as such, I have attempted to collate as many dates as possible (at the end of the newsletter) for next academic year.

This newsletter will be slightly longer than my last one as a result and, of course, dates for events far in the future may be subject to change but I will attempt to use each half-termly newsletter to keep it updated.

### Contacting Me!

I am happy for people to contact me as and when they need - however, I have had a number of issues trying to receive messages on Class Dojo. If you would like to speak to me, please contact me via email ([jonathan.booth@warkworth.ncea.org.uk](mailto:jonathan.booth@warkworth.ncea.org.uk)) or by phoning the school office and making an appointment. Thank you. Teaching staff remain happy to receive Dojo messages but please be mindful about their own personal time in terms of when you expect a reply back!

### Teaching staff for next year

I am delighted to announce that there will be no change in teachers next year. We have just the one 'switch' of year groups but hopefully there is otherwise little surprise in the following:

#### Nursery -

Mrs Stones, Miss Pringle, Miss Younger

**Reception** - Miss Fife and Miss Wright

**Year 1** - Mrs Morris

**Year 2** - Mrs Frater & Mrs Coils

**Year 3** - Mrs Stuart

**Year 4** - Miss Milne

**Year 5/6** - Mr Teasdale

Support staff will continue to be deployed flexibly across the school.



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# Strive Together As One



## Transition

With our new classes in mind, children will get a chance to go to their new class rooms and meet their new teacher on **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July** and **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July**. Children will come in as normal, go to morning Worship as usual, then spend time with their new class teacher in their new class room. As Reception are making the biggest geographical jump from the cabin to the main part of school (!), they will get a few more opportunities to spend time with Mrs Morris.



## Road Safety Update

I had Cllr Ann Burke visit school a few weeks ago who has been pleading the school's case for further action to improve road safety on Guilden Road. I will keep you updated with her efforts as we investigate exactly what Northumberland County Council have planned to help reduce the risk. In addition, we had a road safety talk with the children today too.

I am very grateful to our families for their considerate parking when I have been out – however, a small number of local residents have continued to raise concerns about parking on some of the streets further out. Please continue to park with consideration of others. Thank you.



## Summer Fair, New Library and Early Years

I am very excited to announce that we will be creating a new library space at the entrance to the school. Whilst I personally thought this was a very clever idea, our more veteran teachers tell me this thought is not new and is a return to how things used to be a few years ago!

We want to create a lovely space for our children and visitors to enjoy, for every nook and cranny to be a reading-friendly place that celebrates our love of reading across the school and promote all things to do with books.

We had hoped to receive funding for the library from Warkworth Parish Council but, unfortunately, our recent grant application was rejected much to our disappointment and despite the fantastic efforts of Cllr Burke. Therefore, we now hope that the Summer Fair will raise enough money for bespoke bookcases, reading furniture and various exciting resources for the Early Years outdoor area. In addition, I have requested an invite to the parish council to restate our case for support!

Watch this space and look out for further messages on Dojo re: the Summer Fair on the afternoon of Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July!

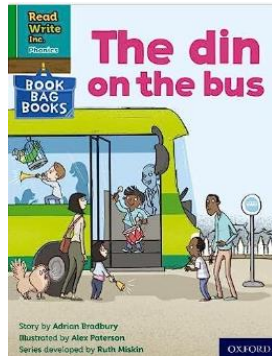




## Returning Book Bag Books

Sadly, we have noticed that a lot of Read Write Inc. book bag books have not returned to school. These books are largely used by Reception to Year 2. Please have a rummage around at home and check under beds and all the usual hiding places for these books. They cost a very large amount and it is essential they come back to school ready to be used again! Books can be dropped off either direct to teachers or via the office.

Thank you!



## School Council

We are very excited that the School Council will be restarting next academic year! As Mrs Frater put on Class Dojo, elections will be held on 14/6/23.

The S.E.A. Squad will continue and be open to all, focusing on social and environmental issues, whilst the School Council will embody the British Value of democracy by being elected and considering school-based issues. We know from early manifestos received that playground equipment is high on the agenda!

## New Lunch Time Clubs

A number of parents have got in touch with me about clubs, some requesting more specific clubs (e.g. requesting more sports), some saying that they would like their children in clubs but that they cannot fit ones after school into their schedule etc.

With this in mind, I met with teachers who kindly agreed to give up their lunchtimes once a week to run clubs that all can join. We will send out information in the coming weeks via Arbor allowing parents to sign their children up for clubs starting from September. These will be instead of after-school clubs (with the exception of Trident Soccer which will continue on Fridays).

One club that is of particular interest to me is our new choir – two volunteers from St Lawrence's Church are very kindly going to donate their time to help set up a more formal choir, with a view towards performances one day in the future! The aim I set is to hopefully be singing Christmas Carols in public when that time of year comes around. They will sing a variety of different songs, from hymns to pop songs. I am beyond excited so watch this space!



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## Wraparound

From September 2023, there will be new fees for our Breakfast Club and Afterschool Club. As you will be aware, school funding is a significant national issue and, without getting too political (!), let's just say that schools are being expected to do a lot more with a lot less money. From food costs soaring (as we all see every time we go to the supermarket...) to salaries (rightly) being increased considerably too, for our Breakfast Clubs and After School Clubs to continue, it is essential that it is cost-effective. The costs will be as follows:

- Breakfast Club: £4.50 a session  
7:30am-Start of school day  
*Includes breakfast*  
(Except for children who are classified as Pupil Premium where it will be paid for by the school.)
- After-School Club: £9.50 a session  
End of school day-5:15pm  
*Includes a snack*  
(Or until 5:30pm by special request, agreed with Mrs Gibson at a total session cost of £12).

We are asking parents to submit their bookings **two weeks in advance** by using the Arbor system.

Emergency bookings will be authorised in exceptional circumstances – please speak to Mrs Gibson first to arrange this.

We are charging for whole sessions and requesting two weeks' notice because this allows us to set the staff rotas and ensure our staff-to-child ratios are correct. Payment will be taken at the time of booking.

The current system is not working adequately as staff are, out of the kindness of their heart, being deployed last minute and not always knowing how long they are needed for. You'll all know how wonderful Mrs Dixon, Miss Pringle, Miss Wright, Ms Young, Miss Wilkie and everyone else who helps with Wraparound are – they have regularly gone above and beyond, staying much later than expected with little to no notice, but I wish to make sure that we can plan out their duties better. These fees and arrangements remain competitive compared to other providers and will continue to give value for money in this challenging time.



## Sports Day

Mrs Frater sent a letter about Sports Day today which will happen the same day as the Summer Fair (the morning of Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July). We are very excited!



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## Everyone Is Awesome Week!

On week commencing 3<sup>rd</sup> July, school will proudly continue the traditional annual Everyone Is Awesome week which is focused on inclusivity and particularly highlighting Special Educational Needs both in our school and across the world. It was the genius idea of a child with autism at the school who wanted the other children in school to understand why and how he was different and celebrate it.

Mrs Coils will send out further information over Class Dojo in due course but we are particularly interested in welcoming any parents of children with additional needs who would be happy to speak to children. Thank you in advance!



## Uniform

As you will be aware, we changed uniform supplier to Seghal & Sons and they are offering free delivery for uniform orders over £40 – please [click here](#) for the website. The uniform has our amended school logo which looks even better than our old one, although families are welcome to continue to use the old uniform as well as accessing our pre-loved uniform selections in school.



## Forest School and PE Uniform Days

Parents, children and teaching staff seem to like children coming into school in their PE kits on PE and Forest School days so this will continue next academic year.

Children will continue to have PE for two lessons a week – depending on the sport, this may mean that they only need PE kit once a week or maximum twice a week.

Forest School will continue to be weekly for Early Years, it will be twice a half-term for Years 1 and 2, and once a half-term for Y3-6.

The exact days will be shared by new class teachers next academic year but I know that families wanted to know the frequency so that they could buy the right amount of uniform for the year ahead.



## Summer Holiday Club

We are delighted to announce a possible *free* holiday club, run by Luis from LASP Outdoors, on site in school from Monday 21<sup>st</sup> to Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> August. Invited pupils are from Year 2 upwards (with potential for Year 1 depending on numbers) and it will run from 9am to 1pm for the four days including PE, arts and crafts and teambuilding exercises.

If you are interested at all, please register your interest with the school office so that LASP Outdoors can gauge the potential numbers involved to see if this is feasible. Thank you.





## Volunteers

I am delighted that we have had so many volunteer forms in. This is fantastic as it means that more people, be they parents or general volunteers from our community, can come into school and help contribute to the school. On behalf of us all here, thank you to everyone who has volunteered and we cannot wait to have you in with the children.

More volunteers are always happily received, however! From the usual jobs like hearing readers to volunteers for decorating our hopefully soon to be built library, to painting our Early Years cabins (!), as many volunteers as possible will be very much appreciated. If you are at all interested, please do not hesitate to pay Mrs Gibson a phone call or visit via the school office. Thank you!



I managed to meet a few potential volunteers, including our lovely new choir leaders, when I came to a fantastic service at St Lawrence's a few Sundays ago. I am now on the regular readers list so I look forward to seeing people from across the village as well as some of our families in the future.

## Safeguarding

Mr Booth is our school's Designated Safeguarding Leader, with Mrs Gibson, Miss Milne and Miss Fife our Deputy Leaders. If you have concerns about a child, you may contact any one of us. If it is an emergency and a child is in immediate danger, please call the police.

Members of the public can also report concerns to Children's Social Care directly. If you have a concern about a child please contact one of the following:

- OneCall – 01670 536400
- Northumbria Police – 101 (in an emergency always dial 999)
- NSPCC Helpline – 0808 800 5000

There is also [a secure online referral](#) form available for you to explain your concern, if you are a member of the public.



With my very best wishes,

**Jonathan Booth**

[jonathan.booth@warkworth.ncea.org.uk](mailto:jonathan.booth@warkworth.ncea.org.uk)



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Day(s)	Date	Event	Time
Monday	12 <sup>th</sup> June	Forest School for Year 4	
Monday	12 <sup>th</sup> June	RNLI – water safety (Reception – Y6)	1:00 – 3.00pm
Friday	16 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 2: Visit to Woodhorn Colliery	9.00 – 3.00pm
Monday – Wednesday	19 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup> June	Residential visit to Dukeshouse Wood Years 5 & 6	All day
Wednesday	21 <sup>st</sup> June	Music Showcase	2.30 – 3.00pm
Wednesday	28 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 4: Life Path Event at Brinkburn Priory	9.00 – 3.00pm
Friday	30 <sup>th</sup> June	Teacher Training Day	School closed to all pupils
<b>July 2023</b>			
Monday – Friday	3 <sup>rd</sup> – 7 <sup>th</sup> July	Everyone is Awesome Week	
Wednesday	5 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6: Duchess Transition Day	9.00 – 3.00pm
Wednesday	5 <sup>th</sup> July	Sports Day & Summer Fair	See letter from Mrs Frater
Friday	7 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6: Pizza night	3.00 – 5.00pm
Thursday	13 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6: Duchess Transition Day	9.00 – 3.00pm
Friday	21 <sup>st</sup> July	Colour Run + End of Term	Information to follow via Class Dojo
<b>September 2023</b>			
Monday	4 <sup>th</sup> September	Teacher Training Day	School closed to all pupils
Tuesday	5 <sup>th</sup> September	School re-opens to all children	





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### October 2023

Monday	2 <sup>nd</sup> October	Bikeability Balance Plus	
Tuesday - Thursday	3 <sup>rd</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup> October	Bikeability Learn to Ride Plus	
Friday	6 <sup>th</sup> October	Bikeability Level 1	
Monday – Thursday	9 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> October	Bikeability Level 2	
Wednesday	11 <sup>th</sup> October	Sibling & Individual pupil photographs	
Friday	27 <sup>th</sup> October	Last day before half-term.	

### November 2023

Monday	6 <sup>th</sup> November	Return to school for Autumn 2.	
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### December 2023

Week commencing 11 <sup>th</sup> December		Christmas Nativities will occur in this week. Details will follow next academic year.	
Wednesday	20 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Fair	Details to follow.
Friday	22 <sup>nd</sup> December	Final day before Christmas holidays.	

### January 2024

Monday	8 <sup>th</sup> January	Teacher Training Day	School closed to all pupils
Tuesday	9 <sup>th</sup> January	Return to school for Spring 1.	

### February 2024

Friday	16 <sup>th</sup> February	Last day before half-term.	
Monday	26 <sup>th</sup> February	Return to school for Spring 2.	

### March 2024

Thursday	28 <sup>th</sup> March	Final day before Easter holiday.	
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<b>April 2024</b>			
Monday	15 <sup>th</sup> April	Return to school for Summer 1.	
<b>May 2024</b>			
Monday	6 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank Holiday.	School closed to all pupils
Friday	24 <sup>th</sup> May	Final day before May half-term.	
<b>June 2024</b>			
Monday	3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Return to school for Summer 2.	
Friday	28 <sup>th</sup> June	Teacher Training Day	School closed to all pupils
<b>July 2024</b>			
Wednesday	3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Sports Day and Summer Fair	
Friday	19 <sup>th</sup> July	Colour run and final day.	