

30.4.21

Dear Parents

I hope that you all managed to enjoy the good weather before winter returned! It is fantastic that we are able to reintroduce some of the activities that we had to stop. I am so pleased that most of our clubs have restarted. I look forward to being able to further widen our curriculum offer. I know the children have missed school trips, working collaboratively, OPAL (our Outdoor Play and Learning Provision) and moving freely around school.

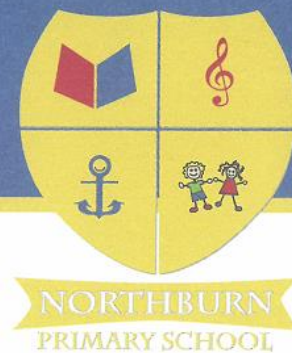
I have reminded the children that we still have to follow the Covid-19 rules and that hand washing continues to be very important. Thank you for wearing masks when in the school playground and maintaining a safe distance from each other when dropping off and picking up your child.

Playtimes

As the weather hopefully improves, we will be making more use of the school field. This means that the children will have more space to play whilst remaining in their bubbles. They will also have access to more equipment to play with.

Please remind your child to apply sun cream in the morning. We recommend that they use creams that only need to be applied once a day. If this is not possible, they can bring cream into school. They will need to ensure it is named and that they keep it in their bag. We encourage the wearing of sun hats but please make sure they are named also.

Pokémon cards have made a comeback- for the third time in my career I think! Ordinarily, I would look at how we can accommodate children being able to play with them at break times. However, in current times and as children are not meant to be sharing equipment, I



ask that they are not brought into school. This will be reviewed when Covid-19 safety rules relax.

Uniform reminder

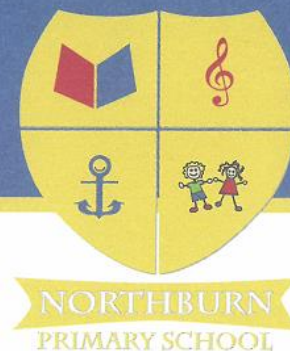
I understand that during lockdown your child may have sought to express their wonderful individual selves and wear a variety of adornments. Please can you remind them that bangles, earrings, nail varnish, hair bands with ears (or the like) and bows of extreme dimensions, whilst lovely, are not to be worn in school. Great for home!

Mobile phones can only be brought to school if your child walks to and from school on their own. They must be placed in a box in their classroom throughout the day and will be handed out at home time.

If your child is in Year 4 and they want to walk home on their own, you will need to complete a permission letter. Please email the office for one to be forwarded to you.

Long hair should be tied back. The children are still in close enough contact with each other for head lice to journey from one head to another. If your child dyed their hair, please allow it to grow out.

Fitbits and Apple watches should not be worn in school. Your child has plenty of opportunity to exercise in the day but are not in a position to be able to choose to do more steps when their device tells them it is time to get up and move! Such accessories often become a distraction, are at risk of being lost and in the case of Apple watches, pose safeguarding issues. Some accessories being brought into school are expensive and I know children are eager to have the things they see their friends with. However, this can cause unnecessary anxiety for some families.



Catch up plans, homework and transition

Teachers have developed plans to support children in catching up with missed learning. We have three tutors working in school. Mrs Anderson is working with children in Key Stage 1 and Lower Key Stage 2. Mr and Mrs Hall have returned from retirement to support children in Year 5 and Year 6.

You should have received a letter from your child's phase leader clarifying homework arrangements. Our 'Blue Books' (Reception- Lower Key Stage 2) were introduced during the pandemic and amidst the disruption and increased use of digital platforms, I know a consequence was that their use was not effectively communicated to you.

We are planning how we can provide transition opportunities for children and information sessions for parents at key transition points i.e Nursery- Reception, Reception- Key Stage 1 and children moving to secondary school.

It is likely that we will record some videos as well as organising some virtual question and answer sessions for you. We also plan to create some information leaflets that will be posted on our website. For those with children in Year 1 –Year 6 you will receive information as to how we have adapted our FROG assessment tool to reflect disruption caused by the pandemic. There will also be information for parents of children transitioning from Reception to Year 1 who will not be familiar with the system. More details to follow soon.

Summer events

We are finalising the details of the events we hope to have in the summer term. A list of dates will be sent out as soon as they are all confirmed.

Have a lovely bank holiday Monday. I look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Tuesday 4th May

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Clare Scott'.

NORTHBURN PRIMARY SCHOOL

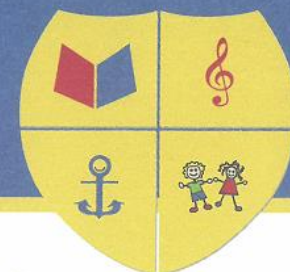
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