



# NORMANTON JUNIOR ACADEMY

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Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2019

## Diary Dates

- Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June - Year 2 Transition Trail (18.00-20.00)
- Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June - SEND parents' course (session 3) in the library (12.30-15.00)
- Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June - Class attendance winners' trip
- Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July - FoNJA non-uniform day in exchange for donation of unwanted gifts
- Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July - Poetry competition heats to take place
- Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July - SEND parents' course (session 4) in the library (12.30-15.00)
- Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July - Primary Futures event for Years 5 & 6 (09.00-12.00)
- Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July - Year 6 'Grow a pound' event (13.00-16.00)
- Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July - Poetry competition semi-finals
- Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July - Community Morning (08.30-11.45) - **No swimming for Year 4**
- Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July - SEND parents' course (session 5) (12.30-15.00)
- Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July - Poetry competition final (afternoon)
- Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July - Year 6 production dress rehearsal (10.00-11.30)
- Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July - Year 6 production for parents (18.00-20.00)
- Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July - Year 6 production for parents (18.00-20.00)
- Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July - 100% attendance assembly (09.00-10.30)
- Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July - 'Always Green' afternoon (13.00-14.45)
- Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July - Year 6 Leavers' Party (18.00-20.00)
- Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July - Year 6 Leavers' Visit (08.45-16.00)
- Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July - Reports to be sent home
- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July - Year 6 Leavers' Assembly (09.30-11.30)
- **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July - School closes at 3pm for end of year**

## Attendance

Our school believes attendance really matters to a child's education.  
 Last week's individual class attendance figures are:

End of year target:	<b>96.2%</b>
Attendance for last week:	<b>95.3%</b>
Attendance this year:	<b>96.2%</b>

<b>99.3% in 3KJ (↑)</b>	<b>96% in 5AF (↓)</b>
92% in 3PB (↑)	92% in 5CS (↓)
95% in 3RT (↓)	<b>97% in 5SG (↑)</b>
95% in 4HL (=)	94% in 6AP (↑)
95% in 4JH (↑)	<b>96% in 6MW (↓)</b>
<b>99% in 4OB (↓)</b>	92% in 6NY (↓)

(The classes in bold have achieved their weekly attendance target of 96%)

Congratulations to **3KJ** for winning last week's Attendance Award with a brilliant **99.3%** attendance rate! As their reward, pupils in **3KJ** are welcome to come to school in non-uniform on **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June**. Well done to all the other classes who also managed to reach their weekly attendance target!

## Stars of the Week

Due to other commitments, there will be no more **Star of the Week** nominations this academic year. The assembly for the pupils nominated last week will take place on **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July** at the usual time of **9.10am**, as per the letter that was sent out last week.

### Transition arrangements

Having reviewed last year's arrangements, we have decided to make a change to our transition arrangements this year that we think will be beneficial to all pupils. On Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July, all pupils will be taught by the teacher whose class they will be in next year, including Year 2 pupils who will be joining us in September. All of our Year 6 pupils who will be moving to Freeston will attend the high school on this day (all other Year 6 pupils need to attend NJA as usual). This is in line with the arrangements we had in place last year when schools throughout the Normanton pyramid of schools have their transition day.

In contrast to previous years, this year, all Year 3, 4 and 5 pupils will stay with the teacher they will have next year up to and including Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July. During this period, pupils in Year 6 will be taught by the teachers who will be teaching in Year 3 next year. We are trialling this new approach as we feel that a longer transition opportunity will give pupils and staff to chance to get to know each other much better than they would over a single day, and allow pupils to make new friendships with children in their new classes. In addition to this, it will hopefully all ease any anxieties children may have about their move to the next year group over the summer holidays.

For the final three days on the school year (Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> - Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July), all children will again be taught by their current teachers, allowing all Year 6 leavers events to take place with this year's teachers and give all children the last few days with the teacher they have had over the last year.

### Classes for next year

Class lists for next year have been all but confirmed. As always, we have done our utmost to place pupils with teachers and other children who will bring the best out of them. Letters we be sent home on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July informing all parents/carers and children as to which teacher's class they will be in for 2019-2020 in preparation for our first transition day.

A great deal of time has gone into deciding which children should be in which class with staff across school being consulted, so the decisions made are final and are not open to discussion.

### Year 6 residential

Although not a surprise to us, it has been wonderful to hear the comments from the site manager of the centre where the Year 6 residential took place at the weekend. He reported that he could not be more impressed with the children, especially their teamwork, manners and general attitude. As ever, the pupils who attended have shown themselves to be brilliant ambassadors for the school and have showed what wonderful children they are. Well done to everyone who took part!

### Change to INSET days for 2019-2020

The date of our fourth INSET day of the 2019-2020 academic year is proving to be a most troublesome one to pin down. After our perfectly well thought-out plans to create a four day weekend around the original May bank holiday were thwarted by the government's decision to move said bank holiday to mark the VE day anniversary, it appears that our revised date was less well-chosen, given that it clashes with the first day of the Year 6 SATs. Although we endeavour to do far more than merely prepare pupils for SATs exams, next year's pupils' spelling and grammar scores will be fairly catastrophic if they are all at home on the day they are due to sit the assessment.

This second change is clearly our own 'administrative' error. We apologise profusely for this oversight, with no little embarrassment on our part. We now propose the thoroughly researched Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May, which leads into the summer term half term holiday. We do not envisage any further changes needing to be made. The revised INSET days for the 2019-2020 academic year are:

- Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September
- Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September
- Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September
- **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May (date has changed)**
- Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July

School will open for all pupils at 8.20am on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September. The updated calendar for the academic year has been attached to this newsletter and can be found on the school website at:

<http://www.normanton-jun.wakefield.sch.uk/our-school/term-dates>.

### **Children's University**

We would like to congratulate all of our pupils who attended their Children's University graduation ceremony on Monday and Tuesday of last week to collect their certificates for completing hundreds of hours of out of school educational activities! These activities can range from swimming lessons to stage productions, attending museums and a whole host of other enriching activities. The phenomenal dedication shown by all these children and their parents/carers is a brilliant example to all and contributes to a wonderful attitude towards learning. The pupils who attended the ceremony were:

- Lucy (3KJ)
- James (3KJ)
- Emily (4HL)
- Lauren (4JH)
- Louisa (5AF)
- Cameron (5CS)
- Ella (5SG)
- Charlotte (6AP)
- Emily (6MW)

We would also like to give a special mention to **James** in 3KJ. It has been confirmed that he is the youngest ever person in the Wakefield branch of the Children's University to reach 1,000 hours of approved activities! This is an absolutely outstanding achievement and a record that is likely to stand for some time!

### **ParentPay - reminder**

Most parents/carers have now signed up to ParentPay to pay for **school dinners, Cool Kids** and **Breakfast Club**. This service makes paying for school dinners and clubs quicker and easier and negates the need for bringing cash into school. We would like to recommend that you sign up to this service as soon as you have the chance if you have not done so already. **Please note that as of September 2019, we will no longer be accepting cash payments in school.**

### **Safeguarding: self-harm**

For most parents/carers, self-harm is probably something you would never expect to be a problem for your child. However, tragically, self-harm is a common problem amongst a growing number of children in the UK that often points to underlying mental health issues. Trying to help a loved one who self-harms can make a huge difference, but it can be very difficult to know exactly how to support someone effectively. There are a number of organisations that seek to help children who are at risk of self-harming. The Young Minds website (link shown below) has a great deal of information for children and parents and has many links to other organisations who can help. If you are concerned that your own child could be self-harming, please visit the website for advice on how you can help support them.

<https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/>

**Have a great week!**

Normanton Junior Academy, the safeguarding of all children is of the utmost importance.  
Designated Senior Leaders for safeguarding at NJA are Mr Berry, Mrs Southward & Mrs Reynolds-Browne.  
If you are worried a child is at risk of harm, please contact any of the above staff.

Alternatively, if you feel your concerns merit it, Social Care Direct can be contacted on 0345 8503 503

Similarly, if you have any concerns regarding your child's academic or medical needs, please make an appointment to see our SENDCo, Mrs Holmes-Edwards, who can be contacted via the school office.