



## Happy New Year

A big happy new year to you all! I hope that you have all managed to have a lovely Christmas and avoided any flooding. I have not heard of any Heworth Primary School families that were affected. Please let us know if you have been so that we can support you in any way.

## Clubs

We are currently in the process of organising the new clubs lists for this term. Just a quick reminder that clubs are arranged every term and we aim to start them by the third week. It is helpful for us to arrange existing clubs (like singing) again in order to make sure that the children who are signed up still want to do it. It also helps to make sure that new children are given the opportunity to join who haven't previously. Apologies if you are signing your children up again for the same club. I hope this makes sense.

## Collective Worship & New Year Prayers

In our collective worship this term our theme is 'Christmas - but what happened next?' During this series we will be looking at what Jesus did during his time on earth. This will include important events, miracles and his some of his teaching. These will lead us up to Easter. A big thank you to Rev Woodmansey for his support in planning and delivering these assemblies.

Mrs Durham is currently working very hard to create a 'new-year prayers' display in the front entrance. Please do look out for it in the near future.

## Facebook

I am delighted to announce that Heworth Primary's Facebook page is now active! If you have your own Facebook account please search for us and like our page to follow hot off the press news. When searching, either use the address below or type in 'Heworth CE Primary' NOT 'Heworth C of E Primary' (*which take you to an old page with nothing on it*). You should see some up to date pictures from the some of the events at Christmas.

<https://www.facebook.com/heworthceprimary/> and then log onto your Facebook account.

Some of our key principles for using social media are:

- 1) Children's names **are never in any circumstance** to appear on any social media.
- 2) When posting we will try to ensure a range of posts. Eg Not all maths or sport etc.



- 3) Images of groups of children will make up the majority of posts. Individual images will only be posted in special circumstances.

The Facebook account has been set up so that:

- Nobody can 'tag' names on any images.
- Only 'Friends' can see messages.
- Videos and images cannot be added by 'Friends' in response to posts.

Mr Carr will be the only member of staff putting images on initially. When we are satisfied that it is working in the way we want it to, all teachers will be able to post as well.

## Music Lessons

Heworth School are currently offering private instrumental lessons in various instruments. We currently have children learning cello, piano, violin, guitar and various brass instruments.. All the instrumental tutors have one or two spaces with the exception of violin and piano. There is currently a waiting list for piano lessons but we are hoping to have second teacher starting soon. If your child is interested in having lessons, please see Mrs Newton (or leave a message for her at the office) for further information.

## Site Manager and New Office Administrator

I am pleased to inform you that Jona Moore our amazing site manager should be returning to work at the start of February. I for one will be over-the-moon!

This week we are also hoping to appoint a new office administrator to work for three days a week alongside Mrs Reid. This will be welcome addition to the team and will get us back up to full capacity in the office. Another reason to be very pleased!

## Homework

In the November newsletter I shared with you the main feedback from an informal survey done among parents/carers during the two parent interview evening which was held the week before half term in October. These included in the section about what Heworth could do better. The following comments were made about homework:

*"More homework."*

*"Better communication on reading, maths and spellings homework."*

*"More clarity on homework – putting it into planners rather than relying on young children to remember to tell us."*

*"No homework except reading."*

*"More structured homework and guidance on what we can do to help."*

The school policy on homework was written in 2011. Current homework practice appears to have evolved since then. Below I have included a brief summary of the 2011 policy, what homework actually has been going out from the school and what we are proposing in the new 2016 policy.

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## Class 1

2011 Policy	Existing HW routines	New 2016 Policy
Daily reading	Daily reading (10 mins)	No change from current routine.
	Weekly phonic activity <i>A set phonic activity (5-10 mins weekly) recently replaced the 'learning toolkit' which was 5-10 mins. No change in expected time.</i>	No change from current routine.

## Class 2

2011 Policy	Current routines	New 2016 Policy
Daily reading	Daily reading (10 mins)	No change from current routine.
Weekly spellings	<i>A set phonic activity (5-10 mins weekly) recently replaced the 'learning toolkit' which was 5-10 mins. No change in expected time.</i>  'Phase 6' phonic children receive weekly spellings	No change from current routine.
Learning timetables	A number gym activity (10 mins per week)	No change from current routine.
Research work in books		A 'creative' homework can be sent home <b>in place of</b> standard weekly homework from time to time.

## Class 3, 4 & 5

2011 Policy	Current routines	New 2016 Policy
Daily reading	Daily reading (15 mins)	No change from current routine.
Weekly spellings	Weekly spellings	No change from current routine.
Learning Timetables	A 'My Maths' number activity (10-15 mins per week)	No change from current routine.
Research work in books		A 'creative' homework can be sent home <b>in place of</b> standard weekly homework from time to time.

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**In Year 6**, to help children to reach the expected standards for secondary school, extra homework may be sent home on occasion.

To support parents/carers and children we have set up an optional homework club available after school each week.

I hope you that the new policy will:

- Bring the clarity that parents have asked for regarding homework.
- Alay any fears about a shift towards a huge increase in homework. In fact, very little has changed from current routines & 2011 policy.
- Affirm our belief in the positive impact that homework can have and show that the school values the contribution that parents & carers can have on their child's learning.

## Next Steps

Please use the comment slip that will be sent home on **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January** for any comments and feedback.

Should governors choose to adopt the policy, then staff will send out a weekly timetable for all classes to ensure that everyone is clear around days that work will be send out and handed in.



(Class 4 experimenting with some Google Chrome Books that we are trialling)

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## Dates for the diary

### January

19<sup>th</sup> – Consultation evening regarding Multi Academy Trust (6:30, school hall)

20<sup>th</sup> – NSPCC assembly for KS2

21<sup>st</sup> – Friends Cinema night

25<sup>th</sup> - Consultation evening regarding Multi Academy Trust (6:30, school hall)

26<sup>th</sup> – End of consultation regarding Multi Academy Trust

27<sup>th</sup> – Class 4 to Archbishop's for Science Workshop

27<sup>th</sup> – Tennis roadshow for Class 1 and 2

### February

1<sup>st</sup> – Dave Godfrey from Number Fun to spend time with all classes

3<sup>rd</sup> – NSPCC assembly for KS2

9<sup>th</sup> – Class 2 to visit Tropical World

11<sup>th</sup> – Class 5 to visit York Minster

12<sup>th</sup> – break up for half term

22<sup>nd</sup> – Global Week (more information to follow)

### March

14<sup>th</sup> – YoYo Assembly

16<sup>th</sup> – Where's Wally day in Class 1

21<sup>st</sup> – Last swimming for Y3

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> – Break up for Easter