



Nun Monkton Foundation Primary School

"Be curious, be brave, believe"



Wednesday 20th January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been a busy start to term already and how fortunate for the pupils that the snow fell just before term begun! The staff have certainly honed their de-icing skills since Jan 6th.

Children have settled back into school well and are busy learning. More details about the learning for this half term are given below. We have had some fabulous writing examples in the last couple of weeks – for example with Phoenix class writing riddles and testing them out on some of the Griffin class at lunch time. Children have now moved on from poetry to leaning how to write persuasively. We are looking forward to a visit from 'Historical Interpretations' – where children will get to spend time with a visitor who will help them to think about historical evidence and the historical period they are studying. We are grateful to the PTFA for funding these visits.

We are aware that as the children get older they are more likely to be using electronic devices that connect to the internet. To help you as parents we are going to be sending out a monthly newsletter about on-line safety, which I hope you will find informative and useful in helping to keep everyone safe when using devices. Watch out for that dropping into your in box in the next week or so.

Please could I ask parents to remind their children it is really important that if they are crossing the road or track on their way to or from school, they **MUST** stop and look before crossing over? I have seen at least three occasions recently where children just ran straight across the road without looking. Fortunately, on those occasions there was no vehicle going past, but that was luck rather than because of children's actions. We do remind children at school about looking before they cross the road or track whether on a scooter, bike or walking; it would be really helpful if you could do the same please so that they stop automatically at the edge of the road before crossing.

Thank you for your help with this – there are lots of vehicles that do come at speed down the road and we have stressed to children we would hate to have any of them injured because they're in the way of moving vehicles.

I have included some general reminders and information about attendance, uniform and checking for headlice below.

Thank you as ever for all your support for the school.

With every best wish

Angela

Angela Mitchell

Headteacher

LEARNING THEMES THIS HALF TERM

Curriculum Area	Unicorn Class	Griffin Class	Phoenix Class
RE	What can we learn from sacred books?	Why is the Bible so important for Christians today?	
Art	Stained glass, and architecture	Colour Theory and sketching	Colour Theory and sketching
History	Knights and Castles	Stone age, Iron age, Bronze Age	Viking and Anglo-Saxon Struggle
Science	Animals (including humans)	Animals (including humans)	Animals (including humans)
PSHE	Relationships		
British Values	Democracy		
Languages		French Jungle animals and numbers	French 'Cher Zoo'

Children will also be learning through PE, Forest, Music and Computing activities, as well as their Maths and Literacy work.

ATTENDANCE IN SCHOOL TERM TIME

I have frequently given information about the importance of children being in school each day. Generally, pupil attendance is really good at our school (we have seventeen pupils who still have 100% attendance this year!) Of course if a child is too ill to be in school, they should be kept at home until they feel better.

What I want to emphasise is that new stricter rules and scrutiny of pupil attendance came into force in September 2024, with all Local Authorities checking each pupil's attendance. **Children should be in school every day in term time unless they are too ill to attend.** In extremely rare cases (and for exceptional reasons only) a Headteacher can authorise absence, but only if an application is made at least six weeks in advance and it really is an 'exceptional reason' as defined by the Department for Education. Anyone wanting to take their child out of school must complete an application form (available from Ms Hirons at sbm@nunmonkton.n-yorks.sch.uk) and send it to the Headteacher well before any absence is planned.

Please could we remind parents that routine dental, eye or medical appointments should be made outside of school hours or in the holidays. Only if it is an urgent need should children be taken out of school for such appointments.

Headteachers are not allowed to authorise any holiday during term time. If parents take their children out of school for an unauthorised reason then the LA will look to raise a fine in the shape of a 'Penalty Notice' which will be charged at £80 if paid within 21 days - payment after 21 days but within 28 days is £160. That fine amount is per parent and per child (i.e. if 2 parents take 2 pupils on holiday in term time, that would be a fine of £320).

We always make sure the term dates are sent out well in advance (over a year before the school year begins). Dates for this school year and for 2025/26 have been sent out previously and are attached again here. Please do make sure that if you are booking holidays they fall in school holiday period. Please note that on the website it is the '**Nun Monkton School** Term Dates' document you need to refer to for each year, rather than the generic 'N Yorks term dates' document.

As soon as we have the school term dates for 2026/27 we will forward them to you.

UNIFORM

We would like to clarify the uniform expectations for pupils, so everyone is clear what children should be wearing to school.

On Forest session days:

- Children should come in warm clothing, wearing long sleeved tops and long trousers.
- They need waterproof trousers and coats and wellies too.
- They do not need to wear school uniform on forest day

On PE days (and days where they are going to a PE tournament/ event):

Children should wear

- either plain PE shorts or PE trousers.
- a plain tee shirt (preferably a plain white tee shirt)
- either a school hoodie or jumper, or they can wear another hoodie so long as it is appropriate for school
- Children **MUST** also bring a clean pair of trainers to wear at the Squash courts
- No earrings can be worn when doing PE
- Children should not be wearing branded football kit or normal school trousers

On normal school days

- Children should come to school looking smart and wearing school uniform
- Children need to wear either a dress, skirt, shorts or smart school trousers. **It needs to be either shorts or trousers, not shorts and skins please**
- A school shirt
- A school jumper or cardigan. Children may choose to wear their school hoodie if that helps them to keep warm in the colder months, but all children need to have a school logo jumper or cardigan for more formal school events so that they look smart
- Children need to wear school shoes, but also to have a pair of wellies each day (these can be left on the welly rack at school rather than bringing them to and fro each day)

It is hugely helpful if your child's uniform items could be named please (even the wellies), so that they can be found easily and also returned to the correct owner if they are misplaced around school.

Other key things to note:

- Children should not be wearing any jewellery (necklaces, bracelets etc)
- Children may wear a watch but they will have to be responsible for looking after it during school time
- The only jewellery permitted are stud earrings if a child has pierced ears. These must be removed when it is PE
- Long hair should be tied back (particularly in light of the information about headlice below) for every school day

HEADLICE

In any school, where children often have their heads close together, there is often a time where a child or children will have headlice. I know that many of you check your child's hair regularly and then carry out any treatment if necessary. However, it is really hard to stop the little visitors from spreading round and round.

One of the best ways to prevent this problem is if everyone in the school community can check their child's hair at the same time and deal with any headlice if they are there. That way everyone is clear of them at the same time and hopefully there are no headlice to be passed around.

So, please could we ask that everyone checks their child's hair on first weekend of each month (Sat 1st – Sun 2nd Feb is the next one!).

If you do find headlice or eggs please treat your child, but note that the **whole household, (not just the child)** needs to be treated to prevent the headlice from re-occurring.

Our school policy is that if we see headlice in a child's hair we will let the parent know and also send an email out to parents of the class that the child is in, so that they can check their own child's hair.

Thank you for your help with this

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	Time	Event	Who for/ Details
Thurs 30 Jan	Morning and afternoon	Griffin class having History visitor in school to do 'Historical Interpretations' session Phoenix class having 'Historical Interpretation' session in afternoon with our History visitor	Unicorn and Phoenix classes
Wed 29 th Jan	19.30	PTFA meeting	PTFA members
Wed 12 th Feb	morning	Dance Festival for all of Griffin and Phoenix classes (Years 2 – 6) They need to come to school in their PE kit that day	Griffin and Phoenix Class
Fri 14 th Feb	3.30pm	Pupils break up for half term	All pupils
Mon 24 th February	0900	Children start back at school after half term	All pupils
Wed 26 th March	morning	Dance Festival for all of Unicorn classes (Years Nursery, Reception and Year 1) They need to come to school in their PE kit that day	Unicorn Class
Fri 4 th April	1530	Easter Holidays begin	All pupils
<u>WEDNESDAY</u> 23 rd April	0900	Summer term begins	PARENTS – please note it's <u>WEDNESDAY</u> that the children return