



Newsletter 8 17.02.23

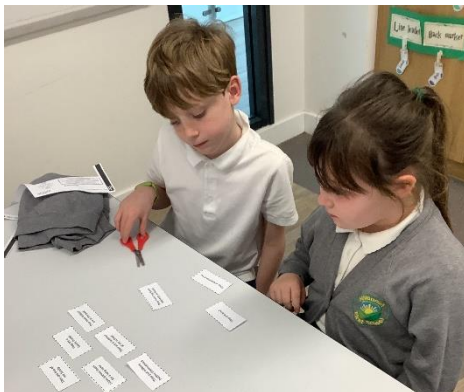
Dear Parents and Carers,

Please read on for news and updates from school, including important information about the NEU strike action.

Safer Internet Day

Last week, we marked Safer Internet Day in school with a variety of lessons and activities about online safety. Online safety is important every day of the year and an essential part of learning at school and beyond! If you want to carry on the conversation and learning at home, then we can recommend visiting the safer internet website below for ideas for parents and carers.

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2023/parents-and-carers>



Year 1 Phonics Workshop

Thanks to everyone who came to the phonics workshop. We have had some very positive feedback from the people we have spoken to about the event. I hope that you all found it useful. Please remember that we are here to help and answer any questions which you might have – phonics or otherwise!

Children's Mental Health Week

Last week was Children's Mental Health Week and we had a focus in school on children's well being and the importance of connections and relationships. Again, mental health work isn't just for that one week of the year and we will continue to focus on building resilience in our children on every day of the year. From some of our work with children last week, we have collected data about what currently worries children, what makes them happy and what they hope for their future. We will use this information to shape some of the PSHE curriculum, discussions and assemblies.



Strike Action

The National Union of Teachers is holding another strike across some areas in England including the North East on Tuesday 28th February.

Having carried out risk assessments and consulting with staff members, schools in the Trust and the Local Authority, I am now able to tell you how this will affect Havannah First School.

The following classes will be closed:

Birch Class, Bramble Class, Deer Class, Squirrel Class and Skylark Class.

Children in Ladybird, Honeybee, Hazel and Fern Classes should attend school as usual.

We have spoken to NEU reps and school staff (both NEU members and members of other unions) and have been advised that members of other unions or members of the NEU who are not striking cannot cover the classes of the NEU members who are striking. We have considered rotating classes so that different classes are affected each time, but this is not possible. The same principle is being applied in other schools in the Trust who are partially closed like us. Other unions could ballot members to strike later this year and other classes could be affected then.

If your child is entitled to a free school meal and is not attending school on the day, you can order a packed lunch which will be available to pick up from school on Tuesday 28th February between 11.00am and 11.30am. We will send you a form on ParentMail so that you can inform us whether you would like a meal to be provided. Orders need to be placed on the ParentMail form by 8.00am on Monday 27th February so the kitchen staff can prepare their order, we are unable to accept any late orders.

Taekwondo club will still run in the morning and children who usually attend can continue to do so. However, if children attending the club are not due to attend school on the day, they will need to be picked up at 8.50am. Art club at the end of the day will also be running. Children who are not in school can come at 3.20pm and be collected after the club.

School Council Visit to Bowmont House

Miss Campbell and the School Council have been busy planning their second visit to Bowmont House which is taking place this afternoon. We are delighted to be building links with some of the older residents on Newcastle Great Park and we hope to be able to invite some of our new friends to school in the near future.

Leaving the Site and Site Security

Our current caretaker, Mr Fortune, needs to lock the gates each evening as soon after 3.20pm as possible. This is to provide security for the after school club who use the building and grounds each afternoon straight after school. Please leave the site swiftly at the end of the day to facilitate this. This does not apply to the external gates at the front of site which are open until approximately 5.45pm when Mr Fortune is securing the site for overnight.

Gardening for Nature at Great Park

Please see the adjacent information regarding a session being held on Sunday 26th February at the Community Centre. I hope that some of you will enjoy attending the event.

KS1 PE Kits and Changing

Thanks to parents and carers of children in KS1 for your support with PE kits. After February half term, children will be wearing their uniforms every day and changing in school for PE. If your child is still struggling to get changed independently, please practise at home as much as you can before then.

Y4 Gosforth Ceilidh

The Y4 dancers had a brilliant afternoon yesterday at the Gosforth Ceilidh and no doubt learnt some new moves! Check them out on Skylark Class Twitter to see them in action!

Wishing everyone a fun and restful half term break. We look forward to seeing everyone recharged and ready for the new half term on Monday 27th February.

Best wishes

Helen McKenna

Headteacher



Northumberland
Wildlife Trust

Gardening for Nature

at Great Park



Join our Gardening for Nature session where you'll learn lots of tips to make your garden a haven for wildlife.

Sunday 26th February 10.30-12noon.
Great Park Community Centre,
Roseden Way, NE1 9BD.

Suitable for families and adults.
To book your FREE place please email:
cathy.sharp@northwt.org.uk



NEWCASTLE
GREAT PARK

Dates for Spring Term 2023

Monday 27 th Feb	Return to school
	Reception balance bikes
Tuesday 28 th Feb	Strike Date for NEU members (information above)
Wednesday 1 st March	Reception progress evening for parents and carers
Thursday 2 nd March	Reception progress evening for parents and carers
	World Book Day – information sent/to follow from class teachers
Friday 3 rd March	Football Tournament after school at Kenton
Tuesday 7 th March	Whole School Hatching Project start date
	NSPCC Safeguarding Assembly Y2
Wednesday 15 th	Proposed Strike Date for NEU members (no information known yet)
Thursday 16 th March	Proposed Strike Date for NEU members (no information known yet)
Monday 27 th March	Governors meeting 5pm
Tuesday 28 th March	Y1 – Y4 progress evening for parents and carers
	Book Fair in school (until Friday)
Wednesday 29 th March	Y1 – Y4 progress evening for parents and carers
Thursday 30 th March	Reception visit to Hall Hill Farm
Friday 31 st March	Break up for Easter Holiday

