



Fylingdales C of E Primary School

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Friday 18th June 2021

Dear Families and Friends,

Latest Government Announcement and Implications on School Events

With the latest government announcement, we are having to make some alterations to the planned events we have coming up in the school calendar (see list of school events below). We are, fortunately, able to relax some of the measures, adopting a common sense approach whilst adhering to national guidance.

We plan to hold our plays and leavers performances during the final week of term, in the hope that restrictions will be eased by this point (as planned). However, we have the backup plan of recording these performances, if required.

Sports Days and Summer Fayres will be children-only events this year, unfortunately.

From next week, to aid social interaction between bubbles of children, some of who mix at after-school clubs and outside of school anyway, we will allow for outdoor mixing during morning break times. This will be for less than 15 minutes (the time limit for defining a 'close contact' for Track and Trace purposes), meaning that, especially for our youngest pupils, we can build on our family atmosphere and allow students the opportunity to see and make friends in other classes (even if it is for a short period).

You will have seen on Class Dojo that children can now bring in birthday cakes (as long as they are shop bought) to help celebrate their birthday.

Whilst these are only small amendments, they may make a huge difference to some of our children who have missed out on crucial social aspects during the last year.

Please can I remind you that face coverings are mandatory when entering school grounds, unless you have an exemption.

Road Safety

This week, I met with Richard Marr (NYCC Highways) and Cllr. Derek Bastiman to conduct a site visit of the road outside of school. This was a very positive meeting and there have been several identified improvements which Richard will now take back to NYCC Highways in the hope that we can improve the layout and safety of the road ready for the new academic year (subject to delays). There are proposals to create a clearer section of road in front of the school where cars should not park, meaning that families can cross more safely whilst being visible to traffic. This may include moving back the bus stop, as well as extending the existing road markings towards the junction to North Terrace, to create a natural zone where cars cannot park.

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During the visit, we all witnessed some worrying and selfish parking behaviour from some of our parents/carers. As mentioned in several newsletters, parents/carers should not be parking on curbs outside school and should not be parking in a bus stop, even for a short time. The Fylingdales Inn kindly allow us to use their car park on a morning and after-school, as long as we do not park in front of the building itself. Please can I urge you to make use of this if you do have to drive to school.

We are also altering how taxi drivers drop-off too. Children using this service will now be dropped-off in the staff car park and be accompanied to the playground by their driver so that they can be handed over to staff.

Please play your part in encouraging road safety by parking and driving sensibly around school, as well as promoting awareness within your children. Thank you for your support.

Swimming

Due to the extension of restrictions, we are having to make some amendments to swimming session plans. We will still have these sessions for all the classes originally intended. However, we ask that children either: come to school with their costumes underneath their clothes or are prepared to get changed at school before they go for their session. This is so children can get ready for their session by changing on the poolside (before the session).

After the session, children can use the changing rooms to get changed again. However, we are unable to access the main shower facilities, due to the pool's guidelines. The only shower facilities we will have access to is the disabled access shower (where space is limited). This will only be reserved for those with the most sensitive skin (e.g. those who suffer with eczema), so that they can quickly rinse off all pool water. All other children will dry and change without a shower. As the sessions are taking place in the afternoon, children will not have too long to wait until they return home, where they can get a full shower, if required.

Please contact your class teacher if it is completely essential that your child has a shower immediately after leaving the pool, so that we can prepare for these arrangements.

Should you have any concerns or questions about this arrangement, please contact Mr Cooper as soon as possible.

We think it incredibly important that children still get an opportunity to swim, especially with some students not having lessons in over a year, therefore we are keen to still run these sessions for as many students as possible.

Headteacher Handover

At the end of last week, I met with Helen Thompson, our incoming headteacher, as part of the handover process and to prepare the school for her tenure in September. We discussed the individual needs of the school, including the staffing requirements for September and the development of the curriculum.

Mrs Thompson will be joining us three more times in the coming term, in order to get to know the schools better, as well as to influence how they are moving forward before the end of the academic year. We shall be discussing students' individual needs, as well evaluating the schools' strengths and areas for developing, so that the staffing team can 'hit the ground running' in September.

Mrs Thompson and I will spend time in classes and on the gate so that we can meet as many stakeholders as possible.

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Trips - Danby Moors Centre and Moorland Visit

This week, several classes took part in their first school visit in over a year! Some children learnt about the National Park and nature by visiting the Danby Moors Centre, whereas our youngest students took part in a Moorland Visit. See our Facebook and Class Dojo pages for photos!

There are upcoming trips for several classes next week, including pond/stream dipping and a visit to Flamingo Land! We are really pleased to be able to organise and share these experiences with our children. A massive thank you must go out to staff who have arranged these in an already busy Summer Term, despite the restrictions still in place.

Term-time absence (holiday requests)

There have been several requests for term time absence over the last week. Whilst I understand that families may be in desperate need of a holiday after the last year, I am unable to authorise absence unless circumstances are 'exceptional'. I would encourage, where possible, that you book holidays outside of term time. This is important at any time, but more so now that students have missed a significant portion of 'normal' schooling over the last year.

If you do wish to request a term time absence, please request this in good time (typically, this would be 6 weeks before the absence, although I understand that will be difficult at the moment). For your information, should a student have 10 sessions' (5 school days') worth of unauthorised absence in an academic year, then this information will be passed on to the local authority who may issue a fixed penalty notice.

Tuesday 22nd June - Lunch Change for Y5/6

As we have three of our classes on trips on Tuesday 22nd June, the remaining children in school (Year 5/6) can be provided with a school meal, however this will just be sandwiches as part of a school packed lunch. There will be no hot meal option this day. You are welcome to send your child in with a packed lunch from home, if preferred. We will take sandwich filling choices on Monday, the day before.

Nut-free School

As mentioned in previous newsletters, **Fylingdales** is in the process of becoming a completely nut-free school in the very near future. This is because we are due to have members of our school community with severe nut allergies and would like to keep them as safe as possible. Please can you start to act on this, in preparation for the complete banning of nuts from our site. (Please note: this does not include products containing traces of nuts). This includes items within school packed lunches, so that these do not come in contact with surfaces that may then be touched by students with nut allergies.

Local Council Vacancies

There are two vacancies available which we would like to make you aware of, so you can help support our wider community groups (who support us, as a school, so well!):

- Hawsker-cum-Stainsacre Parish Council have a vacancy for a new councillor
- Hawsker-cum-Stainsacre Village Hall are looking for new members for their committee

If you are interested in either of these vacancies, please contact Steph Glasby: hawskercumstainsacre.pcc@outlook.com

Have a great weekend (see below for diary dates),



Mr Olly Cooper (Interim Executive Headteacher)

Diary Dates

Date	
21/06/21	New starters visiting (pm) (New parents/carers meeting at 2.30pm)
22/06/21	Acorns and Ash Class visiting Flamingo Land Birch Class - Visiting Castlebeck Woods
23/06/21	New headteacher, Mrs Thompson, visiting.
24/06/21	Swimming sessions for Acorns and Oak
28/06/21	New starters visiting
29/06/21	Birch Class - Stone Age Day Visit
01/07/21	Swimming sessions for Acorns and Oak
05/07/21	New Starters visiting
06/07/21	Potential Children's University Graduation (TBC)
08/07/21	Swimming sessions for Acorns and Oak Year 6 Treat Trip to Rewilding (3.30-9.30pm)
09/07/21	Reports to go out to parents/carers Mrs Thompson, new headteacher, visiting
12/07/21	Transition week for secondary school (TBC)
13/07/21	New starters visiting all day
14/07/21	Bikeability for Year 5
15/07/21	Swimming sessions for Acorns (not Oak this week) Bikeability for Year 5
16- 18/07/21	Peat Rigg Residential Weekend (Year 6)
22/07/21	Swimming sessions for Acorns and Oak
23/07/21	School Breaks Up for Summer Holidays until Tuesday 7 th September 2021

Learning an instrument in lockdown and beyond (by Mrs Smith – Piano Teacher)

Some pupils have taken up the challenge of learning a musical instrument in lockdown. Mrs Smith, the piano teacher with the County Music Service, has been providing lessons online until face-to-face tuition resumed just before Easter in schools. Some pupils access their lessons at school and some at home, and all enjoy their music making. Sophie's mum said,

'Sophie has just started piano lessons this term. In her first online lesson, Mrs Smith put her at ease and was able to explain and teach the basics to her. The four online lessons she has attended so far have been successful. Sophie finds it easy to communicate with her tutor and learn what is required. New music sheets are emailed weekly for her practise. She looks forward to her lessons.'

Learning an instrument is good fun and great for mental health. Mrs Smith makes sure practising is fun too through learning tunes, playing by ear, learning to read notes, and composing your own music. Jay and Tom's mum said,

'Jay and Tom have been loving their piano lessons during this lockdown. They look forward to their sessions with Mrs Smith and enjoy learning new tunes. The boys are missing out on so much, no swimming and no football clubs. We are therefore very grateful for their online piano tuition. Mrs Smith is a great teacher' 😊

To find out more please visit www.northyorkshiremusicclub.co.uk where you can register for lessons for your child. If your child receives free school meals you can access **free** group lessons.



Mrs Smith is pictured playing Gustav Holst's piano on which he composed his well-known suite for orchestra, "The Planets".