



Nash Mills CofE Primary School

Headteacher:

Mr A Maher MA Ed, BSc (Hons), NPQH

Belswains Lane
Hemel Hempstead
Hertfordshire
HP3 9XB

Tel: 01442 252972

email: admin@nashmills.herts.sch.uk

website: www.nashmills.herts.sch.uk

Friday 25th August 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

New School Year Welcome Letter – Reception to Year 6

We hope that you are all having a fantastic summer break and have been able to enjoy some time together with your families. Prior to the start of the new year, we just wanted to send out a short letter to remind you of a few key notices.

We have spent the last month getting ready for the new school year and staff have been busy updating classrooms. There a number of new areas within school, including a sensory space, new hall floor and reading dome on the playground, which Mr Winter has been busy with. We look forward to telling you more about these in our first newsletter.

Another addition this year is a Forest School area on the field which Miss Bentley has been busy training for and preparing to lead. This is an exciting development for us, which will allow pupils from across the school time to learn outside and explore the world around them. Each class will take turns in using the space which will enrich the science and geography curriculum whilst providing opportunities for them to learn new skills. For the first half term, pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 3 will be taking part in these sessions; more information about what is needed can be found below.

Meet the Teacher Sessions

At the end of last term, with the final newsletter, we sent you a calendar of key dates for the coming term. This showed a 'Meet the Teacher' session for each class for which you are welcome to attend in order to find out a little about the expectations within each year group and to get a little flavour of the curriculum. The meetings will last around 20 minutes and will be held in the classroom.

If you are unable to attend, please do have a look at our website, which contains a wealth of information about what is learnt in each class. We plan to organise further events such as this as the term goes on.

PE Days and Forest School Clothing

We will continue to allow pupils to come into school in their PE kits on the days that they have these lessons.

- Nursery – Thursdays
- Reception – Tuesdays (as of the second week of term)
- Year 1 – Mondays and Thursdays
- Year 2 – Tuesdays and Thursdays
- Year 3 – Wednesdays and Thursdays
- Year 4 – Wednesdays and Fridays
- Year 5 – Wednesdays and Fridays
- Year 6 – Tuesdays and Wednesdays



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As mentioned above, from September we shall also be starting Forest School sessions, which each class will take part in at different times during the year. For the first half term, the classes taking part will be **Reception, Year 1 and Year 3** who will have their sessions on a Thursday. The sessions will always take place outside on the field and so, depending on the weather, pupils may need sun cream and hats, or waterproof coats, trousers and wellies! We do have a few items that can be borrowed, but would ask that you send them in with a bag of clothes ready to get a little muddy!

Reception pupils – please come to school on a Thursday in appropriate clothing, which may include tracksuits or jogging bottoms, in addition to waterproofs and wellies in a carrier bag.

Years 1 and 3 – please come to school in PE kit appropriate for the outside temperature (shorts and t-shirts or jogging bottoms) and a bag with wellies and waterproofs if needed.

Uniform and Equipment

Our uniform expectations can be viewed on the school website. We expect all pupils to be in full, correct uniform each day. Please remember that our PTA run a 'pre-loved' uniform shed, which is under the shelter on the playground to stock up on the essentials when needed.

All pupils in Years 1 to 6 should have two pairs of school shoes; a pair of trainers which can be worn in PE lessons, at break and lunchtimes and to and from school; and a pair of smarter shoes or plimsolls which they can wear within school.

All other equipment is provided to pupils in their classes. They do not need their own pencil cases or to bring pens, glue or other items into school.

Attendance and Punctuality

As you know, having high levels of attendance and punctuality are very important in helping your child to get the most from their time in school. Those who regularly miss days will not have as much time in class being supported by the staff and so will not make as much progress as their peers. We expect all pupils to be in school every day, unless they are too unwell to come in. For minor illnesses, such as colds, please send them into school if at all possible; if they become more unwell or cause concern, we will call you.

If your child is absent from school, please call school and leave a message on the absence line, or email as early as possible. When unwell, please also let us know the nature of the illness as we must report on this within the register. It is important that we know that all our pupils are safe each day and therefore if you do not let us know, our office staff have to spend time chasing up each absence.

This year, we will be continuing with our soft starts in the morning, with pupils being able to head straight into classes to begin working on set activities straight away. There will, however be a minor change to the timings for this, with the **gates being opened at 8.40am and closed at 8.50am** each morning. At the end of the day, pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will be released to parents at **3.15pm** and those in Years 3,4,5 and 6 at **3.20pm**.



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Last year, we also saw a real increase in the number of families taking holidays in term time. Whilst we understand the difference in cost of doing this, we would please ask that you only book time away in the holidays. Where pupils have missed time due to holidays, staff have to support them to try to 'catch up', which takes resources from the rest of the class. The Local Authority also have the power to issue Fixed Penalty Notices for unauthorised holidays.

Information the School holds

At this time of year, could we also please ask that you log into your Arbor account and check the information that the school holds for your children is accurate. In particular, please check that any medical information is up to date, and that we have at least three up-to-date emergency contacts with correct phone numbers.

If you are new to our school, you will need to sign up for the Arbor app, where key information is also found; details about how to do this can be found in the attachment with this email.

Allergy Aware

A reminder, when sending children to school with snacks or packed lunches, that we strive to be allergy aware. Within school, since some of our children have serious allergies, we ask that **no nuts** are bought in.

Leaving school at the end of the day

Please let the office know if, on any day, your child will be going home with someone who is not one of the main contacts on Arbor. For safeguarding reasons, staff will only allow pupils to leave with someone who is known to the school.

Similarly, for pupils in Years 4, 5 and 6 whose parents feel are mature enough to walk all or part of the way home from school alone at the end of the day and after clubs, we would ask that you complete this Google Form (<https://forms.gle/Z5MJ74CehxocyDxc8>) to provide permission for them to do so. Please complete this before Monday 4th September.

Our staff are more than happy to help with any queries when we start back. Please speak to the school office, email admin@nashmills.herts.sch.uk or catch your child's classroom staff before or at the end of the school day.

I hope that this helps in preparation for the new term. We really look forward to seeing the children back and ready to learn on Tuesday 5th September from 8.40am.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Maher