



Shanklea Primary School

Telephone : 01670 715205

Email: admin@shanklea.northumberland.sch.uk

Website: www.shanklea.northumberland.sch.uk

Nairn Road, Parkside Chase, Cramlington, Northumberland NE23 1RQ

Newsletter 4th September 2023

We hope everyone has had a lovely summer break and we look forward to seeing all the children on Wednesday! In this newsletter there are a few updates from the summer and we will release all dates for your diaries by Friday so you have lots of advance notice for events in school.

Work over the holidays

All of the painting work has now been completed and each classroom has been freshly painted over the last term or the summer period.

Deep cleans and clearing out

All classrooms and communal areas continue to have deep cleans regularly. Following on from Easter, we have now emptied a further two containers and prepared the portacabin to be removed during October half term. All classrooms continue to be decluttered and we filled a phenomenal eight lorries full of rubbish over the summer - it's been quite a task!

Library area

We've developed a library area within school where whole classes can sit and listen to a story at story time. It's a reading garden this term but it will change every term. Watch this space!

Playground equipment

Playground equipment that had been condemned or considered unsafe has been removed and the adventure trail will go during October half term. Don't worry we have purchased lots of new portable playground equipment thanks to your kind donations and the donations from the Y5/6 girls' football team. We will continue to develop our outdoor area!

We've continued to move all rubbish from the bike sheds and we are busy creating an outdoor reading area for pupils. **In the morning please could we ask that children do not go into this area. We will corner it off for now while we complete the work. Please ask children to park their scooters and bikes in the shed.**

RAAC (Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete)

Northumberland County Council have confirmed that Shanklea is not impacted by RAAC concrete and so will not be affected by school closures.

Resources in school

Following the curriculum developments and assessments we've introduced since January, we've also been looking at reading books with a focus on KS2 (Y3-6) and the importance of continuing to develop a love of reading. Over the summer, we have purchased a significant amount of new books and they will begin to come home shortly. #Team Shanklea love reading.

We've also invested in new resources for maths for pupils to use in class.

Team Updates

Over the summer, Mrs Crowther and Mrs Laughton were appointed as Assistant Headteachers following a day of interviews and challenging tasks led by the Governing Body. I'm sure you will agree these appointments are thoroughly deserved as Mrs Crowther and Mrs Laughton always go above and beyond for Team Shanklea!

Miss Henaghan has also been appointed as English Lead and Mr Macmillan as Maths Lead, congratulations to both team members, these are two very strong appointments to our senior leadership team. This also means our senior leadership team has grown, which is fantastic!

Extra curricular clubs

Mr Brown, PE Lead, is currently setting this up and all clubs will be up and running by **Monday 11th of September**. Mr Brown is currently liaising with external providers and we will release the clubs on Wednesday this week.

If you have any questions please contact the school office.

Class Dojo

Everyone should now have had an update on any specific class arrangements. If you are not on Dojo, please contact the school office and we'll get you set up. We've also attached our Dojo agreement, previously sent out in February for new families.

Lunch ordering and payments

We continue to use School Grid for facilitating school meal ordering, payments and recording of food allergies. We register your child on your behalf by providing a School Grid with your child's name, date of birth along with your name and email address. For new pupils, once registered you will be sent login details from School Grid which should be used to access your account to preorder and pay for meals. Please let us know if you do not wish your details to be used. If you require any further information on how to access or use this system, please contact the school office.

Start and end of school arrangements

Main school opening time: School gates will open from 8.40pm, we encourage all children to arrive at 8.45am, gates will be closed promptly at 8.55am. Any pupils arriving after 8.55am will need to come through the front of school. Children arriving after 9am will be marked as late in their register, unless we have been notified of a medical appointment.

Main school finishing time: School gates will open no earlier than 3.25pm. Children will be dismissed at 3.30pm.

Arrangements for the end of the school day: Please continue to line up in classes to collect pupils on the main yard. The reason for this is that it's a safeguarding issue if the team is unable to see pupils leave the school site with parents/carers. Please also stay with your child in the yard in the morning until they have gone into school. We had a number of children who were dropped off before the summer without a parent. We cannot guarantee that a member of staff is always present as we frequently are supporting families in school during this time.

If there are any new families to school, please come to the school office and we will help you from there to your new classrooms.

EYFS (2's, Nursery, and Reception) see below:

Squirrels - The children will enter the Squirrel room at 12.30pm and pick up is at 3.30pm.

Nursery- We will be starting a staggered start to Nursery from Wednesday. You can drop your children off from 8.45- 9am, this has changed to stop the long queues before the children enter Nursery. Please ensure your child does not play with outdoor equipment while they wait to enter the nursery as it is set up for the sessions. Pick up is at 3pm, if you have an older child who does not finish till 3.30 you can leave your child in Nursery till 3.15pm.

Reception

All children will enter the Reception classrooms at the main door in the EYFS area, beside the gate to the left of the main school entrance. Children should be dropped off between 8.45am - 9.00am and collected from their classroom room at 3.30pm.

All Y1/2 classes, Mrs Downes (KS1 Lead), Mr Rutherford and Miss Spence's classes will enter and exit the building via the changing room doors from the main school yard.

Y3/4

Miss Witherspoon's class will enter and exit the building via the changing room doors.

Mrs Valentine's class will enter and exit the building via their classroom door onto the main school yard.

Mrs Barron's class will enter and exit the building via their classroom door at the back of school.

Y5/6

Miss Henaghan's class will enter and exit the building via their classroom door at the back of school.

Mr Brown's class will enter and exit the building via their classroom door at the back of school.

Mr Macmillan's class will enter and exit the building via their classroom door at the back of school.

Swimming

Yr 6 will begin their swimming lesson at Concordia every Wednesday afternoon starting from 13th September 2023 until the end of the Autumn Term, their last session will be Wednesday 20th December 2023. The children will walk to Concordia so please ensure they wear weather appropriate clothing and suitable footwear. The children will return at the end of the school day. The session will last half an hour and school will cover the cost; however, **consent is required** and should be made via the School Gateway.

Reminder of teacher training days

School will be closed for staff training on the following dates:

- Monday 4th September 2023
- Tuesday 5th September 2023
- Monday 8th January 2024
- Monday 3rd June 2024

Please note: School will also be closed on Monday 6th May 2024 for the Early May Bank Holiday.

Uniform

We've attached a copy of the uniform agreement as a few families have requested it be sent out again. The team will notify you of PE days shortly via Dojo.

Universal Free School Meals and Pupil premium

Families are reminded that Universal Free School Meals are limited to children in Reception and Year 1 and Year 2. Therefore, if your child will be in Years 3 and above from September they will no longer be eligible. They may however, qualify for income related Free School Meals. To find out if you are eligible, you will need to apply for Free School Meals on the NCC website at the link below. **It is worth checking for all ages, even if your child prefers packed lunches as you may be eligible for reduced charges in other areas e.g. school trips:** <https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Education/Schools/Meals.aspx>. If you'd like further advice, information or help completing the form: please pop in!

Medical information, medication and various permissions

It is important that school is made aware of any changes, including health and medication information, during the holidays. If there are any changes in circumstances we should be aware of please let us know.

Confidential data collection sheets will be sent out for all parents to check that we have all contact details correct. Please mark on any changes and return the form to school. You do not need to return the sheet if there are no changes. **Please note:** Every child MUST have at least two contacts.

Consent forms were completed last year for the use of images and for GDPR. These consent instructions will continue to apply until we are notified otherwise. Parents and carers have the right to withdraw consent at any time. Please contact our office if you wish to withdraw consent at any time. Consent forms will be sent out shortly for all children who have just joined us.

Flu vaccinations

The NHS Team will be visiting Shanklea on Friday 24th November to give flu vaccinations for children in Reception to Year 6. We will send information out shortly so parents and carers can give or withhold consent for these vaccinations.

School Photographs

We have organised a school photographer to visit our school on **Thursday 14th September**. All children will have their photographs taken and there will be an opportunity for sibling photographs too. More information to follow.

Pack lunches and water bottles

- No nuts- including peanut butter and Nutella – because of the life threatening risk to any other child who may have a severe allergy.
- Please ensure that water bottles only contain water.
- Please ensure that there are no sweets, chocolate bars, fizzy drinks or juice in pack lunches please.

Aligned with the majority of schools, we'd like to develop a pack lunch policy. If you would like to be involved in a working party for this, please get in touch with the school office if you'd like to get involved.

Maths and Literacy Shed (Homework)

[EdShed](#)

Maths and Literacy Shed was purchased for all pupils from Y1- Y6.

This is an interactive resource to use online that covers the whole curriculum. The team will set homework at the right level for pupils in their class; however, it also has so many activities and games that pupils can access freely for maths and English and we'd encourage them to be using it for 10 minutes every night to support their learning. The link is below and all children will have a username and password. If they don't please contact their class teacher.

Parking

Families are reminded that parking is prohibited on Nairn Road, Northolt Avenue and Needham Place without a residents' permit. Please park with consideration around school, not blocking pavements or drives even for a few minutes. We would be grateful if parents and carers could remind everyone who collects their children of the need to drive and park safely and with consideration.

We apologise for the lengthy first newsletter but we wanted all families to be fully prepared for tomorrow.

We look forward to seeing you all then.

Team Shanklea