

NORTHBURN PRIMARY SCHOOL

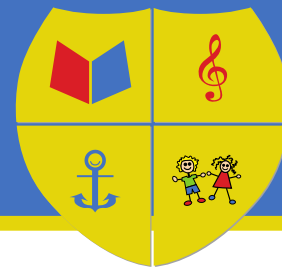
Horton Drive, Cramlington, Northumberland NE23 3QS

Tel: 01670 739111

Email: admin@northburn.northumberland.sch.uk

www.northburn.northumberland.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr Gary Parnaby



NORTHBURN
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Friday 17th July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

End of year letter

As we reach the end of the academic year, I would like to thank you all for your support over the past twelve months. Below are a few important updates and changes for the coming year which I would ask you to note.

School start time

From September we will open the school gates at 8:30am and close them at 8:40am, as children's first lessons will begin at 8:45am. We ask that parents of children in years 3 to 6 immediately allow children to enter through the gates and they should enter the school building on arrival, there will be no need for parents to wait on the yard once your child has entered through the gates. Parents of children in Reception to year 2 may accompany them to their doors on the yard. There are no changes to collection times or procedures.

Late arrivals

Children arriving after 8:40am should be accompanied to the school office by responsible adult who will be asked to record the reason for lateness. This will form part of our updated attendance monitoring and will be reviewed by the school's Educational Welfare Officer, who will be visiting the school every two weeks.

Lunches

As you will appreciate, it has been several years since we last increased charges for school lunches. Costs have continued to rise and, therefore, the daily rate will increase to £2.70 per day from the new term (this remains comparable with other local schools). We have also experienced incidents of meals remaining unpaid, which directly impacts school funds and our ability to purchase resources for the children. It also increases the admin team's workload in recovering these funds and can cause distress for all involved as we pursue legal intervention. We therefore request that no more than four weeks' worth of lunches (£54) remains unpaid at any one time. Should your child's outstanding lunch bill exceed this amount we will request an immediate payment and may ask your child to bring a packed lunch until the account is brought up to date. This will help support families with their home budgets and avoid excessively large bills. We strongly encourage all families to apply for Free School Meals via the Northumberland County Council Free School Meals website. This not only entitles your child to a free meal but can also provide discounted school trips.

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 receive a free meal under the Universal Free School Meal scheme. However, this does not automatically entitle you to trip discounts. If you believe you may be eligible for income-based free school meals, please apply online as soon as possible.

Assessment of learning

This year we updated our assessment system so it is directly linked to the National Curriculum. The forthcoming academic year will be our first full year using this system and we aim to develop this further so we can provide families with more detailed information about their child's learning and progress, particularly during parent meetings.

Ofsted Report (2022):

"The school offers a diverse, rich and well sequenced curriculum. This ensures that pupils have every chance of success."

Bringing items into school from home

Please do not send additional items into school other than water bottles, reading books, homework and diaries. The school will not accept responsibility for loss or damage to items which are not necessary to support learning. Children identified as needing a fidget tool to support their learning will be provided with this by the school to meet their specific need; therefore no fidget tools should be sent from home. If your child does not have this support agreed by the class teacher and SENDCo, please do not send items into school as they can distract your child and others if not used correctly.

End of Year Reports

We hope the updated end of year reports have been more informative. We will continue to report achievement levels for all subjects and to recognise and celebrate the wide range of successes our children achieve across the curriculum. We have many talented artists, sports people and musicians and we believe these achievements should be recognised.

PE

You may be aware of forthcoming changes to government funding for PE which will be allocated centrally and no longer issued directly to schools. This funding has enabled us to employ Mr Dowson as a specialist PE teacher and Mrs Smith to coordinate the sports programme for several schools in Cramlington. Unfortunately, due to the announced changes both Mr Dowson and Mrs Smith have needed to secure employment elsewhere as our school will no longer have the funds to support their amazing work. Until we receive further details about the government's new plans to support PE centrally from Spring 2027, we will work with sports coaches from NUFC most Wednesdays and Fridays throughout the coming year using the reduced funds received. We would like to thank both Mr Dowson and Mrs Smith for their hard work and for making PE a key strength of our school; we will strive to maintain high-quality provision they have achieved.

Uniform policy

Our uniform policy has been updated and will be sent via email separately. Please review this and ensure your child adheres to it. Branded items i.e those with the school logo are NOT essential; however, children should wear the school colours.

Website

A recent review has highlighted the need to update our website to make it more user friendly for families. We have started this process but it will not be ready for the new school year. The company assisting us hopes to launch the new website in October. Research shows over 80% of users access school websites via a smartphone or tablet, so the new site will be designed to work well on these devices. We will update you as soon as the new website is launched; in the meantime we will not be updating items on the current site to avoid loss during the transfer process.

Specialist Support Base

Earlier this month we met with and wrote to parents of children within our Specialist Support Base (SSB). The SSB will be entering its fourth year at Northburn Primary and has grown to be the largest SSB in Northumberland. It has developed into an extremely successful provision thanks to the dedication and hard work of all staff involved, past and present. From September we will continue to work with Collingwood Special School and Media College under a service level agreement. The SSB will remain on the Northburn Primary site and staff from both schools will work in partnership to develop the provision further with a view to Collingwood School ultimately taking ownership.

Staffing

There are a number of staffing changes for the new academic year. Mrs Harrison (Deputy Headteacher) will be leaving to take a senior position at a large special educational needs school. Mrs Palmer is leaving to take a senior position at another Northumberland school. Miss Swaddle has secured a position at Newcastle College and Miss Boden will not be returning after the summer break. Miss Atkinson has also secured a teaching position at a SEND school in Northumberland. Mrs Ahmed, Miss English and Miss Roll will also be leaving Northburn Primary for positions in other schools. Our trainee teachers have completed their final placements and we wish them the best of luck in their teaching careers. We thank all staff who are moving on and send them our very best wishes from the children, families and colleagues at Northburn Primary.

Year 6 farewell

Finally, our very best wishes go to all the Year 6 children who have been exemplary role models at our school. Their attitude to learning and respect for themselves and others has been outstanding. We are confident they will go on to achieve their personal goals and many successes. We hope they will keep in touch and update us about their futures. For some Year 6 families this may mark the end of a long relationship with the school and, on behalf of the whole team, I would like to thank you all for your support during your child's time at Northburn Primary; our children would not be the remarkable young people they are without that partnership.

We wish you a restful and enjoyable summer break and look forward to seeing you on Wednesday 2nd September.

Kind regards,
Mr G Parnaby
Headteacher, Northburn Primary School