



Newsletter Friday 8th September 2023

Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome back to school! We hope that you've all had a great summer break and are looking forward to whatever this year may bring.

The first newsletter of the school year tends to be full of reminders, so here we go.

Parentpay

At the end of the summer, we had debts amounting to over £3000 across the range of payment items in school. We have received a lot of payments over the summer (thank you) but there are still several outstanding debts from last academic year.

We would really appreciate it if these could be paid as soon as possible. However, if you are experiencing difficulties, then contact the school office.

Communication of absences

Please leave a message on the school's answerphone on the morning of your child's absence. Although Class Dojo is a great way to communicate with your class teacher, staff are not able to access these messages during the school day, except during breaks, and so messages are not always read. **Thank you.**

Attendance

Pupil Leave of Absence from school during term time

We are already receiving requests for holidays during term-time. Leave of absence will only be authorised if the appropriate criteria has been met - please see the school's leave of absence in term time information on the school website. Following Government guidelines since September 2013, the headteacher is not authorised to grant leave of

absence during term time in any other circumstances than those stated.

As detailed last year, taking a pupil on leave during term time interrupts teaching and learning and can disrupt educational progress. Please note that NYCC is issuing penalty notices to parents/carers for unauthorised absence.

The school will be closely monitoring all absences and patterns of absence to ensure our attendance figures return to our normal level of 97 to 98% - this may include requesting confirmation of appointments etc. We would be grateful for your support in ensuring your child attends school regularly in line with government regulations.

Medical Appointments

Please ensure where possible that all medical appointments are made outside school hours. We understand that this may not always be achievable but would urge you to ensure that your child has the highest attendance levels as possible.

Uniform

The children look very smart in their new school clothes. Please make sure that they are named so that any stray items of clothing can be returned to their rightful owners. We know how much these items cost so will do our best to make sure that this happens.



Note: As a result of a brilliant suggestion from a parent, PE t shirts can now be navy blue. It is hard to keep whites white when we are a Platinum OPAL school!

We have a lot of spare, high quality items of clothing and these are available in the school entrance Please contact the office if you need any more information or have any items to donate or swap.



A big hello and welcome to our new starters across the school.

In nursery we have Ida, Alfie, Jean, Quinn, Erin and Noah.

In reception we welcome Minnie.

In other parts of the school, we would like to welcome Vovo, Tammy, Cayleb and Arthur.

We are sure that they will be very happy at Leyburn.

Music lessons



Piano and guitar lessons are available through the school.

Please contact the office for more details.

Before and After School Club

Breakfast Club runs from 7.30 - 9.00 am
- £7.50 for individuals; £5.00 for any siblings (including breakfast)

After School Club runs from 3.30 - 5.30 pm
£ 10.00 for individuals; £7.50 for any siblings (including a healthy snack)

Sessions can be booked through the school office or by emailing:

wraparoundcare.leyburn@ycatschools.co.uk
and paid for in advance through parentpay or childcare vouchers.

As before, there will also be the facility to take ad hoc sessions on a weekly basis.

After school clubs:

Monday - there are some spaces left for Minecraft. Please contact Mrs Salonga.

Thursday – Film Club will run to 5 pm. There will be a £2.00 charge to include a drink and a snack provided by school.

School Food

This year, one of our focus areas will be food – growing it, cooking it and eating it.

We are very keen to work with our families on this and so please contact the school office or your class teacher if you would like to be involved.

Last summer, the Year 6s reviewed our healthy eating policy in school and have proposed the following:

- Children who are chosen to have cakes with Mrs Beveridge on Friday now choose a different type of treat... Watch this space!
- We now actively discourage sweets, including on school buses, so please don't bring them to school.
- When children have birthdays, rather than bringing in cakes and sweets to share with their class, how about donating to our Gift-a-Book scheme which we are running in collaboration with [The Wonky Tree Bookshop](#) in Leyburn?
- The only breaktime snacks will be fruit.



This will also support our commitment to our children with allergies and doing all that we can to being a 'nut-free school.

School lunches

Food provided by the school has to conform to certain standards which can be found [here](#). Although the prices have increased, they still provide good value for money.

Packed lunches.



Many parents/carers or pupils choose to bring in a packed lunch from home to enjoy in school. Research has shown only 1% of packed lunches met the previous Nutrient Standards for Food in Schools, particularly in terms of low fruit and vegetable content and a high content of sugary and fat-laden foods. We know that packed lunches at Leyburn buck this trend and we are very impressed with the range of food that the children bring in.

From now on, any sweets in lunchboxes are to be avoided, or eaten at home. This will also include products including confectionery, such as chocolate biscuits.

Please see the [attached leaflet](#) for more ideas to improve the contents of a packed lunch.

Growing food



We will also be exploring ways to increase the food that we grow on our school site and to use the surplus vegetables that we collect from the Coop.

Again, please contact the school if you could help in any way.

Be proud of your mouth!



There is a greater focus on oral hygiene across all schools and we are encouraging children to only bring water to school. Thank you for helping with this.

Dates for the Diary:

27th September – tag rugby at the rugby club

4th October – Cross Country at Richmond School

10th October – Individual school photographs

w/b Monday 16th October- Parent Carer Consultations

17th October – Scholastic Book Fair

18th October – Year 5/6 Girls Football Competition TWS

25th October – Years 5/6 Boys Football Competition TWS

Friday 27th October – break up for half term

Monday 6th November– back to school

Anti-bullying week – 13th -17th November

15th November – Mixed Football

17th November – Children in Need

5th and 6th December – KS1 nativity

6th December – Skipping festival TWS – KS1

15th December – Christmas Open afternoon

w/b 18th December – Christmas Parties and Outdoor Carol Concert

Friday 22nd December – Break up for Christmas