

Parents meeting 11/11/19

School Routines and changes in routines

We have a number of priorities as teachers but the main one is to provide a safe and happy environment in which our children may learn and thrive.

With this in mind, I would like to make some requests from myself and all of the staff here at North Stainley School:

We encourage our children to be independent when coming into school, we ask that adults avoid venturing beyond the Early year's gate (apart from reception parents if absolutely necessary). This serves to reduce congestion in our small school and means the children can access their classrooms safely and quickly without a crush.

Can I please remind everyone that lessons begin at 8.50am for all classes. It is important that the children are on time (which the majority are!) because it is extremely disruptive to a session if children are coming in late. Also a result of lateness, registers and lunch numbers have to be altered, this often leads to mistakes and of course this again becomes a safeguarding issue in the event of a fire or other emergency. If for any reason you have missed the gate and need to come into school via the front door, please ensure you sign in the late book and send your child to the office to let Mrs Taylor know they are here.

I understand that sometimes parents wish to speak with teachers but mornings are particularly hectic and not the ideal time for teachers to have long conversations with one or more parents. At this point the teachers are trying to settle classes to begin the school day. So please can I request if there is an important message you want to reach the teacher or if a child is late or poorly; that you please telephone or email the office and the message will be passed on. This does not mean we do not welcome you speaking to all staff but the best time for this is at the end of the school day. If it is something that will take longer or is confidential then please phone the office and ask Mrs Taylor to make you an appointment with the teacher, you wish to talk to. We are more than happy to accommodate this any time at the end of the school day.

Play times, PE and Sport at North Stainley.

As I am sure, many of you are aware last half term there was an issue with us using the recreation ground for lunchtime play. This was down to the fact earlier in the summer the local authority had been informed that children did

not have enough supervision at playtime. **Can I immediately state that this never was the case.** For a few weeks I had to suspend playtime and PE on the rec' until I had assured the local authority that we were doing everything as we needed to. The outcomes of this assessment were, that we will be reducing the area within which the children play on the rec' and we are introducing a few other measures in order to maximise safety.

Outdoor PE weather permitting has continued to be on the rec but we also have the alternative of a hard playground and the hall.

Sport at our school is something I believe to be for everyone. We have joined the HSSP and as a result of this have already entered some competitions this term and reached 2 finals as a result. There is one event left before Christmas for Y3/4. These events will be partly selective and partly inclusive, for example the older children in the class will be given more opportunities but all children will get a turn at going to one or more events over the year. We are also looking at bringing workshops into school. This will include play leading so that playtimes are more structured and exciting. Hopefully a skipping and other alternative sports will also be addressed. Please be aware that staff members give a lot of time to these events and they take a lot of organising and planning, they will not always suit everyone but we would really appreciate your continued support in this area.

Website communications.

I'm sure you are now all aware of our new website and I know that many of you used this for booking parents evening

SO THANKYOU VERY MUCH FOR EMBRACING IT!!

There are many opportunities for communicating through the website but please be patient with us as we are learning as well.

Values and vision:

Last half term I worked with staff and the children to make changes to our schools Christian values with a view to writing a new Vision statement for North Stainley School. The Vision statement will be worked on this half term with governors and the local Diocese. The Vision will describe the expectations we have for our children and the school in the future. In order to achieve our

Vision, I believe that we need to have rigorous and embedded values. The six new values that have been decided upon are:

Friendship

Respect

Independence

Resilience

Empathy

Aspiration

This half term we will be embedding these values through collective worship and class work. We will also be giving rewards for children who display these values around the school.

Rewards

Our new Purple and white ribbon awards are rewarded to those children who are aspirational and show our school's values in their work, their behaviour and their attitudes at school and within the community. The purple ribbon is a weekly award given every Friday in our celebration worship time and is based on school life. The white ribbon is there to reward something extra special that a child achieves either in school or out in the community. This will also be recorded in our purple or white ribbon book and on the website.

House points

House points are another part of our reward system and these are given by all staff members for children who show a good attitude in school, exemplify our Christian values or make good progress in their work. Every week the house points are added up and announced in the Friday celebration Collective worship. At the end of every half term the points are totalled and the following half term the winners get a dress down day at school. This really is my favourite part of the week and makes me realise what truly lovely young people our school is made up of.

Notes taken from parents:

That children have access to more exercise during the school day ie: The daily mile.

That parents are invited to collective worship or celebration assemblies on a termly basis.

That there are afternoon teas or lunches which the parents can attend linked to a short performance by a class.