

25th April 2017

Dear Parents & Carers,

We hope you had a restful and enjoyable holiday and that your children are reenergised ready for the Summer Term. We have lots of exciting activities planned and look forward to seeing you at some of our open and family events.

Please find below a series of updates for the next few months.

Attendance

We are extremely pleased to report that our overall attendance remains at 90%! This is the highest attendance at our school for over 5 years and we are very proud of all our pupils. Thank you again for all the work you undertake at home to support good attendance in school. To celebrate and reward good attendance we will be organising two reward trips this term. Pupils in KS2 with an overall attendance of 95% or more will have the opportunity to visit Cannon Hall Farm on Monday 3rd July. Pupils in KS3 and KS4 will have the opportunity to visit Alton Towers on Friday 30th June.

School Farm Opening

Many thanks to all the families who joined us to celebrate the opening of our school farm at the end of last term. It was a fantastic event and it was great to see so many families touring our new facilities, hunting for treasure and enjoying a bacon sandwich. We are very grateful to Rob and Ruth who organised the event and The Wooden Spoon Charity who raised money to support the development of our farm buildings. You can find lots of pictures from the event on our website.

Parent/Carer Survey

I would like to thank everyone who was able to complete and return our annual parent/carers survey. Your responses have been sent away for analysis and will help provide valuable information about the strengths of our school and also the areas we need to develop. We will let you know the results of your feedback before the end of term.

SATs

Amanda and her team will shortly be contacting the parents and carers of children in year 6 to share information about SATs. The tests take place between the 8th and 11th of May and we want to do everything we can to support pupils during this tricky time. Some of you will have seen the inspiring letter that was sent out to pupils by several schools ahead of SATs last year. This letter, which you can read here <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-36247429>, emphasises that the tests do not assess what makes pupils 'special and unique' or identify pupils' many abilities and talents. We would like to echo this sentiment and would be grateful if you could do the same.

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GCSEs

We are also fast approaching the GCSE exam period. This can be a worrying and demanding time for pupils as they revise for and take their exams; say goodbye to their teachers and friends; and prepare for the transition to post-16 education, training or employment. The KS4 team are currently putting together a comprehensive programme of revision for pupils in year 10 and 11, which will be sent home shortly. Please note that the last day of school for year 11 pupils is Friday 30th June, when parents and carers are invited to attend their Leavers Assembly.

Transition

The transition from primary to secondary school and, indeed, from one class to another is an important time in the lives of children and their families. For this reason, we start our transition early in the Summer Term so that pupils are settled in advance of the six-week holidays. Some pupils in year 6 have already started their transition and are now working in the main building.

This year, the transition into new groups will be organised as follows:

Date	Transition
29 th June	All pupils will receive welcome letters from their new staff team. Pupils will spend the day taking part in team building activities with their new groups.
5 th July	Pupils will spend the day in their new groups.
10 th July – 21 st July	Pupils will join their new groups on a full time basis.

There will also be an opportunity for you to meet members of staff you do not know at our upcoming events, detailed at the end of this letter.

Safer Schools Officer

As some of you will know, PC Liz Lockwood left the school to take up a new position last term. As a school, we have a very good relationship with the police who are extremely supportive of our pupils and families. Many of you will have met Liz and know about some of the fantastic work she competed with children around issues such as e-safety, road-safety, running away and bullying. While the police recording mechanisms used by Liz created the appearance of an increase in incidents at our school, the number of actual incidents has continued to fall, to the extent that we have not needed to re-engage a Safer Schools Officer this year. We instead work more closely with our community team and continue to see the significant benefits of this approach.

Joseph Norton Academy
Busker Lane, Scissett
Huddersfield
HD8 9JU

Empty Classroom Day

On Friday 5th May we will be taking part in an Empty Classroom Day. This is a whole school enrichment day on which everyone will be taking part in outdoor learning at a range of locations. If you would like to join in, please contact your pastoral leader who will be able to provide you with more information. Last year's Three Peaks Challenge was a huge success.

Honley Show

After an extremely successful day last year, we will be returning to Honley Show on Saturday 10th June when pupils will be selling products they have made as part of their ASDAN and Enterprise programmes. The show is held at Farnley Tyas and includes a range of activities, agricultural events, stands and displays.

We are running the stand with our pupils from 08:00 until 16:00 and would very much welcome support from parent and carer volunteers. The school will reimburse the cost of entrance tickets for any volunteers who are able to support us.

Parent Partnership

Our Friends of Joseph Norton group are currently developing a new Parent Partnership Policy. We would be grateful for your feedback on the first draft and enclose a copy with this letter. Please send any comments or suggestions to Kate Gaunt by Friday 26th May.

And finally... dates for your diary!

Monday 1 st May	Bank Holiday
Friday 5 th May	Empty Classroom Day (please join us)
Monday 8 th May	Start of SATs test
Monday 22 nd May	Start of KS4 Parents Evenings
Wednesday 7 th June	KS4 Duke of Edinburgh Expeditions
Saturday 10 th June	Honley Show
Wednesday 14 th June	KS4 Duke of Edinburgh Expeditions
Thursday 15 th June	KS3 Residential
Thursday 29 th June	Transition Day
Friday 30 th June	Friends of Joseph Norton (please join us)
Friday 30 th June	KS3/4 Attendance Reward Trip
Friday 30 th June	Year 11 Leavers Assembly
Monday 3 rd July	KS2 Attendance Reward Trip
Monday 3 rd July	Start of KS2 and KS3 Parents Evenings
Wednesday 5 th July	Transition Day
Monday 10 th July	Full Transition
Thursday 20 th July	Sports Day

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Friday 21st July Parent BBQ (please join us)
Friday 21st July End of Term – school will close at 13:00.

If you have any questions, about any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Wilson
Head Teacher