



Horwood and Newton Tracey Community Primary School Newsletter

Friday, 7th January 2022

Dear parents, carers and children

Happy New Year! We hope you had a restful Christmas break. The children have come back to school ready to learn and every class has a settled and purposeful feel to it.

Thankfully, cases of Covid at the school are extremely low but we anticipate there may be some disruption as the term progresses. We have not had any change in guidance about school procedures from the Government, so will carry on as normal unless advised otherwise. We are very pleased that there have not been any further closures of school as, like yourselves, we wish the children to have access to their normal schooling.

The only reason classes may close is if we do not have the staffing to open safely. Learning will then go online via Google Classroom. You can help prepare for this by making sure that your child has accessed their school Gmail account and accepted the invite into their Classroom. The video of how to do this is on our school website under the Parent/Carer tab and Letters/Useful forms. If you have any problems, please email your child's teacher in the first instance.

Mrs Lisa Eadie
Headteacher
head@hntps.org

Upcoming Trips and Dates

Tue, 11th January – Y4 Forest School (weekly)
Wed, 12th January – Y5 Mini police session (weekly)
Wed, 12th January – C3/C4 Tarka Tennis and Falcon Gymnastics (weekly)
Wed, 12th January – Parenting course 2 – 3 pm (for 3 weeks)
Thu, 13th January – Friends meeting (via Zoom) 4 pm
Fri, 21st January – C3 Level 1 Bikeability
Mon, 24th January – C3 Trip to Broomhill Sculpture Gardens
Thur, 3rd Feb – C4 Football at GTS

The Friends School Calendar

The lovely calendars with pupils' self portraits were posted out to families before Christmas but if you requested these to be available via the school this term, they will come home next week in book bags. We still have a few calendars left over if anyone would like to make a last minute purchase. Please email the office with your order.

School Menu

The revised school menu is being sent out with this newsletter.

Roast this term will now be on Thursdays. The kitchen has very kindly swapped Wednesday and Thursday choices to make our off site PE activities easier to arrange for Classes 3 and 4.

Tarka Tennis and Falcons Gymnastics

We are very fortunate to have some significant PE funds from the Government which mean we can go off site for PE this term for Classes 3 and 4. The children will receive professional tuition in gymnastics and tennis. This is a superb opportunity as the Village Hall facilities do not offer adequate space to teach these skills to this high standard. Please can pupils in Classes 3 and 4 come dressed in their PE kits on Wednesdays. The Tarka Tennis courts are especially chilly so warm clothes, including a jumper or hoody is advisable.

Welcome

We have a new pupil, Amon, who has joined Class 1 – welcome to our school. We hope you will be very happy with us.



Enabling children to be the best that they can be!

Class 1 and 2 pick up times

We have changed the end of the school day, temporarily, to 3.25 pm to enable a safer pick up for families with children in both the lower and upper school. Please continue to help us keep the children safe by keeping the highway clear during drop off and pick up times and park at the Village Hall whenever possible. It would be especially helpful if parking around the grassed "pump house" area could be avoided as our neighbours are rightly concerned about emergency access when parking causes congestion.

Mini Police Training

The Year 5 pupils start their weekly "mini police" sessions next week on Wednesday mornings. They will be run by a community police officer during school time.

Applying for a Reception School Place September 2022

The admissions portal is now open for Reception admissions for next year until **15th January 2022**. Admissions can be made online on the Devon County Council Primary Admissions page: [Apply for a reception or year 3 place at a primary school \(devon.gov.uk\)](#)

Forest School

Class 1 children (nursery and reception children) will continue their weekly Forest School sessions. Next term it is class 3's turn to have Forest School (Class 2's time has finished). **Year 4s will have their sessions in the first half of term on Tuesdays** and Year 3s after half term. Class 3 children will need **waterproof clothing** (jackets and trousers please) and wellies.

Parenting Course - January

The 3 weekly parenting course starts on Wednesday from 2 – 3 pm at the school or by Zoom. This will be run by Mrs Eadie, Mrs Radley and Denise Middlemass from the Social, Emotional and Mental health team (formerly behaviour support). Denise is a very experienced practitioner, parent and foster parent who brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise. Please email the office if you would like to join us.

Sessions (drawing on our own experiences) will include topics such as:

- How to have a family meal without spaghetti being thrown on the wall;
- How to walk down the road without screaming at my children to stay close and not run into the road;
- How to do my shopping without my children pulling the toilet rolls off the shelves and into the aisles;
- How to keep my children in their car seats without giving them sugar to bribe them;
- How to get some "me time" past 7 pm by getting my children into bed on time (and managing to get them to stay in bed);
- How to stop my 3 year old hitting me;
- How to stop my children playing myself and my partner off against each other;
- How to not feel bad when my child says when I grow up I want to be a daddy and not a mummy because mummies shout too much;
- How to have a social life beyond watching repeats of Peppa Pig and Peter Rabbit.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Parish Council

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, 12th January at 7 pm via Zoom.

Road Closure

The road from Newton Cross to Alverdiscott will be shut **all next week** for works to be completed by South West Water. Diversions will be in place but please allow extra time for your journeys. A replacement taxi service (which must be booked in advance) will run instead of the public bus service (see letter attached).

Early Nourishment Service for Expectant/Breastfeeding Mothers

My name is Charlotte and I am a project worker for Early Nourishment Community Interest Company. We'd love to tell you about the FREE services we offer to parents across North Devon & Torridge! There is no catch, no upselling - all the support we offer is free.

Services/support we offer:

- FREE Breastfeeding and infant feeding support - with qualified breastfeeding counsellors and peer supporters;
- FREE baby & toddler play sessions;
- FREE baby massage courses - with qualified baby massage instructor;
- FREE Supportive online community in our online Facebook group - Early Nourishment Online
- Breast pump loan service (there is a small charge for the attachments as each mum needs their own, however, this money goes to Healthy Babies UK to support their donor milk bank)

We hold feeding support drop-ins in Barnstaple, Bideford, Torrington and Chivenor, and will soon be adding more locations including South Molton and Holsworthy. We can also offer one-to-one support over the phone, online or face to face.

Our services aim to be fully safe, inclusive and accessible to all, so that we can promote good health and wellbeing for all families across North Devon & Torridge.

We are a not-for-profit organisation with support and funding from Devon Community Foundation and Action for Children locally. Also just before Christmas last year we acquired a large grant from the National Lottery Community Fund that guarantees our infant feeding project for 3 years.

You can read more about us at earlynourishment.co.uk.