



NORBRIGGS PRIMARY SCHOOL
Norbriggs Road, Mastin Moor, Chesterfield S43 3BW
Tel: 01246 473398 - Fax: 01246 470917
E-mail: info@norbriggs.derbyshire.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mr P Scragg
Assistant Head: Mrs F Hurcum
Assistant Head: Mrs D Lister



Autumn Term 1 Week 1

Welcome back to a new school year. I hope you all had a fantastic Summer, I certainly did. I can't believe how fast it has gone!

Congratulations and well done to the group of parents who organised and ran the Mastin Moor Summer Fun Day which took place over the holidays. I wasn't able to make it because I stupidly booked myself in to do a triathlon the day before, sorry. It was an enormous success on the day, and the day before they also got the community together to do a litter pick of the areas to ensure it was clean and safe.

A parent is well on the way to setting up a parent toddler group that will meet once a week in the school hall. We will let you know the details when this is ready to start, hopefully early in September.

I would like to welcome some new members of staff:

- Mr Mallendar will teach Year 5 until July whilst Mrs Ward takes time off to have a baby.

We have been successful with funding bids for specific children with SEN and so have been able to offer part time hours to:

- Miss Spetch who will support a child in Nursery
- Mrs L Otter who will support a child in Year 2
- Mrs Cooke who will support two children in Year 3
- Mrs Robinson who will be supporting a child in Year 5

Unfortunately the heavy winds during the second week of the holidays caused some damage to the Reception classroom ceiling and carpet so if your children come home and say the roof has fallen down, they are telling the truth. It is perfectly safe for them to be in there still, the roof has been repaired. In the very near future the roof will be completely replaced and a new carpet fitted.

Standards at school get better and better every year. This is down to the hard work of staff and children and the support that you give us. Thank you

Our broad aims for this year are to:

- review our curriculum and see how we can make it more stimulating and exciting for the children so that they are fully engaged in their learning
- look at how we can teach more powerfully so that they remember what they have been taught.
- Look at ways of creating a rich environment for broadening vocabulary and encouraging reading.

The best way that you can support your children is to read a little every day and practice times tables a little every day. These two things will make a massive difference to your child's ability.

Thank you

Coming up Next Week

- Dancing will begin after school on Monday from 3.15 – 4.15
- On Tuesday Year 5 and Year 6 will be taking part in Zoom Rail – engineering workshops linked to HS2. This will be delivered in school at no cost to yourselves.
- Gymnastics will begin after school on Tuesday from 3.15 – 4.15
- On Wednesday Mrs Whitfield will be holding a meeting for parents to gauge interest in an after-school drama club. It will focus on 75 years since the end of World War II and will work up towards researching stories, writing a book and creating a play to be performed to the community.
- After school on Wednesday from 3.15 – 4.15 we will have Young Voices practices. This is for children in Years 4, 5, 6 who wish to sing at Sheffield Arena on 14th January in the Young Voices concert.
- Banking will start up again on Thursday at 8.40am with Mrs Richardson after breakfast club.

Reminders

- **Dinner Money**

Dinner money is £2.10 per day, £10.50 per week. Please put this in an envelope with your child's name on and send it into school on a Monday. The cooks do a really good job and offer a wide range of food every day.

- **Breakfast Club**

This is well attended. It starts from 8.15am and costs 50p per child. There is a good range of food and drink on offer and children can relax with their friends as they eat, chat and play before school starts.

- **Pantomime**

The pantomime is booked for Thursday 12th December. It will cost £15 per child. Hopefully you have sent your consent slip back if you would like your child to go. Mrs Richardson will start collecting the money soon. You can either pay it all in one go or pay a little each week, whichever suits you. Please send money in an envelope with your child's name, panto money, Mrs Richardson so that it goes to the correct person. We get a lot of money coming in for various events and it makes it easier to track who has paid what.

- **Bikes and Scooters**

In the next couple of weeks I will be asking children who come to school on a bike to apply for a bike permit. This will be an agreement between the child and school to say that they will ride responsibly, safely and wear a helmet. This will help to ensure everybody stays safe on the way too and from school. I also hope to create a bike and scooter parking areas where they can be left safely and not block the entrance to school.

- **Uniform, Jewellery and Trainers**

The children all look very smart in their new uniform. Thank you for kitting them out. Most people have got shiny new shoes which is great. Black trainers are also acceptable. A couple of people are in coloured trainers. I would like to reassure you that these are for medical reasons, or there has been an issue with the shoes that have been bought and they need to be replaced. I will still be nagging people to wear shoes or black trainers if they do not have a good reason to be wearing inappropriate footwear.

A reminder that the only jewellery that children should be wearing is one sleeper or stud in each earlobe and a watch. No necklaces, rings, bracelets or more than one earring per ear. Thank you

- **Holidays**

Please can I remind you that I am unable to authorise a holiday during term time for any reason. If you need to take your child out of school for an exceptional circumstance then please come and speak to me. Last year saw the Local Authority serve out the largest number of penalty notices in my time as a Head Teacher. We do not receive any of the money from the penalty notice and once they have been served we are unable to cancel them as they come from the Local Authority, not us. If you take your child out of school for a holiday you may be fined £120 per child, per week, per parent. So for a family of 4 going on a two week holiday this could amount to £960. Last year 30 families applied for a holiday, 27 applications were rejected and of those 17 penalty notices were issued. I realise that holidays are extremely expensive and personally I think we should be able to be a little more lenient to allow families to have quality time together but unfortunately Government Policy does not allow.

- **Update Forms and Home / School Agreement**

Please could you fill these in and return them to school as soon as possible so that we have the latest contact details and medical information for your children. Thank you



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Dates for your diary

September

- 27th Macmillan coffee afternoon

October

- 7th Climate change week
- 11th Harvest / climate change event for parents
- 21st Norbriggs Has Talent auditions
- 22nd Parents evening, 3.30-7pm
- 23rd Governor's Award assembly
- 24th Parents evening, 3.30-5pm
- 25th Governors Award lunch, Team Point reward

November

- 4th Inset Day – school closed to children
- 6th Bonfire disco – dress in neon
- 15th Children In Need / Norbriggs Has Talent finals
- 22nd Coffee afternoon to watch Norbriggs Has Talent finalists

December

- 5th Christmas Film night
- 10th Nursery, Reception and KS1 Christmas production at 2pm
- 11th Nursery, Reception and KS1 Christmas production at 10am
- 12th Whole school visit to Mansfield Palace Theatre to watch Cinderella Pantomime
- 13th Christmas Dinner
- 17th KS2 Christmas Production – 2pm & 6pm
- 19th Team Point reward
- 20th Christmas Parties
- 21st Carols Around The Tree at 2pm – last day of school

January

- 6th Children return to school
- 14th Young Voices concert at Sheffield Arena
- 20th – 22nd Y6 residential at Dobroyd Castle

Holiday Dates

- Autumn Half Term Sat 26th Oct – Sun 3rd Nov 2019
- Christmas Sat 21st Dec – Sun 5th Jan 2020
- Spring Half Term Sat 15th Feb – Sun 23rd Feb 2020
- Easter Sat 4th April – Sun 19th April 2020
- May Day Fri 8th May 2020
- Summer Half Term Sat 23rd May – Sun 31st May 2020
- Summer Holiday Sat 18th July 2020 – Weds 3rd Sept 2020

I have included a calendar with this newsletter so that you can add reminders and important dates as the year goes.



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