



## NICHOLAS HAWKSMOOR PRIMARY SCHOOL

### September Newsletter 2017

#### **Dear Parents**

We have enjoyed a very positive start to the term here at Nicholas Hawksmoor with tangible buoyancy among children and staff.

Our website now has the main calendar dates for this term as well as some key dates for the rest of the year. Further events may be added in due course and we will endeavour to keep you up to date with times, arrangements and any necessary changes. You will receive all our subsequent newsletters on-line by email after a text alert, but hard copies are always available from the main office. All trip letters will also be available on the website in Calendar.

#### **Extra-Curricular Activities**

We are very pleased to highlight a very impressive programme of extra-curricular activities with over 40 weekly clubs being offered by either our own teachers or external providers this term. I would like to thank all the staff for their willingness to contribute their time to providing such a great range of activities for the children to choose beyond the normal curriculum.

External provider clubs – please note that parents are responsible for making arrangements for pupils to attend clubs provided by external providers. In particular, please note that teaching staff are not available to support pupils changing and getting them down to the field (e.g. KS1 Freestyle Soccer afterschool on Wednesdays). Parents can support their child to change and put boots on after lesson time at 3:15pm in the classroom and accompany them to the field. Teaching staff have other commitments after school, for example, running their own clubs / meetings. Last year, many parents made arrangements together which supported this. Thank you for your understanding.

#### **Individual School photos**

The individual school photos take place on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October. As in previous years, there will be the opportunity to have family group photographs and further information will follow.

#### **Hot dinners**

The introduction of meals for KS2 as well as the re-organisation of lunchtime so that all pupils eat in the hall has had a hugely positive impact upon the lunch-time experience for pupils. The older children are acting as great role models and supporting the younger pupils. Outside, there is now far less pressure and more space on the playground for children due to staggering lunch: we have seen far less collision type accidents as a result in the medical room.

Our new lunch providers have made a great start with some lovely food being served. Remember you can order up to the morning of the day itself and more and more of our KS2 children are enjoying what's on offer.

Just a plea to discuss meal choices with pupils so that they are not disappointed with your order for them – this cannot be changed on the day the meal is served.

We are trying to encourage our younger pupils into good eating habits – eating with a knife and fork; eating the savoury main meal first; trying their vegetables! Etc. Please help us by reinforcing these things at home.

Meals can be ordered here:

<https://www.live-kitchen.co.uk>

### House Competitions

This year, taking on board comments from our children, we have put together a fuller programme of House Competitions that pupils can take part in. Please support your children to enter relevant House Competitions if they wish. We will include reminders in our 'What's On'.

This half term:

COMPETITION	DETAILS
Poetry Competition 'Autumn'	All pupils. Enter an autumn poem in any style. Presentation counts. All entries receive 10 House Points with additional points for winning poems. Entries in by Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> September.
Foodbank Collection	Each House will try to collect as many FoodBank donations as possible. Donations will be collected between Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> and Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> October. Points for the winning House Team.
Photography Competition	All pupils. Enter a photograph which captures Autumn. Photos should be printed out and handed in by Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> October.
Y4-6 Conker Competition	Y4-Y6 only. Enter with your own conker. Competitions held at break time 16 <sup>th</sup> / 17 <sup>th</sup> October on the top court. All pupils entering must complete an entry form signed by parents.
Spooky Disco - best dressed and best Pumpkin Carvings	KS1 and KS2 Join in with our Spooky Disco on Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> October. House points for winning costumes. Pumpkins – 10 House points for entering and extra points for winning designs and pumpkins

### Breakfast and After School Care Club

Crazy 4 Kids is our provider for childcare before (7:45 – 8:45 am) and after school (3:15 – 6 pm). and they are proving popular, especially with the children. The team are highly experienced and will also be offering care during school holidays.

If you are interested in finding out more, please contact them directly:

Admission and General Enquiries (all clubs) - 01604 521028 (9am-5pm); <http://www.crazy4kids.co.uk/>

### FONHS

Thank you again to FONHS who raised valuable funds again last year which are being put towards new IT equipment. As budgets are cut, fundraising becomes ever more important and we are always looking for new parents who would be interested in supporting us, even on the odd occasion.

Some FONHS members will be around at Parents' Evening for you to find out more.

FONHS will be holding an AGM at NHPS on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October at 7pm. Please do come along and support!

## School Website

[www.nicholashawksmoor.co.uk](http://www.nicholashawksmoor.co.uk)

Please have a look under 'School News' for your child's Year Group page. On this you will find year group specific curriculum and homework information, key dates and details of any educational visits.

We will continue to send out a '**What's On**' email to remind you of up and coming events for the week ahead. This will also be displayed on the notice boards at both sides of the school.

## Uniform

The children all look very smart and standards are generally very high. Thank you for your support with this; it is very important in terms of creating a sense of team and shared expectations. Please though support us by keeping jewellery and extra 'paraphernalia' (headscarves/scarves) to a minimum. Bracelets, bangles and necklaces should not be worn. Earrings should be small, simple studs (3-4mm) and will need to be removed by the children for PE/games/dance and swimming activities.

As the weather becomes more wintery, please ensure your children come to school in appropriate warm/waterproof clothing for outdoor play and walks to the swimming pool etc. Boots however, should not be worn indoors: please send in a normal pair of shoes for wear inside if boots are worn whilst walking to school.

We will always encourage the children to be outdoors at break / lunch and PE unless it is heavy rain. If it snows - and it is the right type of snow! – please send children in with the right clothing covered footwear/ coat / hats / gloves so that they have the opportunity to go out and have some fun! You may well think that this is obvious but we always have so many children that don't even come with coats in winter and miss out.

## Organisational matters and reminders

In Year 1 parents should say goodbye to their children at Miss Sullivan's and Miss Woodfield's classroom outside doors. There is no need to come into the classrooms and the staff feel that it is important for the children to hang up their own coats and to organise their own trays, etc.

The same applies to Year 2 - children should enter the classrooms through the outside door of Miss Grants' classroom. Again the children are very capable of hanging up their own coats, etc. Mrs Marchini's Year 2 class can be brought to the cloakroom outside of the classroom.

For parents collecting their children from Years 3 and 4, please do not wait outside the classrooms at the end of the day. The corridor outside Years 3 and 4 is a teaching area and waiting here does disrupt the classes and is also a fire hazard.

In Years 5 and 6 we ask parents not to come into the area at the beginning or end of the day. We are trying to encourage far more independence to help the children cope with the rigors of secondary education. The children in Years 5 and 6 are old enough to take more responsibility at this stage.

Pupils must be collected from school until the end of Year 3. In Years 4, 5 and 6 pupils will be dismissed from classrooms at the end of the school day to follow arrangements you have with them. If children are unable to find the person collecting them, then they should return to the classroom or the school office.

## **It is important that children should not arrive at school before 8.30 am.**

In the interests of safety – please ensure young children are carefully supervised before the start of the school day and are discouraged from running around. For the same reason we do not allow the children to play ball games before and after school on the playgrounds, to use the trim trail or ride scooters / bikes on site. Children will be supervised in class from 8:30 am to settle and get organised before formal registration at 8:45 am.

## **School Office**

The school office is not open until 8:30 am; parents are welcome to visit the office once the main doors are open.

### **If you need to talk to a teacher**

You are always welcome to meet with a teacher, however, please be aware that many teachers are engaged in activities before and after school so if a longer chat is required it may be better to arrange a time through the office or ask for a member of staff to give you a call when it is convenient. We are always pleased to see parents and have always had an open door policy in this respect, but we need your co-operation to ensure an efficient and safe start and finish to the day.

Please make sure you leave the classrooms/practical areas before 8.45 am to enable the children to have a punctual and calm start to the day.

**Pushchairs/prams** – please do not wheel these across carpeted areas, apart from the barrier mats in the main and gallery entrances. If you need to go into the classroom, please leave them just outside - staff do understand and will talk with you so that you are still in sight of your baby/toddler, or bring them in with you.

### **Willing volunteers?**

We are always on the lookout for people in our community that might have the time and inclination to come and help with some of our activities.... Or even those of you with experience / skills and talents that you may be able to share directly with our children.

Do you know any willing volunteers who would like to .....

- Support one of our extra-curricular clubs on a regular basis?
- Help out on school trips?
- Hear children read regularly?
- Would like to help maintain the school's courtyard garden or pond?
- Would like to support Reception trips to the local library?
- Would be willing to support FONHS at planned events?

If this sounds like you, please drop us an email / phone in and let us know.

### **Finally....**

I am very much looking forward to meeting you all at the various events this term. Parents' evening is next week. Please note that we can no longer use the bell system since a new fire alarm system has been installed over the summer. Please make your way to the hall, get a tea/coffee, cake and have a chat with us - we will use the clock and a small bell in the hall to signal each 10 mins.

Please never sit on any niggling concern or query you have..... phone up or come in: there are no small things and we would always want to help with any matter we could. Your views are really important to us.

With best wishes,



Andrea Curtis

Headteacher