



**Fylingdales C of E Primary School**

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**Hawsker-cum-Stainsacre C of E Primary School**

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**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

Dear Families and Friends,

**Latest Government Announcement and Implications on School Events**

With the latest government announcement, we are having to make some alterations to the planned events we have coming up in the school calendar (see list of school events below). We are, fortunately, able to relax some of the measures, adopting a common sense approach whilst adhering to national guidance.

We plan to hold our plays and leavers performances during the final week of term, in the hope that restrictions will be eased by this point (as planned). However, we have the backup plan of recording these performances, if required.

Sports Days and Summer Fayres will be children-only events this year, unfortunately.

From next week, to aid social interaction between bubbles of children, some of who mix at after-school clubs and outside of school anyway, we will allow for outdoor mixing during morning break times. This will be for less than 15 minutes (the time limit for defining a 'close contact' for Track and Trace purposes), meaning that, especially for our youngest pupils, we can build on our family atmosphere and allow students the opportunity to see and make friends in other classes (even if it is for a short period).

You will have seen on Class Dojo that children can now bring in birthday cakes (as long as they are shop bought) to help celebrate their birthday.

Whilst these are only small amendments, they may make a huge difference to some of our children who have missed out on crucial social aspects during the last year.

Please can I remind you that face coverings are mandatory when entering school grounds, unless you have an exemption.

**Swimming**

Due to the extension of restrictions, we are having to make some amendments to swimming session plans. We will still have these sessions for all the classes originally intended. However, we ask that children either: come to school with their costumes underneath their clothes or are prepared to get changed at school before they go for their session. This is so children can get ready for their session by changing on the poolside (before the session).

Continued.../2

After the session, children can use the changing rooms to get changed again. However, we are unable to access the main shower facilities, due to the pool's guidelines. The only shower facilities we will have access to is the disabled access shower (where space is limited). This will only be reserved for those with the most sensitive skin (e.g. those who suffer with eczema), so that they can quickly rinse off all pool water. All other children will dry and change without a shower. As the sessions are taking place in the afternoon, children will not have too long to wait until they return home, where they can get a full shower, if required.

Please contact your class teacher if it is completely essential that your child has a shower immediately after leaving the pool, so that we can prepare for these arrangements.

Should you have any concerns or questions about this arrangement, please contact Mr Cooper as soon as possible.

We think it incredibly important that children still get an opportunity to swim, especially with some students not having lessons in over a year, therefore we are keen to still run these sessions for as many students as possible.

### **Headteacher Handover**

At the end of last week, I met with Helen Thompson, our incoming headteacher, as part of the handover process and to prepare the school for her tenure in September. We discussed the individual needs of the school, including the staffing requirements for September and the development of the curriculum.

Mrs Thompson will be joining us three more times in the coming term, in order to get to know the schools better, as well as to influence how they are moving forward before the end of the academic year. We shall be discussing students' individual needs, as well evaluating the schools' strengths and areas for developing, so that the staffing team can 'hit the ground running' in September.

Mrs Thompson and I will spend time in classes and on the gate so that we can meet as many stakeholders as possible.

### **Trips - Danby Moors Centre and Moorland Visit**

This week, several classes took part in their first school visit in over a year! Some children learnt about the National Park and nature by visiting the Danby Moors Centre, whereas our youngest students took part in a Moorland Visit. See our Facebook and Class Dojo pages for photos!

There are upcoming trips for several classes next week, including pond/stream dipping and a visit to Flamingo Land! We are really pleased to be able to organise and share these experiences with our children. A massive thank you must go out to staff who have arranged these in an already busy Summer Term, despite the restrictions still in place.

### **Term-time absence (holiday requests)**

There have been several requests for term time absence over the last week. Whilst I understand that families may be in desperate need of a holiday after the last year, I am unable to authorise absence unless circumstances are 'exceptional'. I would encourage, where possible, that you book holidays outside of term time. This is important at any time, but more so now that students have missed a significant portion of 'normal' schooling over the last year.

If you do wish to request a term time absence, please request this in good time (typically, this would be 6 weeks before the absence, although I understand that will be difficult at the moment). For your information, should a student have 10 sessions' (5 school days') worth of unauthorised absence in an academic year, then this information will be passed on to the local authority who may issue a fixed penalty notice.

**Wear Yellow Day in Aid of Shine (Charity for Hydrocephalus and Spina Bifida)**

On **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> June**, we will be holding a 'Wear in Yellow Day' in aid of the Hydrocephalus and Spina Bifida charity 'Shine'. We have worked closely with this charity in the past to help support our students with their needs and would like to help raise awareness of the issues that this charity supports.

Therefore, on the date listed, children and staff may come to school wearing yellow items of clothing. We will be holding a collection as part of this with a suggested voluntary donation of **£1** (or as much as you can afford), which will go directly to Shine.

**Non-uniform day (9<sup>th</sup> July 2021)**

We will also be having a non-uniform day on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at Hawsker. The cost to dress-up or wear non-uniform will be to donate a tombola prize for our Summer Fayre!

**Local Council Vacancies**

There are two vacancies available which we would like to make you aware of, so you can help support our wider community groups (who support us, as a school, so well!):

- Hawsker-cum-Stainsacre Parish Council have a vacancy for a new councillor
- Hawsker-cum-Stainsacre Village Hall are looking for new members for their committee

If you are interested in either of these vacancies, please contact Steph Glasby: [hawskercumstainsacre.pcc@outlook.com](mailto:hawskercumstainsacre.pcc@outlook.com)

Have a great weekend (see below for diary dates),



Mr Olly Cooper (Interim Executive Headteacher)

### Diary Dates

<b>Date</b>	
21/06/21	New starters visiting (pm)
22/06/21	Explorers visiting Flamingo Land
23/06/21	Explorers - Pond Dipping visit New headteacher, Mrs Thompson, visiting.
24/06/21	Swimming for Explorers and Investigators Cricket Club
25/06/21	Adventurers - Pond Dipping Visit
28/06/21	Go Yellow Dress-up Day (£1 donation) New Starters visiting
29/06/21	Group 1 Investigators - Pond Dipping Visit
30/06/21	Group 2 Investigators - Pond Dipping Visit
01/07/21	Swimming for Explorers and Investigators Cricket Club
05/07/21	New Starters visiting
08/07/21	Swimming for Explorers and Investigators Cricket Club
09/07/21	Non-uniform day (tombola prize donation) Reports to go out to parents/carers Mrs Thompson, new headteacher, visiting
12/07/21	Transition week for secondary school (TBC)
13/07/21	New starters visiting all day
15/07/21	Swimming for Explorers and Investigators Cricket Club
16- 18/07/21	Peat Rigg Residential Weekend (Year 6)
20/07/21	Sports Day and Summer Fayre (children only)
21/07/21	Year 6 visiting Alpamare
22/07/21	Swimming for Explorers and Investigators Cricket Club
23/07/21	School Breaks Up for Summer Holidays until Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> September 2021

### **Learning an instrument in lockdown and beyond (by Mrs Smith – Piano Teacher)**

Some pupils have taken up the challenge of learning a musical instrument in lockdown. Mrs Smith, the piano teacher with the County Music Service, has been providing lessons online until face-to-face tuition resumed just before Easter in schools. Some pupils access their lessons at school and some at home, and all enjoy their music making. Sophie's mum said,

'Sophie has just started piano lessons this term. In her first online lesson, Mrs Smith put her at ease and was able to explain and teach the basics to her. The four online lessons she has attended so far have been successful. Sophie finds it easy to communicate with her tutor and learn what is required. New music sheets are emailed weekly for her practise. She looks forward to her lessons.'

Learning an instrument is good fun and great for mental health. Mrs Smith makes sure practising is fun too through learning tunes, playing by ear, learning to read notes, and composing your own music. Jay and Tom's mum said,

'Jay and Tom have been loving their piano lessons during this lockdown. They look forward to their sessions with Mrs Smith and enjoy learning new tunes. The boys are missing out on so much, no swimming and no football clubs. We are therefore very grateful for their online piano tuition. Mrs Smith is a great teacher' 😊

To find out more please visit [www.northyorkshiremusicclub.co.uk](http://www.northyorkshiremusicclub.co.uk) where you can register for lessons for your child. If your child receives free school meals you can access **free** group lessons.



Mrs Smith is pictured playing Gustav Holst's piano on which he composed his well-known suite for orchestra, "The Planets".