

Our vision is to ensure all our pupils are safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included, so that each individual can be fulfilled and reach their potential within a supportive and proactive community.



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7th November 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

The cold weather is here to stay I suspect. Please make sure your child has a warm outer clothing, labelled with their name. Please also check that your child is able to identify their belongings as our younger children sometimes forget what their gloves etc. look like.

In-Service:

The school will be closed to pupils on Monday 18th November and Tuesday 19th November for staff training. On the 18th the teaching staff will be involved in the beginning of two developments that will be explored further throughout the year. The first is STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) looking at ways to grow these skills further in school. The second is exploring nurturing approaches to develop resilience. On the 19th we will be refreshing our skills in supporting our pupils with autistic spectrum conditions, refreshing our relationship with the school library service and exploring the use of spoken language in early literacy.

Flu Vaccinations:

Due to a UK-wide issue affecting the supply of the child flu vaccine (the nasal spray called Fluenz Tetra) health services will be unable to offer the vaccination to all pupils in the vaccination sessions scheduled to take place in primary in November. The scheduled sessions will still take place but vaccination will only be offered to those pupils who have underlying health conditions.

Late Arrivals:

A small but increasing number of our pupils are arriving in school significantly late. Naturally we like our pupils to arrive as close to 9am as possible so missing the bell by a few minutes sometimes is perfectly understandable. Unfortunately some children are not arriving until after 9.20am or later. This has a significant impact as lunches are done and the learning has begun. Please make sure your child is not missing out on this important part of the day.

Mornings:

Thank you to everyone who noted our request not to come in to see the teacher in the mornings. This has improved hugely and allowed for a much calmer start to the day. No child in school requires their parent to bring them in as they are all really independent.

Parent Council:

Our Parent Council AGM took place this week and the support and positivity of the parent council has been, as ever, greatly appreciated. Annjanette Hazlehurst has taken on the role of chair and her details are now on the website. The next meeting is at 6pm on Tuesday 11th

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February. Agenda items can be sent to Annjanette and all are welcome to attend.

Homework:

Homework was the first agenda item for the parent council. The research shows that in primary schools homework has zero impact on attainment and can cause strain in some families. Children benefit far more from learning about the world through quality conversations with parents and carers and interesting experiences. For those interested in the background to this decision, I recommend this interview with researcher John Hattie: <https://visible-learning.org/2014/09/john-hattie-interview-bbc-radio-4/>

For this reason we will no longer have homework at New Pitsligo. What will remain is as follows:

P1 learning activities as these are very important

Reading where appropriate

Unfinished work sent home if it could have been completed during the day

Big challenge fun tasks like model making

Song words and scripts.

Pop-Up Shop:

The shop opens again on Monday. It was a huge success last time and very well stocked. If you have any items that can be sold in the shop, e.g. good quality clothing, crockery etc. please hand it into school.

Children in Need:

Friday 15th November is Children in Need day. All donations that day will be raised for the charity and children can come wearing something spotty. This is also assembly day for p3/4 so parents and carers of that class are also welcome to come in their spotty outfits!

Christmas Show:

As you will have noticed, the village hall will now be a polling station on Thursday 12th December which means some reorganising for us. The school shows will now be on Tuesday 10th December, afternoon and evening and Wednesday 11th December, evening only. Our lovely panto treat will still go ahead but will now be in January.

Kind Regards,



HELEN JAMES
Head Teacher