

 @RedHallSchool

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Well, we did it! Our first full term back at school! What a relief it is now October half term and the staff and children have a chance to unwind and relax. This is the longest our children have been in school in nearly two years. They are now very tired, so please, parents, do not ask them to do too many 'jobs / chores' during their week off! 😊

Due to how tired our children have been over the last two weeks, we have changed our approach to teaching. Mental health and wellbeing is more of a priority to us, therefore lessons have been shorter and mindfulness activities, brain breaks and extra playtimes have been given. This has impacted greatly on the atmosphere in school and staff feedback has been that children have been more settled and focused.

Other things to mention

Ms Davidson - Ms Davidson's operation went well and she is now recovering at home.

Free School Meals - if you believe you may be eligible, please come to the school office and Mrs Heseltine will help you apply. All you need is your National Insurance Number and your date of birth.

Packed lunches - We have noticed an increase in the number of children who are bringing packed lunches into school, loaded with unhealthy snacks. This is not part of our school policy. Our cooks have clear guidelines with how much salt and sugar they are allowed to add to food, therefore we need to ensure packed lunches are the same.

Car park - from October half term, no parents will be allowed to park on school grounds when dropping off and picking up their children. Instead, there are spaces at the top of the road, that parents can use during drop off and pick up times. This is for the safety of pupils, as some children are walking in the yard, when cars are coming in and out.

Late arrivals at school - We have an increasing number of pupils turning up to school late. Last week alone, over 5 hours of learning was lost, by children coming into school late. This is disruptive for the child who is coming to school late, as well as the other children in their class. Lates letters are sent out on a weekly basis

and phone calls to challenge lates will continue. Whenever possible, a member of staff will also be around to challenge late arrivals, as this is something which must improve.

Be patient, be kind - Our office staff (just like all staff) do an amazing job. There have been incidents during this current half term, where a handful of parents have been exceptionally rude to our admin team, whether this is face to face or over the phone. Please know that this will **not** be tolerated. If you have an issue with something, please ensure you are as calm as possible before phoning school.

Fundraising - Our Spooky Disco this half term raised £280. This has already been spent on a Christmas treat for all children in school! Thank you for supporting us with this event!

OPAL - Playtimes and lunchtimes continue to improve as our term has progressed. We are developing the resources we have and children are being trained on more 'areas' before they are allowed to play in them. All children have a 'passport' which shows the training they have received. We are still reminding the children to put their hoods up and zip up their coats when it's raining... this is something we will continue to do to ensure they remain as dry and as warm as possible in all weathers! 😊

If you have any: yoghurt pots, plastic food tubs, e.g. from takeaways, cardboard tubes etc, then please bring them in, as our children would love to use these in their free play.

PE kits - Whole school PE day is a Wednesday. Please remember that our PE kit is a white t-shirt and red shorts. Children can wear tracksuit bottoms outdoors but must have shorts for sessions indoors.

School uniform - a reminder that children should be wearing black shoes as part of their school uniform. Fully black trainers will be allowed however they **MUST** be completely black without e.g. Nike ticks etc. The sole of the trainer must also be black.

Homework - as you are aware, the expectation for homework has changed. Instead of producing pages of homework, we are asking children to read with an adult 3 times a week and then complete Times Tables Rockstars and 'Numbots' twice a week. Miss Henry has been checking this and it is evident lots of children are not reading or logging on to complete their Maths. This will be monitored more closely moving forward next half term.

Dates - Please see below the table of important dates we know of so far for next half term.

Please have a wonderful half term. Stay safe, be brave, be happy and make memories.

Love from Miss Snowdon and all the Red Hall staff.

Dates

Date	Year	Activity
2.11.21	All	<p>Celebration evening Parents invited in to see their children's work. This is the first time we have been able to do this in nearly 2 years. We are trying to explore different ways of holding this event, we believe the easiest way, is to do this based on 3 possible sessions, where you are given a 20 mins, to see your child's work. Children will bring their books to the gym / hall for you to see. Sessions are as follows: 2.40pm - 3pm 3.05pm - 3.25pm 3.25pm - 3.45pm Places will be on ParentMail to book. There is a maximum of 50 places per slot, these will be on a first come, first served basis. **PLEASE NOTE only one parent / carer can come per family, this is due to numbers and safety for ALL children, staff and parents. Please respect us with this. There is another opportunity to come and see your children's books on 14.12.21. Cakes and biscuits will be on sale for you to purchase, as you enter / leave the building ☺</p>
4.11.21	All	<p>Times Tables Rock Star Day - Your children have the option to come into school dressed as a Rock Star to celebrate TTRS.</p>
8.11.21	1	<p>Phonics assessments for the Year 1 children</p>
9.11.21	6	<p>Year 6 at Eden Camp - cost is £13.</p>
9.11.21	5	<p>Basketball tournament for Year 5 children - children will be notified.</p>
9.11.21	All	<p>FUNDRAISING - Bingo evening for children and parents You will need to book your place for this event on Parent Mail. This will cost £1, per person, to secure your place. We need to do Health and Safety reasons and ensuring we have a 'safe' number of people. Children can only attend if their parents attend. Parents are responsible for keeping their own children quiet, when the bingo numbers are being called. Prizes for a line and a full house will be given! LET'S raise some money! £2.50 per 'book' of tickets. Dabbers will also be available to buy for £1. Drinks, snacks, cakes and biscuits will be available to purchase.</p>
24.11.21	All	<p>Movie Night 3 - 5pm Some children will be invited to stay back at school for a 'movie night'. This night will celebrate the children who are always trying their best to make right choices. Children will receive a snack for their tea.</p>
24.11.21	Year 6	<p>Sportshall Athletics Festival - more details to follow</p>

30.11.21	Y2	Christmas Journey - more details to follow.
2.12.21	----	Festing Court Christmas Dinner Day We are inviting some children to spend time with the residents of Festing Court, who are coming to us for a Christmas Dinner on this day. The choir will perform for the residents and children will simply chat to the residents.
6.12.21	All	Christmas Movie Night - £4 per child, 2.5 hours of childcare +tea Children are to bring pjs and we will watch a Christmas film, have a buffet tea and feel Christmassy! A perfect opportunity for parents to relax - child free - before the Christmas rush begins! Activity is 3 - 5.30pm. All children will need to be collected from school, due to the dark nights.
7.12.21		Family Christmas Dinner - £3 adult, £2.50 per child For the first time EVER, we are going to be offering parents / carers the opportunity to come and have a Christmas Dinner. There will be two sittings available, you can book these on ParentMail. Places will be on a first come, first served basis. There is no limit on adults and children, all we ask is that you are mindful of other children and parents. First sitting - 2.15 - 3.15pm Second sitting - 3.30 - 4.30pm
7 / 8.12.21	Y3 / 4	Change for Life Celebration PE event Children in Year 3 / 4 will be invited to a Sports Event at a local Secondary School. Date to be confirmed.
9.12.21	All	Christingle - arrangements to be confirmed, as for the first year, this year, all children and staff will not fit in the Church at once! This just shows how our little school is growing!
9.12.21	All	Christmas dinner day This will be Christmas Dinner Day for all staff, children and the Governing Body.
10.12.21	All	Christmas jumper day Children are encouraged to wear a Christmas Jumper today and bring in £1 for charity.
13.12.21	EYFS	EYFS Christmas productions Morning 2YO and Nursery at 10.15am, Afternoon 2YO and Nursery - 1.45pm
13.12.21	All	Christmas Fayre 2.45-4pm Each year group will have a stall. Parents are invited to come and see the stalls and purchase goods! Our theme for Autumn 2 is Aspirations, therefore the children who make the most money from their stall, we receive a special end of term treat! 😊
14.12.21	All	Celebration event Same times as 2.11.21 Bookings will be taken on ParentMail.
16.12.21	1 - 6	Pantomime - Aladdin - Billingham Forum Children will be back at school for 4.30pm. There is NO COST for this. School are paying for this for all pupils.
15.12.21	KS1/KS2	KS1 and KS2 Christmas productions Due to working parents and their commitments, we are going to be holding both productions on the same day, which will hopefully reduce the amount of time off work, which is needed. Productions will be held in the afternoon - timings will be confirmed closer to the time.

17.12.21	--	100% attendance trip - venue / activity to be confirmed.
17.12.21	All	Last day of term = Party Day / own clothes day.

** The dates when parents are invited into school may change. If we believe it is too much of a risk (due to Covid), we will make the decision to cancel an event. We will aim to give parents as much notice as possible.

