



Lowick and Holy Island C of E First Schools

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you to let you know about how the last three weeks have gone and to make arrangements for the summer term.

We have been very impressed with how well the children have settled back into school. We have been fortunate, due to our current increased staffing, to be able to have small groups and to be able to vary how we put year groups together in ways that promote quality learning experiences. For instance, on a regular basis year 1s have been able to work with year 2s, years 3 and 4 have had key stage 2 time and nursery have been able to learn from Reception children. At other times, children have been able to work with just their year group allowing very small and focused groups. We have also reinstated our house tables with mixed aged groups. We have observed the benefits to the children in terms of their confidence, the challenge they get in their lessons and the social and emotional rewards.

We re-started our Read Write Inc small group work based on phonics, reading comprehension and spelling and we are pleased to see progress for every child even in just a short period of time. We will be continuing this into the summer term. The older nursery children will also be stepping up their involvement in this programme next term to give them a boost before starting Reception next year. The older children who have finished the Read Write Inc program are using that time for either spellings or maths, including practising their knowledge of the times tables.

We have also re-started our smaller morning reading groups (reading for pleasure) based in their houses. Mrs Stiansen has planned guided reading groups each day as well, which we think will be very valuable for all children as reading underpins the rest of the curriculum.

Please note that we are back to using Seesaw as a virtual reading log. Please would you also record when you have listened to your child read so we have a full picture of how they are getting on. This is very important for helping children to improve their reading and to find books they like.



We noticed that the children did particularly well in their lessons on the days when they had a chance to play for a short time on the yard or field before the school day began. For this reason, we would like to build this back into our school day plan. We still need to have staggered drop off times and to use the classroom entrances as there are still strict Covid rules in place. However, to enable this short play time I have adjusted the morning drop off times for class 1 so that they don't miss out. My apologies for making another change but, on discussion with staff, we felt that the benefit to the children outweighed the annoyance of having to get used to new times.

Summer term drop off and pick up times:

Class 2: 8.30am and 2.40pm (no change)

Class 1: 8.40am and 2.50pm

Nursery: 8.45am and 2.45pm (no change)

As before, if you have siblings in both classes then please just use one set of timings for both to avoid lingering on site and to help with social distancing. If you have siblings in school and in nursery, please use the nursery drop off and pick up times.

Other changes in the summer term are as follows:

PE will be on Thursdays as well as Commando Joe's (the children will rotate between the two over the afternoon). Children will need suitable PE clothing on Thursdays. We will be doing rugby after Easter and cricket after the summer half term.

Forest school afternoons on Fridays will continue for nursery and class 1. Class 2 will also be included in this some weeks but not every week.

The eco-club wrote a letter to Margaret in the kitchen (some time ago now – before the January lockdown) asking if we could have 'meat-free Mondays'. Margaret has kindly thought about how we could achieve this; you will perhaps have already noticed the outcome on the new summer term menus.

Our curriculum theme will continue to be Weather and Climate for three weeks after Easter. We will then begin our postponed topic of Fantastic Creatures. Our RE theme will be Pilgrimage which will look at pilgrimage in Christianity and across a range of world faiths. After the summer half term we will be finding out about Asia, and Japan in particular.

To sum up, we are very happy to have all the children back in school and to see them thriving. We are also excited about our planned topics and activities for the summer term, which we hope the children will enjoy.

I hope you all have a lovely Easter holiday and we look forward to seeing you again in the summer term.

Kind regards

Rebecca