



NORTHWAY Community Primary School

Dodds Lane Maghull Merseyside L31 9AA
Tel: 0151 526 2565 Fax: 0151 526 6303
Email: admin.northway@schools.sefton.gov.uk
www.northwayprimary.co.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Kate McKenzie
22nd October 2021

Dear parents/carers,

I hope this letter finds you well at the end of our first half term of this school year. It has been the most wonderful start to the year having everyone back together in our whole school community.

Highlights this half term include:

- Children mixing at playtimes again on the playground!
- Whole school assemblies together in the hall, particularly our celebration assemblies on Fridays where we have shared so many achievements already this year
- Children loving learning and seeing the fantastic progress they are already making
- A fabulous start our new Nursery and Reception children settling into school
- Healthy snacks being brought in at playtimes
- Y3/4's trip to the Lake District
- The Great Northway Run
- Alder Hey's PJ Day which raised over £480
- Parents' evening to share how well the children have settled into their new classes
- Plans for the extra-curricular clubs over the coming months.

Attendance

I am sure you would all agree that your child's attendance at school is of the upmost importance, now more so than ever, with two previous terms of disruptions. We understand illness cannot be helped and when reviewing children's attendance for the half term this is of course taken in account. However, it is our duty of care to inform parents where we have concerns over their child's attendance. Our whole school attendance figure is currently 94.4% and we strive for this to be above 95%. This year we have to class positive COVID cases as illness so your child's attendance figure may seem lower than normal as this will impact on their percentage.

Here is an example of the impact on pupils' education:

Attendance during one school year	equals this number of days absent	which is approximately this many weeks absent	which means this number of lessons missed
95%	9 days	2 weeks	50 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	150 lessons
80%	38 days	8 weeks	200 lessons



We appreciate families have not been able to take holidays planned over the last year. However, our guidance is very clear that children need to be in school in order to achieve their full potential. Holidays will not be authorised in line with the school attendance policy. This is available on the school website and clearly states the procedures we have to follow governed by the local authority. Unauthorised holidays being taken may incur a penalty notice from the local authority.

After half term, I will be sending letters out to families where we are concerned regarding a child's attendance level. This is to make you aware of their current percentage so that we can work together to improve this. If you are concerned regarding your child's attendance and wish to discuss this, please do not hesitate to get in touch with your child's class teacher.

COVID

We are fortunate that we have not had to reinstate class bubbles this half term and we hope this continues as we now move into the Winter months. We have had, across the school, 11 positive COVID cases over the half term. These have been individual cases and have therefore not needed us to request PCR tests for whole classes. This is more cases in one half term than we had throughout the whole of last year, showing cases are on the increase. We will continue to monitor our risk assessment and respond with any necessary changes, which of course will be communicated as required.

MADCOS Cross Country Event

A huge well done to all of the children from Northway who took part in the MADCOS Cross Country Event at Maricourt High School this week. 48 children from Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 braved the wet weather to represent our school and they all did brilliantly. We have never had so many runners competing before and Northway clearly had the most children competing out of all of the schools which was fantastic to see. Thank you to all of the parents and carers for supporting the children at the event (as well as the younger siblings of the runners who were cheering on for Northway throughout all of the races). A special mention must go to Oliver S and Luke H who came first and second in the Year 4 race, Luke W who came third in the Year 5 race and Poppy S and Isabella N who came joint third out of the girls in the Year 6 race.

Morrisons' Vouchers

Please can you add the 'It's Good to Grow' vouchers to our school account via the app to ensure we receive as many vouchers as possible! We are still collecting them in school if you receive a physical voucher but if not follow these instructions:

- Scan your physical or digital MyMorrisons card every time you shop or link it to your account online or via the app.
- Collect 1 Grow Token for every £10 spent in store or online.
- On your MyMorrisons account, go to the It's Good to Grow section and **select your chosen school and donate your Grow Tokens.**
- After the collection period, schools can redeem their Grow Tokens against gardening equipment to get kids growing!



Year Six High School Applications

A reminder to all Year Six parents to complete your applications for your child's Secondary School place by 31st October 2020. There is lots of information on Sefton's Admissions page on their website- www.sefton.gov.uk/admissions

You can complete your application online at-

https://emswebaccess.sefton.gov.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE/en

It is hard to believe you're already having to think of high school, when they have only just started Y6 but it is better to apply on time and ensure you stand the best chance of securing the place you want.

Have a lovely half term and enjoy the week whatever it brings.

Take care and see you all on Monday 1st November,
Mrs McKenzie

