

Weekly News – 6th September 2024

A message from Mrs Farren...

What a joy it has been to welcome back our wonderful Norton children. How did they grow so much over the summer? They have all started the year with an excellent attitude and great positivity!

We also welcomed our new Reception intake. From the moment they stepped into school, they have embraced school life. We are excited to get to know them all better and to watch them grow and learn. In assembly on Friday next week (13th February at 2.30pm) we will formally welcome our new Reception children to our school family. Each child will put a pebble into our school pebble bowl (the school provides the pebbles so there is no need to bring one in). This pebble bowl represents the school as a whole family: all different and unique; all amazing and all of equal importance. You are all welcome to attend this assembly.

Communication: as you know we use class dojo to communicate on a daily basis. Please do visit our website for all other information including curriculum coverage and important dates. This year, we have populated the yearly calendar (as much as possible) in advance. We have added important events including parent/teacher meetings, school performances and sports day, to help you organise your time in advance. We hope this is helpful.

Class/parent meetings:

Over the next few weeks parents will be invited to a short meeting with the class teacher. This will give you the opportunity to look at the year ahead and to understand any changes relevant to your child. If you cannot attend, we will make the class presentations available to you.

Thank you for your understanding whilst the building work is being completed. The buzzer works at the front of school but the school can only be accessed via the gates in the playground. It will all be worth it!

Have a wonderful weekend.

Mrs Farren and Team Norton

Our new **Little Learners** have been superstars on their settling in sessions this week! We look forward to seeing everyone next week.

Our activity focus for next week is "getting to know you".

And like that the first few days of school have been and gone! We are having such a great time getting to know the new **Reception** children and having fun reading stories, singing songs and playing. The children have really impressed us with their following of instructions, playing with their peers and tidying up! Next week we look forward to the children being full time, this will help them settle and get ready for learning.

What a wonderful few days the **Year 1** children have had in their new class. They've had time exploring the classroom, talking about the class rules, joining in with phonics and maths activities. We've really enjoyed getting to know them and we are looking forward to a full week with them next week.



Year 2 have settled back into school beautifully. We have spent the last couple of days thinking about how special and unique we all are. We have read the story 'Only One You', designed our own pebbles and wrote our own 'Words of Wisdom'. As a class, we have created a class charter (set of rules) which we agreed on and promise to follow. We have completed some beautiful self portraits and had fun experimenting with different pencil strokes.

We have had a fantastic start to **Year 3** this week! We began exploring our new book for English: "Stone Age Boy". We have shown off our writing skills by writing a diary entry from the perspective of the main character. In maths we practised our partitioning skills on 2 digit numbers and in Science we looked at the bones of the human body and their purpose.

We have had a great start to **Year 4**! In maths, we have used place value counters to recognise numbers up to 1,000 as well as to partition numbers. In History, we used our chronology skills to order historic events on a timeline and in English we have started reading our model text 'The Egyptian

This week in **Year 5** we have been learning about the impact of Martin Luther King in changing the world! We also have explored the work of Banksy, with lots of discussion on the hidden meaning in his work. We are still indecisive: is Banksy a criminal?

This week within maths **Year 6** have studied numbers up to 10,000,000. Within English we have started learning how to create suspense in our writing. I have loved getting to know this class and look forward to the year ahead.

Community corner!

We are changing our less screen time this year to think more about communities; our school community, local community and the wider community.

Why not take a walk around your local community this weekend... what do you love about it?
What would your hopes be for the future in your community?

SCHOOL AND PE UNIFORM!

- ⇒ Please ensure **all** uniform is **named**
- ⇒ Please make sure that all children are dressed in school colours for PE. PE clothes need to be inline with our policy and appropriate. Brightly coloured/logo sports clothes are not inline with school policy and are therefore not appropriate. If your child arrives in inappropriate uniform, we will provide them with an alternative appropriate kit for session

Lost property: is located in the junior corridor next to the boys toilets in a labelled tower of drawers. Any unnamed lost property is disposed of at the end of each big term.

IMPORTANT NOTICES:

You may have heard that the government has increased its focus on school attendance. As a school, we take this very seriously and will need to follow government guidance. From September, if your child fails to attend school regularly (for holidays or unauthorised absence) the Local Authority (LA) may take legal action against you. This could result in increased fines and even a court appearance. Please do not book holidays during term time. Please read the letter on the next two pages for more information. The letter is also available on our website.

- ⇒ **Reminder all dinners are chargeable from years 3-6.**
- ⇒ **Please update the office with any medical/allergy changes.**
- ⇒ **GDPR is carried over from previous years, if your circumstances have changed please update the school office.**

Dear parents / carers

New DfE statutory attendance guidance - 'Attendance Counts'

There has been growing national concern regarding declining school attendance rates across the UK. In response, the Department for Education has introduced new statutory guidance, effective from August 2024, aimed at reducing term-time holidays and unauthorised absences, and supporting families whose children are struggling to attend.

'Support First'

As the DfE notes, *'Improving attendance is everyone's business'*, and it is important that we, as your child's school, work together in partnership with you, your family, your child, and the wider community.

The new 'Working Together to Improve School Attendance' Guidance emphasises a 'Support First' ethos, and recognises that *'the barriers to accessing education are wide and complex, both within and beyond the school gates, and are often specific to individual pupils and families... [It] is essential for pupils to get the most out of their school experience, including their attainment, wellbeing, and wider life chances.'*

If you are concerned about your child's attendance, then please contact Mrs Farren as soon as possible so that barriers to attendance can be understood, and appropriate support can be put in place to support you, your family, and your child to prevent further absences.

Formalising and intensifying the support

Where voluntary support has not been effective and/or has not been engaged with, we will work with partners, including the local authority, to formalise and intensify the support.

As part of the measures introduced, if a pupil has 10 or more unauthorised absences within 10 school weeks, the pupil's parent(s)/carer(s) may receive a 'Notice to Improve' notification sent via email on behalf of the school and issued by the local authority (LA). Each day of absence is recorded as two sessions (morning and afternoon). Unauthorised absences include:

- unauthorised absence (where there is no reasonable circumstance for the absence taking place),
- arriving late after the register has closed,
- or a combination of these with holidays taken during term time

These 10 weeks can span different terms, academic years, and even different educational settings, such as transitions to secondary school or in-year school changes. For instance, if your child misses 3 days of school for a holiday in July (6 sessions) and is late after the register closes on 4 occasions (4 sessions) between September and October, you may be issued a 'Notice to Improve' notification.

The 'Notice to Improve' notification will set out the expectations and period notice for the improvement of attendance such as 'no further unauthorised absences'. Should the expectations not be met in the improvement period, then a Penalty Notice may then be requested by the school and issued by the LA to each parent/carers responsible for the child.

Any holiday-related absence taken that includes 10 sessions in 10 weeks, may result in a Penalty Notice. In this instance, a 'Notice to Improve' notification will not be issued beforehand.

The penalty amount is increasing to £160 from September (reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days for the first offence). If a parent receives a second penalty notice within a rolling three-year period, the fine is £160 and there is no option to pay the fine at a reduced rate.

Parents with parental responsibility, and adults residing with the child, including for example, stepparents who have day-to-day responsibility for the child, may be fined, and this applies to each child who is absent. For example, if two adults take two children out of school, the total fines would be £640 (reduced to £320 for a first offence paid within 21 days).

If a Penalty Notice is not paid within the time limits set out in the letter to the parent, the Local Authority may proceed the case to court.

We recognise that these Penalty Notices may be unpopular with families, but it is important to inform you of these changes promptly.

Nationally, Headteachers are:

- not permitted to approve term-time holidays except in genuinely exceptional circumstances, and
- are to consider each application for a leave of absence individually before making our decision.

The law clearly expects Headteachers to enforce these penalties strictly.

The new policy also states that all schools must consider issuing Penalty Notices if the criteria is met. This is a national statutory process and will be followed by all English state funded schools.

Our revised school attendance policy in line with these requirements can be found on our website.

If you would also like more information, please visit the LA's public attendance pages after the 19th August: [Attendance and absence from school | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

The primary goal of these measures is to ensure that children do not miss out on their education. Every lesson is a crucial part of your child's learning journey, and frequent absences can significantly hinder their progress. Thank you for your continued cooperation in supporting your child's education.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Jane Farren

Head Teacher

Before and after school club

Please ensure you have filled in booking forms for B&A club. Children **MUST** be booked in to ensure correct staffing numbers.

Forms are available on our website or paper copies in the school office
- no form, no club!

Terms and conditions:

In order that we can provide a safe and well organised club there are a few important points that **MUST** be adhered to:

- You **MUST** inform the school of the sessions your child will be attending prior to the start of a new term by completing a booking form (download from the website or collect from the school office).
- We may not be able to offer emergency bookings due to staff ratios.
- If you wish to cancel a pre-booked session, please notify the school by phone or email at your earliest convenience.
- A late fee of will be charged for each 15 minutes thereafter. ***If you are late on 3 occasions within a school year, the after school club will no longer be available for your child/ren for the remainder of that year.***
- Children attending a school run club will be taken to the After School Club when their club finishes. The whole session cost still applies.
- Registration of children will be similar to that of the school register - if your child is unable to attend, we must know as soon as possible as safety is of utmost importance.
- A member of staff will sign your child in and out for before and after school club The school behaviour expectations and the school policies still apply.

Age

- 3 – 11 years old children who are attending Norton Primary School or Norton Little learners.

Hours

- Before School - 8:00am until 8:45am, Monday to Friday (no breakfast is provided)
- After School - 3:15pm until 5pm, Tuesday and Wednesday, 3:15pm – 5:30pm Monday and Thursday (please provide a snack).

Charges –

- Before School Club -- £1.61 per session
- After School Club until 5pm -- £4.80 per child per session
- After School Club until 5:30pm -- £5.96 per child per session
- Late Fee -- £6.08 per 15 minutes

Invoice

- Payment is required on receipt of an invoice. Invoices will be sent out at the beginning of each month for the previous month. If an invoice remains unpaid you will not be able to use this service until payment has been received.

We pride ourselves on offering extended services whilst striving to keep our prices low, as this remains a non-profit making service. The charges will be reviewed again Autumn 2024.



Strive

Think

Act

Respect

FLU VACCINATION FOR ALL SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN

Please see dojo for the flu immunisations letter and information leaflet.

ALL children need to have a form filled out to consent or decline the vaccine.

Our vaccination date is Friday 13th September 2024.

The link and code for the e-form is:

<https://www.ghcimmunisations.co.uk/Forms/Flu>

Norton C of E Primary School Unique Code: GC115642

Telephone number for verbal consent is: 0300 421 8140

Dates for your diary for September:

From Monday 9th September - Reception children in full time

Wednesday 11th September - Reception phonics meeting 3:30pm

- Year 3 parents information meeting 4pm

- Norton PTA AGM (7:30pm in school)

Thursday 12th September - Year 2 parents information meeting 3:30pm

Friday 13th September - Flu immunisations for whole school. *(Please see box above)*

- Year 5 parents information meeting 3:30pm

Monday 16th September - Year 4 parents information meeting 3:30pm

Wednesday 18th September - Year 6 parents information meeting 3:30pm

Thursday 19th September - Year 1 parents information meeting 3:30pm

Next week's diary:

9th September 24	The School Day	After School	Lunch Menu (week 2)
Monday			Summer vegetable risotto Cheese and tomato pinwheel Jacket potato with Beans, Cheese or Tuna
Tuesday			Pork sausage in a bun Mexican five bean rice Jacket potato with Beans, Cheese or Tuna
Wednesday		Reception phonics meeting 3:30pm Y3 parents meeting 4pm Norton PTA AGM 7:30pm	Roast Turkey Vegetable wellington Jacket potato with Beans, Cheese or Tuna
Thursday		Y2 parents meeting 3:30pm	Chicken korma with rice Wholemeal vegetable pasta bake Jacket potato with Beans, Cheese or Tuna
Friday	Flu immunisations Assembly 2:30pm in the village hall. All welcome.	Y5 parent meeting 3:30	Fish fingers Vegan sausages Jacket potato with Beans, Cheese or Tuna