



The New School Year

September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you have all had a fantastic, restful summer and have managed to enjoy some time together with your families. At school, we have been busy preparing for the new school year and are very much looking forward to welcoming the children back to school in September to start the next chapter in their learning. In the following letter, we hope that you will find useful information which will help you to prepare for the new year.

Starting back at school

Monday 2nd September is an INSET day at school, where staff will be receiving important training and updates.

Therefore, the children in Reception and Years 1-6 will be expected back at school on Tuesday 3rd September. Children should arrive either through the East or West gates (whichever is easier for you) between 8.40am and 8.50am, and make their way to their classroom doors. We ask that parents do not come right up to the doors or inside the rooms as this will help the children to come in calmly and independently. Don't worry if there are a few tears on the first day!

Those in Nursery will have the organised home visits on Tuesday 3rd and Wednesday 4th before they then start full mornings from Thursday 5th.

The school day finishes at 3:15pm for EYFS and Key Stage 1 pupils, and 3:20pm for KS2.

School Values

As you know, our school promotes the values of the parable of The Good Samaritan and we work hard to ensure that all members of our family understand the importance of working together in a supportive way.

This year, we will continue to focus on 'Ubuntu'; the things that we need as a community to live and work together well. Our Reflections Councillors have chosen the values for the next year, starting with a focus on 'tolerance'.

Core Expectations

As a school, our success relies on working closely with you as parents so that we can get the best for our children. To do this, we must have some shared expectations.

Attendance—Your child is in school as much as is possible, with the aim of 100% attendance. If they are unwell, you should leave a message on the school's absence line (01442 252972 and then option 1) by 8.30am on each day that they are not in. The rules on what schools must do to challenge poor attendance have recently changed and we will share more on this soon.

Punctuality—Your child needs to be in class and ready to start learning **by** 8.50am each morning. If you arrive after this time, you will need to go through the school office. Even a few minutes late means that your child misses the first part of the day's learning and may struggle to catch up.

Uniform—We expect your child to be in full, smart school uniform each day. Uniform can be ordered through our school website or purchased from local supermarkets, however if you have difficulty in getting it, please let the office know as we may be able to help.

Respect—We are incredibly proud to have positive relationships with our parents and families, however we know that there are issues from time-to-time. In this case, please do speak to Mr Maher or another member of staff so that we can help if needed.

PE Kits

When your child has PE, they may come to school wearing their PE kit for the day. To start the year, PE will take place on the following days:

Monday: Years 2, 4, 5 and 6

Tuesday: Years 1 and 3

Wednesday: Years 4 and 6

Thursday: Years 1, 3 and 5

Friday: Year 2

Please note that these days may change during the term. We will let you know if this is the case.

Forest School

This term, children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 3 will have Forest School on a Thursday.

As the sessions will always take place outside on the field, please ensure that your child has clothing suitable to change into for the winter weather including warm waterproof coats and wellies to wear over the top of their PE kit. It would be a good idea to also send your child in each week with a bag of spare clothing that they can change into after just in case they get very muddy!

End of the School Day

All children from Reception to Year 4 must be collected by an adult at the end of the school day. We hold information about your key contacts, however if someone else will be collecting them, please do let us know.

In Years 5 and 6, the children will be released onto the playground at 3.20pm and told that they must not leave without their adult. If you are confident that your child is capable and would like to provide permission for them to walk home alone, please follow this link:

<https://forms.gle/DgJrSNzLmv24Mg1y8>

Website

We work hard to ensure that our website is current and provides a range of information which will be useful to you. Please do visit the website regularly and check here first if you have any questions or queries.

Staffing

We shared staffing arrangements with you in July, however a reminder can be seen below.

Nursery—Miss Archer and Mrs Holmes

Reception—Mrs Wilson, Miss Bolton, Ms Impey and Mrs Paduchak

Year 1—Miss Brewer, Mrs Akhtar, Miss Powell, Miss Hollis, Mrs Gamage and Mrs Gazzard.

Year 2—Mrs Nicholls, Mrs Cambridge, Mrs Levy and Mrs Armitage

Year 3—Miss Lyden and Mrs Jakeman

Year 4—Mrs Barrett (M-W), Mr Shane (Th&F), Mrs Fraser and Miss Pace (student teacher)

Year 5—Mrs Lewis and Miss Finnis

Year 6—Mrs Ofosu, Mrs Setterfield and Mrs Gazzard

In addition to those above, Mrs Jessop and Miss Bentley will continue to work to support pupils from across the school.

Miss Jones and Miss Webb will also be with us for the first part of the year before heading off on maternity leave. They will be supporting a number of classes across the school.

'All Different, All Special' Day

On Friday 6th September, we shall be holding our annual 'All Different, All Special' day in which we encourage the pupils and staff to share things about themselves. This could be about their heritage or background or something that they really love.

On this day, the children may come to school dressed in something to show this and/or may want to bring foods or pictures to share to tell us all about themselves!

Communication

We work hard to try and keep you up to date with the things happening in school and will do our best to let you know about any changes as early as possible.

You can find out about school in a number of ways:

- 1) Our website contains a huge amount of information about how our school runs.
- 2) Twitter—please follow us (@NashMillsSchool) to see regular updates from each class.
- 3) Arbor App—please make sure that you have this downloaded onto your phones.
- 4) Emails—we will continue to send some information by email to you so please ensure that these messages do not end up in your junk folder!

If you need to contact us we ask that you follow the steps below. We ask that you only call the office for urgent queries as this takes office staff away from other tasks.

- Staff are available at the start and end of each day (SLT will be at the gates most days) to answer any quick questions. Please remember that teachers need to get to their classes, so anything that needs more of a discussion will not be possible at this time.

- If you need a longer conversation with your child's teacher, please email the office and an appointment will be made for you.

- The admin email address is monitored throughout the day. For non-urgent queries, please contact us this way. We aim to respond within 24 hours (usually this happens much faster!).

Summer Reading Scheme

Summer is the perfect time for adventures, and what better way to explore new worlds than through books! We are excited to encourage all our students to participate in this year's Summer Reading Challenge at your local library.

The Summer Reading Challenge is a fantastic opportunity for children to keep their reading skills sharp during the holiday break. By reading a variety of books, students can unlock their imagination, discover new interests, and earn fun rewards along the way.



All you have to do is pop along to your local library or you can even join in online this year!

We encourage all our students to take part in this wonderful program. Let's make this summer a season of stories and adventures! For more information, visit your local library or check out their website.

Happy reading, and we can't wait to hear about the fantastic books you discover this summer!

There will be a prize of 10 house points for every Summer Reading Challenge certificate Miss Brewer sees when we return!

We look forward to seeing you all again on Tuesday 3rd September!