



## JANUARY 2018 NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents

May I wish you all a 'Happy New Year' and I hope you enjoyed the Christmas break; it seems a long time ago now. It was lovely to see the children excited to return to school and I am pleased to say that they have settled back really quickly into their learning. You will soon receive Year Group information including Curriculum Newsletters detailing the topics your children will be learning about as well as this term's homework for each year group. Parents' Meetings will be held shortly after the half term holiday.

As usual, lots of sporting events and fixtures will add in to the term. For these, and for other specific events, the teachers organising them will provide all the relevant information for the participating groups in advance. We do not anticipate changes to the initial calendar listed here but our weekly '**What's On**', and our **online website calendar** will keep you up to date.

**For lots of the information we send out that pertain to the whole school / whole year groups, there will be copies placed on the website that are always available to you eg Newsletters, Year Group Curriculum Newsletters, Menus for school lunches etc**

**Other news.....**

### **NHPS achieves Sportsmark Platinum**

Nicholas Hawksmoor was one of only 104 schools in the country, and only 2 in Northamptonshire, to receive the special School Games Platinum Award. The Award is part of the School Games Mark, a government led awards scheme launched in 2012 and administered by national charity the Youth Sport Trust, which had close to 9,000 applicants this year. Its aim is to reward schools for a commitment to the development of competition across schools and into the community.

Participating in this process allows schools to evaluate their PE provision, grading them either bronze, silver or gold, and assists schools in developing an action plan for future progress. The Platinum Award is the new fourth level of the award scheme, introduced earlier this year to celebrate schools who had shown consistently high-levels of enthusiasm and commitment to school sport. Applications are only open to those schools who achieved five successive gold awards.

To achieve the gold award a school must meet a certain set of criteria, which includes engaging a high percentage of young people in both curricular and extracurricular activities, participating in a minimum number of competitions across different sports, and reaching out to target groups including young leaders, volunteers, and those previously identified as the school's least-active pupils.

This is a great achievement for the school and is testimony to our dedication to giving pupils a wide range of competitive and inclusive sporting opportunities. Beyond being active, Sport makes such a powerful all round contribution to the personal and social dimensions of children's development.

### **Parent Information Evenings about Reading**

We are planning two information sessions to help parents support their children with reading at home. On top of our teaching of reading in school, it's really important that children continue to practise, build fluency and stamina and develop their vocabulary and reading range by reading regularly at home. This remains important all the way through until the end of Year 6 and beyond.

Following requests we have arranged two information sessions aimed at supporting parents with knowledge and strategies to support children develop stage related skills.

## **PLEASE ATTEND:**

**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January, 6pm – Phonics and Reading in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2** – in this session you will learn about how we teach phonics, the associated terminology, how to pronounce the sounds correctly and break down words phonetically to support your children. We will take you through the stages of development and age-related expectations in reading and how to move from decoding to fluency and comprehension.

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February, 6pm – Reading in KS2** – in this session we will take you through the complex skills involved in comprehension that we continue to develop in KS2. We stress that decoding and reading aloud is just the start of their reading journey and that parents still have a big role to play in fostering enthusiasm and breadth of reading. We are introducing new reading journals for KS2 in the New Year and would like to support parents with some strategies.

We hope to see as many of you there as possible. Your child's new reading journal/guidance will be issued at the meeting. We will be using a booking system to help us plan for numbers. More information will follow in due course.

### **Home Learning**

We will e-mail all home learning for this half term to you shortly, it will also be available on the website. Please support your children with practising their reading and learning their spellings. Teachers will be regularly checking on progress and understanding in class.

We are constantly impressed at the standard and effort that is put into the half-termly creative topic-based tasks in which children have presented their learning in a wide variety of mediums – some of which is on display in the school. Thank you for your support.

### **Year Group specific information**

For homework and other Year Group information, please check out the Year Group webpages under the 'School News' tab. Please note that sometimes special activities and events will inevitably mean that this can change.

### **Medication**

I would just like to take this opportunity to remind parents about the administration of medication in school.

- Under no circumstance should a child be given any medication eg paracetamol, antihistamines, herbal tablets to self-medicate in school.
- Where possible, if a child requires regular prescription medication, parents, or a designated person, should come into school to administer.
- In exceptional circumstances the school may support the administration of prescription medication, and this will be at the discretion of the Headteacher.
- Any request for help with administration of prescription medication should be made in writing.
- Medications should be clearly labelled with the child's name, name of medication, dosage, frequency of dosage, storage requirements and expiry date.

## **Please help us to help your children.**

### **Pupil Premium Grant 2018**

Can I remind all parents who may be eligible that you need to register **before the 18<sup>th</sup> January** if the school is to receive this additional funding for the New Year. To check your eligibility (and complete the confidential application) please go to the Northamptonshire County Council website and from the "A to Z of Services" follow the links to Free School Meals. Regardless of whether you wish to take up Free School Meals, this funding provides extra resources to the school to help your child and can help towards the cost of trips etc.

There is a separate Early Years Pupil Premium Grant for 3/4 year olds. Again you can check eligibility and apply on the County website. There is more information on how to apply and a direct link to this site on our website: <http://www.nicholashawksmoor.co.uk/permalink/4482.html>

If you have any questions, please contact the school office.

### **Nursery open sessions for prospective parents**

Our Nursery caters for up to 60 children between the ages of 3-4 years, as part of the Early Years Foundation Stage, and is open to all children wherever they live locally. It runs five mornings or five afternoon sessions per week, with the additional options of lunch clubs and top up sessions, to ensure all children benefit from the 15 hours government funding. Some families may also be eligible for 30 hours of funding.

Unusually for a nursery setting, it is headed up by a qualified teacher, Steph Abbotts, which gives the advantage of educational expertise. The Nursery also offers three NNEB qualified staff who dedicate their time to ensure all the children experience a warm and caring environment and have masses of fun while they learn. This high quality provision enables children to have a flying start at four!

There is an open sessions on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1.30pm-2.30-pm, if you, or someone you know is interested in looking into a Nursery place, please encourage them to visit.

As you can see, there is a lot going on. Thank you to all of you that have taken the time to raise an issue and for the many positive comments we have received: all feedback is welcome and helps us to continue to make the school the best it can be for everyone. Please remember, you never have to wait until parents' evenings to talk to us: you can arrange to meet or speak with a teacher at any point in the year.

With best wishes,  
*Andrea Curtis*  
Headteacher