

Autumn Term 1: Welcome Back!

We hope everyone is having a lovely summer break and we look forward to seeing all the children on Tuesday 3rd September! In this newsletter there are a few updates from the summer and then we will release all dates for your diaries by the end of the first week back so you have lots of advance notice for events in school.

A big welcome to all the new families that have joined TEAM Shanklea, we look forward to getting to know you all. If we can help with anything, please get in touch via Dojo or pop into the main office and we will help in any way we can. We do apologise for the length of this initial newsletter, but we want to try and provide as much information as possible.

Exciting updates from over the summer

Once again, there's been so much happening at Shanklea over the summer! A massive thank you to Miss Brown for coordinating it all. We finally think we've finished the big clear out that we started last Easter with a further four vans of rubbish now gone! We've got new playground markings, we've designed and ordered our new forest school area, we have new flooring for our squirrel classroom (2-year-old provision), new furniture for some classrooms, a new school website and we've invested in a further 30 new chrome books for pupils throughout school and ordered lots of new PE equipment. We certainly have been busy!



Our new website will be live shortly and we'll send you the link as soon as it is.

Reminders of School Arrangements

Lunch ordering and payments

We continue to use School Grid for facilitating school meal ordering, payments and recording of food allergies. We register your child on your behalf by providing a School Grid with your child's name, date of birth along with your name and email address. For new pupils, once registered you will be sent login details from School Grid which should be used to access your account to pre order and pay for meals. Please let us know if you do not wish your details to be used. If you require any further information on how to access or use this system, please contact the school office.

How to order meals?

Universal Free School Meals and Pupil Premium

Don't forget, Free School Meals are limited to children in Reception and Year 1 and Year 2. Therefore, if your child is in Year 3 and above from September they will no longer be eligible. They may, however, qualify for income related Free School Meals. To find out if you are eligible, you will need to apply for Free School Meals on the NCC website at the link below. **It is worth checking for all ages, even if your child prefers packed lunches as you may be eligible for reduced charges in other areas too e.g. school trips:** <https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Education/Schools/Meals.aspx>. If you'd like further advice, information or help completing the form: please pop in and see us.

Pack lunches and water bottles

- No nuts- including peanut butter and Nutella – because of the life threatening risk to any other child who may have a severe allergy.
- Please ensure that water bottles only contain water or sugar free juice.
- Please ensure that there are no sweets, chocolate bars or fizzy drinks in pack lunches please. Any items listed above will be sent home and an alternative offered from the school lunch menu.

Start and end of school arrangements

Main school opening time: School gates will open at 8.45 am, gates will be closed promptly at 8.55am. Any pupils arriving after 8.55am will need to come through the front office. Children arriving after 9am will be marked as late on the register, unless we have been notified of a medical appointment. **From September, both gates will be back open again (main yard and side gate).**

Main school finishing time: School gates will open no earlier than 3.25pm. Children will be dismissed at 3.30pm. This is because some of our PE lessons are still running. We do try to let out KS1 (Y1/2 pupils first to minimise congestion).

If there are any new families to school, please come to the school office on the first day and we will help you from there to your new classrooms and explain drop off and pick up.

EYFS (2's, Nursery, and Reception) see below:

Squirrels (2 year olds)- We have two Squirrel sessions this year. The morning session doors will open 8.45- 8.55 and the children can be collected from 11.45am. The afternoon session will be 12.30pm and pick up is at 3.30pm. This will be from the Squirrels entrance.

Nursery- You can drop your children off from 8.45- 8.55am. Please ensure your child does not play with outdoor equipment while they wait to enter the nursery as it is set up for the sessions. Am sessions will finish at 12, children who stay full day will be collected at 3pm, if you have an older child who does not finish till 3.30 you can leave your child in Nursery till 3.15pm.

Reception -All children will enter the Reception classrooms at the main door in the EYFS area, beside the gate to the left of the main school entrance. Children should be dropped off between 8.45am - 8.55am and collected from their classroom room at 3.30pm.

Coming into school:

- Y1-4 will enter via the changing room door on the main yard (as normal).
- Y5 and Y6 will enter via their classrooms at the back of school (as normal).

Leaving school:

- KS1 (Y1/2): Mrs Downes, Mrs Short and Mrs Valentine's classes will all enter and exit the building via the changing room doors on the main school yard.
- LKS2 (Y3/4): Miss Witherspoon's class will enter and exit the building via the changing room doors but will wait until KS1 have left. Mr Rutherford's class will exit the building via their classroom door onto the main school yard. Mrs Barron's class will exit the building via their classroom door at the back of school.
- UKS2 (Y5/6): Miss Heneghan's, Miss Laskey and Mrs Robson's classes will all enter and exit the building via their classroom doors at the back of school.

We now have both gates open at the beginning and end of the school day and will have members of the team at each gate in the morning. **Please note there will only be staff members on the school gates in the morning, not afterschool.**

However, for safeguarding reasons in the morning the team will not be able to leave the gate to pass on messages or take a child in. Please come to the main office to pass on messages or if your child is struggling coming into school, let Mrs Crowther know and we can make alternative arrangements.

If you'd like your child to walk home in Y5/6 please give consent on the school gateway or contact the school office. The Gateway will be open to give consent from Tuesday 3rd September 2024.

Uniform

A copy of the uniform policy can be found on the school website or from the school office.

Please remember:

- All leggings should be plain with no branding. All joggers, shorts and t-shirts for PE should also be plain no branding (unless school logo).
- All earrings need to be removed or plastic inserts used please.
- No makeup or oversized headbands and scrunchies or fake tan for school please.

For the full uniform, please see policy.

We now have spare uniforms in school for all year groups and will support children to wear the correct uniform in school. Please just drop us a Dojo or let the school office know if there's a reason your child is unable to come in uniform on a particular day, we completely understand there are days when things are unavoidable, we're here to help.

Class Dojo

Link to Class Dojo: [ClassDojo](#)

We post all newsletters and dates for your diary on Dojo.

However, sometimes classes will have to change events/ plans at short notice which they will post on Dojo. If there are significant changes, we will also text you as well.

Class teachers will continue to post weekly reminders, as we know families said this really helps.

Please only use Dojo for non-urgent messages as teachers don't necessarily access Dojo throughout the day.

We understand and appreciate how busy parents are and that's why Dojo is used as it really does help with communication between home and school; however, teachers are advised to put Dojo onto silent mode after 4.30pm so we can't guarantee a response.

Please see the Class Dojo agreement at the end of the newsletter for further details.

Medical information, medication and permissions

It is important that school is made aware of any changes, including health and medication information, during the holidays. If there are any changes in circumstances we should be aware of please let us know.

Confidential data collection sheets will be sent out for all parents to complete. **Please note:** Every child must have at least two contacts.

New image consent forms will be sent out for GDPR and other permissions shortly, Please complete these electronically

Parents and carers have the right to withdraw consent at any time. Please contact our office if you wish to withdraw consent at any time.



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Additional Notices

School Photographs

We have organised a school photographer to visit our school. We are trialling a new company this year called **Unscripted Portrait**, a North East company who are passionate about capturing children relatively, honestly and naturally. All children will have their photographs taken and there will be an opportunity for sibling photographs too. More information to follow.

Swimming

Yr4 will begin their swimming lesson at Concordia every Wednesday afternoon starting from 11th September 2024 until the end of the autumn term, their last session will be Wednesday 18th December 2024. The children will be split into two groups, each group attending alternative weeks. You will be notified via text which group your child is in. The children will walk to Concordia so please ensure they wear weather appropriate clothing and suitable footwear. The children will return at the end of the school day. The session will last half an hour and school will cover the cost; however, **consent is required** and should be made via the School Gateway.

Reminder of teacher training days for 2024- 2025

School will be closed for staff training on the following dates:

- Monday 2nd September 2024
- Friday 25th October 2024
- Monday 6th January 2025
- Monday 2nd June 2025

Curriculum

What will you receive this year to keep you up to date with your child's learning

- Every half term we will provide parents with an overview of learning for the half term, this will be shared on Dojo.
- New this year, we will also send you ways you can support your child with maths on a half termly basis.
- We will have workshops for parents on maths and English that you can attend, to find out how we teach maths and English. Dates will be added to dates for your diary which we will send to you in the first week.
- In your child's report in July you also received the National Curriculum objectives for this year so you can see the standard we are aiming for your child to achieve. If you didn't receive this - please let us know.
- You will have two parents' evenings a year and one school report in the summer. In addition to this, we will also provide a data information sheet in December so you can see how your child is progressing.
- If your child is on the SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability) register you will get a further three meetings with your child's class teacher (meetings could be in person or on the phone).
- If your child is in Y1 or Y6 you will receive an additional meeting about the Phonics Screening Check and Y6 SATS.
- If your child is in Y6, you will be provided regular updates following each mock SATS assessment so you can monitor your child's progress over the year.

Maths and Literacy Shed (Homework)

EdShed

We will continue to use EdShed for maths and English homework.

This is an interactive resource to use online that covers the whole curriculum. The team will set homework at the right level for pupils in their class; however, it also has so many activities and games that pupils can access freely for maths and English and we'd encourage them to be using it for 10 minutes every night to support their learning. The link is below, and all children will have a username and password. **If they don't have one, please contact their class teacher and we can set your child up. Children also use this in school.**



[EdShed](#)

After School Club and Breakfast Club

To support parents we operate a Breakfast and After School club.

Breakfast club opens at 7.30am every morning, children will be offered a healthy breakfast, and we will have activities running for your children to enjoy.

Our After School club runs until 5.30pm every afternoon. Children will receive a snack and a drink during the time they attend and will partake in stimulating fun activities.

As parents/carers you can have peace of mind knowing your children are well cared for and engaged in a safe, healthy and happy environment run by our dedicated team.

All Breakfast and After School club staff hold a current first aid certificate and a food safety and hygiene certificate. All staff are trained in safeguarding.

Breakfast and After School Club sessions can be booked online via the Gateway or you can complete a booking form at the office.

Sporting After School Clubs

This half term we have the following after school clubs running:

YR3/4 LASP - Bushcraft. The club will run from Thursday 12th September up to and including Thursday 22nd October 2024.

YR5/6 - Newcastle Thunder - Rugby/Multi Skills. This club will run from Tuesday 10th September up to and including Tuesday 17th October 2024.

You can book your child a place at these clubs via the Gateway from Tuesday 3rd September.

Please note for Health and Safety reasons the LASP - Bushcraft club has a limit of 15 spaces available.

Further teacher-led clubs will be added to dates to your diary in the first week.

TEAM Shanklea Contact Plan

At TEAM Shanklea, we're here to help and want to make sure all children feel happy and safe in school. In order to resolve your queries, questions or concerns as quickly and effectively as possible, we'd initially ask for you to contact your child's class teacher as they will know your child best.

If following further support from the class teacher, you don't feel your queries have been resolved, please contact a member of SLT (Senior Leadership Team) all of whom can be contacted via Dojo or the school office and are Safeguarding Leads:

- **KS1 (Y1/2) this will be Mrs Downes,**
- **LKS2 (Y3/4) Miss Henaghan**
- **UKS2 (Y5/6) Miss Laskey**

At this point, behind the scenes, a member of the above SLT will speak to either Mrs Laughton/ Mrs Crowther (Assistant Headteachers) and they will be working together to resolve your queries. If we are still unable to resolve your worry, Mrs Ritson may become involved.

Please be aware if you contact us via Dojo or ring the school office and ask for example to speak to Mrs Ritson, we will ask if the above process has been followed as we want to ensure that someone is always available to deal with any questions as quickly as possible. SLT are regularly in meetings out of school, covering classes and in safeguarding meetings so their availability is not guaranteed, and we want to make sure someone is always there to help you as quickly as possible.

In addition:

- Mrs Ritson is usually around most mornings on the school gates.
- Mrs Crowther is usually supporting children entering via the main office and Mrs Laughton is letting her Reception class in.
- At the end of the day a member of SLT is always around in the school yard.



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Safeguarding Notices

Parking

Families are reminded that parking is prohibited on Nairn Road, Northolt Avenue and Needham Place without a residents' permit. Please park with consideration around school, not blocking pavements or drives even for a few minutes. We would be grateful if parents and carers could remind everyone who collects their children of the need to drive and park safely and with consideration.

Designated Safeguarding Leads

In school we have a number of safeguarding leads, if you have any concerns about safeguarding, please get in touch. Please see the DSL poster attached.

CCTV in school

Just so everyone is aware, we do have CCTV in school and externally covering all areas of the site. If you would like to see the policy, please ask the school office or check the website.

Acceptable Use Agreement

Please find attached our acceptable use agreement that all schools must share with families annually. Please can we ask that you talk to your child about the agreement, we will also do this in school. Please can you then sign the online agreement on Gateway.

Attendance

As you may be aware, the DFE has put in new attendance requirements for all schools to follow. Please find a letter from Northumberland County Council attached to this email explaining the attendance changes.



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Book Hunt !

The book hunt around the community is on and we will be hiding books on **Sunday 1st September**. Please come and find them from **10 am**. Last year, a number of families couldn't find books as more than one book was being taken per child. **Please can we ask that you take one book per child**. By all means if you find a better book on the hunt swap it in, but we've bought enough books so that all children in school could find a book.

Bounceathon!

Y6 had a great idea to run a Bounceathon to raise money for our outdoor area. **On Friday the 6th September**, there will be a number of inflatables on site for pupils to enjoy throughout the day. Please see separate sheet for sponsorship. All sponsorship monies can be sent in or added to Gateway from Tuesday 3rd of September. If every child in school raises £3.50 that will cover the costs of the day anything additional will go towards developing our outdoor area further for the children. Thank you for your ongoing support!

We look forward to seeing you all soon, enjoy the last week of summer everyone!

TEAM Shanklea