



September 2024



WELCOME BACK!

A slightly belated welcome back to all of you, we hope you've had a wonderful summer holiday. An especially warm welcome to the new Reception class, and the other new children we've had starting with us throughout the rest of the school this term.

Just a reminder that the children should be in their classrooms by 8:45am (gates are staffed from 8:35am). Children arriving later than 8:45am will receive a late mark in the register.

VALUABLES IN SCHOOL

We would recommend that children do not bring expensive water bottles, bags, earrings, watches or any other items of high value into school. Staff work hard to help the children look after their things and children are regularly reminded to put things away in bags and trays. However, classrooms are busy places and things can get misplaced or broken despite the best efforts of staff. We cannot take responsibility for any valuables lost or broken at school.

SCHOOL CAR PARK – LITTLE STARS DROP OFFS

Please remember that the car park is a staff car park, not only for Westlands Primary, but for Newcastle Academy staff too. If you cannot park at the bottom of the drive and walk up when dropping off at Little Stars, please try not to block spaces for staff. The spaces along the wall of the high school building belong to the high school and should not be used at all.

PACKED LUNCHES

Can we encourage parents to send in healthy choices in their children's lunchboxes? We don't have a problem with treats to complement a healthy lunch, but multiple chocolate bars, crisps and sweets can lead to very distracted children in the afternoons!

Can we also remind parents that the children's water bottles should only contain water.

PE DAYS

Children should continue to come to school in their PE kit on the days their class has PE:

Reception – Friday	Year 3 – Monday & Thursday
Year 1 – Tuesday & Thursday	Year 4 – Monday & Thursday
Year 2 – Tuesday & Thursday	Year 5 – Monday & Wednesday
	Year 6 – Wednesday & Friday

PARENTS EVENING

Parents should have received an email and text message with a link to our booking system for parents evening appointments on 30th September and 1st October. Parents evening appointments are 10 minutes long and are to discuss how your child is settling in to their new class and their targets for the year.

ACADEMY PHOTOGRAPHERS - FRIDAY 8th NOVEMBER

We will be welcoming Academy Photographers into school to take individual and sibling photographs of all children on Friday 8th November. Further information will be sent out closer to the time.

ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

Holidays during term-time cannot be approved, and we would ask parents wherever possible to take holidays outside of term time. Any family holiday taken in school time will be classed as 'unauthorised absence' and may be subject to Local Authority fines.

Similarly, we would ask parents to make appointments for the doctors, dentists etc. outside of school time wherever possible. If you have an unavoidable appointment during school hours, please contact the office to inform of your child's absence.

Thank you as always for your support in continued good attendance at school.

ASTHMA INHALERS

If your child requires an inhaler in school, please ensure that you have completed a consent form (please let Mrs Laws know in the office if you require one).

Children should always have an inhaler available in school, and they should be clearly labelled with their name.

SCHOOL LUNCHES AND KS2 TUCK SHOP

The cost of school lunches is now £2.55 a day (£12.75 per week). Menus are available on the school website (the summer menu is still being used, it just has the wrong dates – we are currently in week 3). **Meals and snacks should be paid for in advance please, via ParentPay.**

Lunches for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 remain free via the government's Universal Free School Meal initiative. If a school dinner is required in Year 3, parents will now need to pay (unless your child is eligible for income-based free school meals). Please contact the school office if you require a ParentPay activation code.

We also have a morning Tuck Shop for Key Stage 2 children to buy a hot snack, prices as follows:

Toast	25p per slice
Cheesy oatcake	65p

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

If your circumstances have recently changed and you are entitled to Universal Credit or Income Support (or similar benefits) you may be entitled to free school meals. It is quick and easy to apply online at www.gov.co.uk/apply-free-school-meals. Should you be eligible, simply screenshot the eligibility confirmation and send it to the school office, and your child will be able to receive free school meals straight away.

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 automatically get free school meals, however we would encourage you to apply for free school meals if you think you might be eligible, as this attracts additional pupil premium funding to support your child's learning.

YEAR 6 – APPLICATION TO HIGH SCHOOL

Letters have been sent out to our Year 6 pupils with information on how to apply for a High School place for September. The deadline for applications is 31st October.

PLEASE KEEP US UPDATED!

It is essential that we have the correct contact details for parents – if you have changed any of your contact numbers recently, please let us know!

We also frequently use email to communicate. If you have not been receiving emails from the school office, please contact us and we'll make sure you are added to the list.

DATES FOR AUTUMN TERM 2024

September

- 17 PTFA AGM, 6pm at school
- 25 Phonics session for Reception parents, 3:30pm
- 30 Parents Evening

October

- 1 Parents Evening
- 8 Governors meeting in school at 4:30pm
- 15 Year 4 and 5 visit to Harry Potter studio tour
- 22 Harvest festival
- 25 School closes for half-term

November

- 4 School reopens for staff and pupils
- 6 Nasal Flu Spray for all children with consent (link to consent form will be emailed closer to the time)
- 6 Open day for Reception 2025 intake, 10am and 6pm
- 7 Open day for Reception 2025 intake, 2pm
- 8 Academy Photography in school for individual pupil photos
- 14 Year 3 visit to World Museum, Liverpool
- 28 Book fair in school, every day after school until 4th December

December

- 3 Governors Teaching & Learning Committee meeting, 4:30pm
- 13 Christmas Jumper Day
- 18 Christmas Dinner
- 19 School closes for Christmas holidays
- 20 INSET day, school closed to pupils

January

- 6 School reopens for staff and pupils