

# Northenden Community School

Determination

Ambition

Equality

[www.northendenprimary.co.uk](http://www.northendenprimary.co.uk)

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## Hello from Miss Byrne!

Thank you to all the families that attended our Parent and Carer consultation evenings this week. It was fantastic to see so many of you working together with the school to support your child.



### Communication

Each half term, I will be sending a half termly newsletter which will give you all the dates and information that you need for the half term ahead.

Any information about your year group will be sent from your child's class teacher and updated on the school website calendar.



Positive relationships between children, staff and families requires effective communication. Please speak with your child's class teacher in the first instance if you have any questions or concerns so we can work together.

### Christmas Events



This year, our children from Years 1 to 6 will be performing a Christmas concert in their phases, where families will be invited to attend and watch. See 'Dates for your Diary'. Rather than having two Christmas nativities, we will be having a special Year 1 & 2 performance later in the year to ensure our children still have a chance to perform to their families.

Children are invited to wear festive jumpers with their school uniform for 'Christmas Jumper Day' on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> Dec. This will be the same day we will be enjoying our Christmas Dinner.



### Children in Need

On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November, the children are invited to come into school in their spotty clothes or pyjamas.

If you would like to donate, please follow our JustGiving link below

[JustGiving link](#)

### Anti-bullying week

The theme for the week is "Choose Respect". Through the week the children will be supported to feel empowered to do something positive to counter the harm and hurt that bullying causes.



### Attendance



**Our Whole School Attendance this week is 95.5%**

Our Whole School target is 96%  
A big well done to Year 2 this week, who achieved 100% attendance.

### Times Table Rock Stars



As part of our commitment to make maths exciting and high profile in our school, we are taking part in the national TTRS England Rocks competition. It runs from 07:30am Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2024 to 7.30pm Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2024. Children can play in any game mode with every correct answer earning themselves, their class and the school a point. The Times Tables Rock Stars platform will calculate the class average. Winning classes in the school and in the competition as a whole will be the ones with the highest average.

### Dates for your Diary

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> Nov** - Remembrance Day

**11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>** Anti-Bullying Week  
"Choose Respect"



**18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>** Road Safety Week

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> Nov** - Children in Need

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup>** – INSET day

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup>** – PTA Quiz (Adult only event)

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> Dec** – Year 1 & 2  
Christmas Concert 2.15pm

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> Dec** - National Christmas  
Jumper Day & Christmas Dinner Day

**Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> Dec** – Early Years Christmas  
Nativity 9.00am

**Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> Dec** – Year 3 & 4 Christmas  
Concert 2.15pm

**Fri 13<sup>th</sup> Dec** – Year 5 & 6 Christmas Concert  
2.15pm

**Fri 20<sup>th</sup> Dec** – School Closes for Christmas  
Holidays

**Mon 6<sup>th</sup> Jan** – School Opens for Spring  
Term

## This Half Term's Teaching and Learning

### Nursery

In Nursery, we are having a lovely time this term getting to know all of our new friends. One of our absolute favourite books this term is 'We are All Welcome' by Alexandra Penfold because there are so many different children on each page. During 'together' times we are talking about how we are all different and how everyone is special and unique. We are also learning about all kinds of emotions and how they make us feel. We are learning the song 'Scribble Spot' and reading 'Colour Monster' to help us name the emotions and also think about ways to express them through dancing, painting and books.

### Reception

We are having a great time this term learning all about different families around the world and their different celebrations. We have started teaching the children to make dough by making chapattis as part of our Diwali celebrations and we are learning about lots of other different celebrations too. We have a beautiful book called 'The Hannukah Bear'. We will also be reading two other favourite stories 'We All Have Different Families' by Melissa Higgins and 'My Two Grandads' by Floella Benjamin. The children are all hard at work learning to write and to make this fun we are taking everyone for a walk to the post office where they can buy a stamp and post a card home. We will also be playing lots of games to help learn those 'Tricky' words and helping the children start to read.

### Year 1

Year 1 have made a great start to this half term! We will be continuing with our learning from last half term in Phonics. In English we are looking forward to reading and retelling a traditional tale and writing a letter. In Maths, we are using what we learned in our unit on place value to start adding and subtracting within 10. We will also be learning about 2D shapes. Now that Autumn will shortly be turning into Winter, in Science, we will be making observations about the seasonal changes we see happening. In PSHE, we will be learning how to keep ourselves safe at school and at home and what to do in an emergency. We will also be describing the tastes of different fruits and vegetables before preparing a smoothie in Design Technology.

### Year 2

This half term, Year 2 have lots of exciting things planned. In English, we are going to be looking at persuasive texts, writing instructions and writing interesting character descriptions. In Maths, we will be adding and subtracting 2 digit numbers and finding out the properties of 2D and 3D shapes. We will be looking at a range of everyday materials in Science to learn about their properties and uses and will be carrying out various fair tests. In Music, we will be learning a traditional Ghanaian call and response song about animals, focussing on dynamics and rhythm. Our History unit is based on ourselves and finding out about our past. Following that, we will be finding out about what childhood was like for our parents and grandparents, so be prepared for lots of questions

### Year 3

In year 3 this half term we have some great topics. In English, we will be sharing the adventure story 'The Stone Age Boy' and writing our own adventure story. We will also be looking at the features of non-chronological and instructional texts and writing our own. In maths, we will be adding and subtracting using the column method, estimating answers and using the inverse. We will also be revising our 2, 5 and 10 times tables and learning our 3, 4, 6 and 8 times tables. In history, we will be learning about the Stone Age and what life was like in that period. In design and technology, we will be using our sewing skills to make an Egyptian collar. In science, we will be finding out all about forces and magnets. In RE, we will be learning what different people believe about God. In Computing, we will be using stop frame animation. In French we will be learning how to say 'I can' and describing different activities E.g. I can dance and in PE we will be focussing on jumping and landing with control.



### Year 4

In English we are looking at some amazing books, including 'Into the Forest' and also a new twist on the tale of Hansel and Gretl. We are going to explore the magic of figurative language and also enter the world of the traditional tale. Maths is all about area and the number operations of multiplication and division, so we're busy learning our times table facts. Year 4 have become historians and are learning all about how children's lives have changed over the ages and also how they are also still the same. The class are so pleased that they don't have to go to work full-time as they found out that in Tudor times, children started work at the age of 7! In science we are learning about animals and humans with a focus on teeth and how they grow, their function and the importance of looking after them. The importance of festivals, keeping safe and adapting recipes also feature in our busy half-term...not forgetting our weekly swim...pew!

### Year 5

This half term, Year 5 will be exploring multiplication and division in maths, and then applying some of that knowledge when we move onto working on fractions. The class worked really hard to become very confident with their times tables last year, and all that hard work is really paying off in their maths lessons at the moment! The class have really enjoyed spending some time writing playscripts, and will have chance to perform their scripts to each other in the next few days. In history, we are beginning to delve into the ancient civilization of the Maya. This is a fascinating topic about one of the longest lasting civilizations and the learning about life in the rainforest has really inspired the children. Finally, we will be doing some cooking this half term! The class will be looking at recipes for the classic spaghetti Bolognese, exploring the origins of the ingredients and having a go at preparing their own dishes.

### Year 6

This half term is going to be another busy one! In Maths, Year 6 are focussing on Fractions, Decimals and Percentages and the relationship between them. In English, we are learning how to write strong letters of complaint and really exciting, dramatic adventure stories based on real life and imaginative events. Our Science unit is based on the heart - learning how it works, why blood is important and how we can help to keep our heart and our body in general healthy. We are continuing to learn about Victorian Life in History by looking at what information a census can tell us and learning more about the lives of the people, who lived during that period of time, in the North West of England. In PSHE we are looking at how to keep ourselves safe in different situations and in PE we are improving our balance through a range of traditional and non-traditional games, whilst also improving the skills of teamwork and co-operation.

## E-Safety

It can be difficult keeping up to date with the constantly evolving apps, games, movies, books and music your child has access to. You may have many questions such as: Is it appropriate? What is the age restriction?

The following websites can help you review and understand the online content your child is accessing so that you can safeguard your child effectively.

1. <https://www.commonsensemedia.org/>
2. <https://www.childnet.com/>
3. <https://www.internetmatters.org/>

