

Ready for Learning - Ready for Life -

Newton Hill Community School Update - Term 2 2023/2024



March 2024

Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope you are all well. As we reach the end of Term 2 of this academic year, here are a few things we have enjoyed this half term:

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

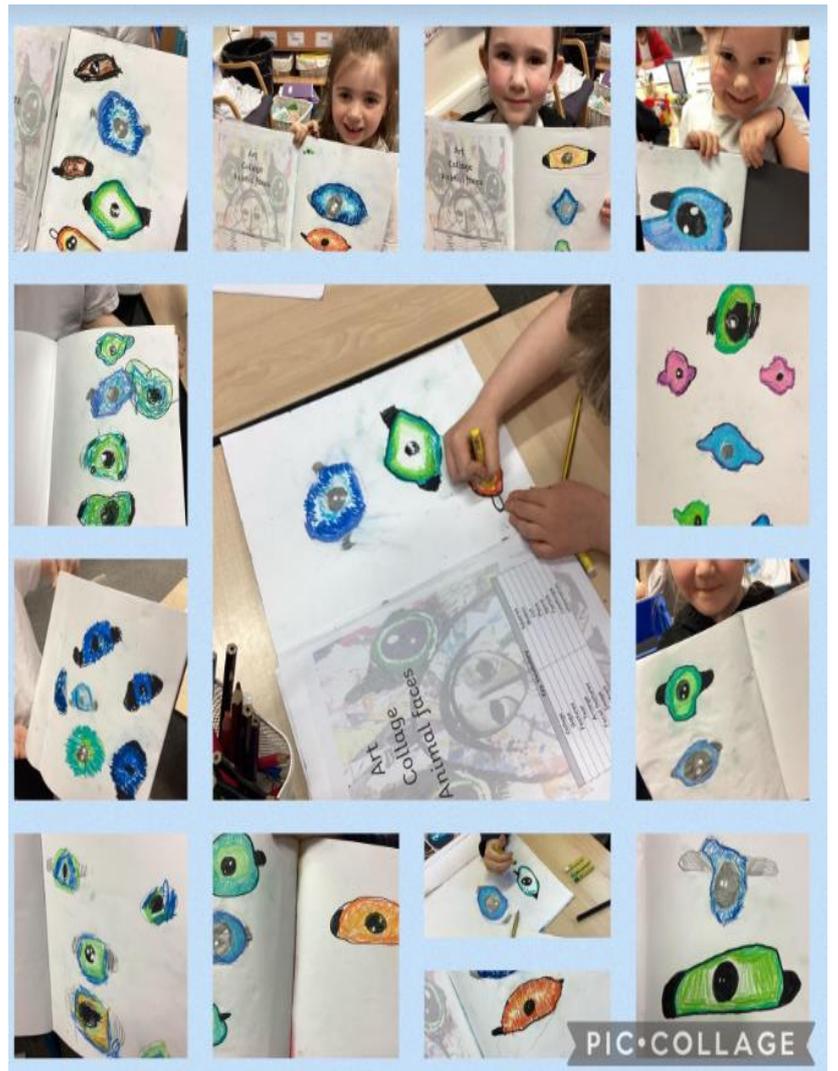
- Year 6 Residential to Robin Wood
- Celebrating Chinese New Year
- Raising money for Comic Relief
- Celebrating World Book Day
- Forest School sessions
- Sports tournaments with St John's School:
 - Y6 Hockey
 - Y5 Tag rugby
 - Y3 Bench ball
 - Y4 Football (to be rearranged due to the weather)
- Y5 have enjoyed a WWII experience at Cannon Hall Farm
- PE sessions by Yorkshire Cricket
- EYFS Parent Workshop
- Science Week
- A visit from Reverend Stephanie from St John's Church
- As a school we entered a competition to estimate how many hot cross buns Morrisons make. Our Year 4 class won the competition with the closest estimate of 6 million! Well done Year 4! Everyone enjoyed the prize - hot cross buns for everyone in school!

We have also offered:

- Our second opportunity for you to meet formally with your child's class teacher.
- A FOTS event - Valentine's Disco. Thank you to everyone who helped. We raised £540 for school funds.
- A FOTS Easter Egg Competition.
- Wellbeing Information Session for parents - led by Future in Mind (FIM).
- Family Numeracy sessions - led by White Rose Maths.
- Extra-Curricular clubs: Nature Club, Chess Club, Cricket Club.

Save the Date: Open session Nursery to Year 6: Monday 15th April 3:30-4:15pm. We would like to invite you to come into school to view your child's books/work and classrooms with your child/children after school.







Times Tables Rock Stars and Numbots Easter Challenge

After the success of our last TTRS battle, we are excited to announce our new challenge! The children will be competing in their House Teams to achieve the most correct answers on TTRS and Numbots over the Easter Holidays. There is a time limit of 60 minutes per day and any questions answered correctly after this daily time period will count towards their own score, not their House Team score. The winning house will earn an extra House Treat!

Children in Key Stage 2 will be able to access their challenge on Times Table Rock Stars as they usually would. We have invited children in Key Stage 1 to also take part in this battle and they are able to earn points for their House Teams using Numbots or Times Table Rock Stars. If they choose to play the games on Numbots there is no challenge to select, they just need to answer the questions as usual. If they want to play the game on TTRS, they can log in as usual and choose any game to play.

The login and password for your children/children has been sent home today, in case you need it again.

As an extra challenge, we have promised the children a special whole school reward if they manage to answer 1 million questions correctly over the period of the challenge.

Good luck!

Parent Survey Outcomes

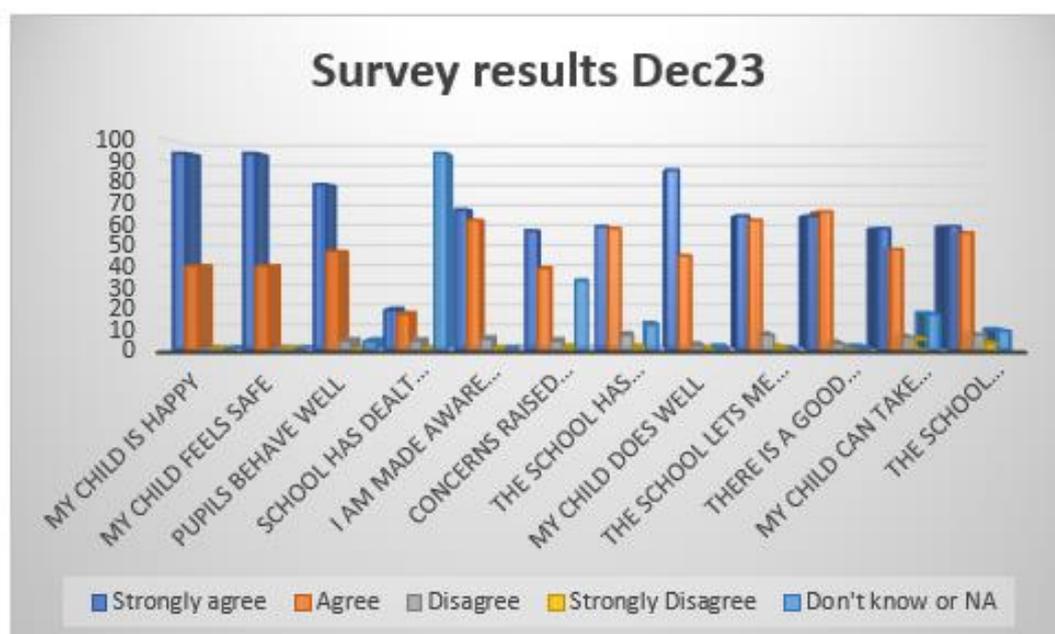
Thank you to everyone who completed our Spring survey and for taking the time to write additional comments. We value your support, feedback and suggestions.

100% parents/carers either strongly agreed or agreed that their child was happy at our school and that their child felt safe.

98% parents/carers would recommend our school

What next?

We will continue to review and develop our offer of extra-curricular activities.



Here are just a few of the comments we received:

"My child's personal development has exceeded expectations"

"The school is very responsive and we feel our child is safe and happy."

"The school is a very happy community and our child is very happy here"

"The school staff always go the extra mile to look after our children. Regular parents evenings and reports mean we are kept updated on our child's progress"

"My child loves coming to school – all the staff are lovely"

"My child loves coming to school and we are very happy with Newton Hill Community School"

"I really like the school and feel it offers my child an excellent education"

"My child loves coming to school and enjoys the learning and all the various activities – Thank you!"

"My child is thriving and thoroughly enjoys going to school"

"I don't have a bad word to say about the school! My child thoroughly enjoys attending. I feel comfortable knowing they are well looked after and will be engaged in learning various skills and subjects. My child has an amazing time at school and this is mainly due to the amazing staff – keep doing what you are doing!"

"I want to thank all staff for doing a great job teaching and helping my child"

"My child says all the teachers are really nice at school! I am really happy with how engaging the learning is and the range of different opportunities and experiences available"

"My child loves school and has made amazing progress. Their confidence is growing. The staff are friendly and approachable and deal with all issues that arise. The staff go above and beyond."

"There are plenty of afterschool clubs and the selection process is fair. We have lots of opportunities to visit school, see the classroom and speak to staff. We recommend the school whenever we can."

"I am really impressed with staff – they are all kind and approachable. Lovely amount of charity/non-uniform days and fun. The school has a fantastic reputation. Communication with Tapestry and email is appreciated"

"The club opportunities are fantastic! A particular highlight has been the debate club. My child has come home and re-run the debates with us- good fun!"

"I have worked in schools for most of my working life and have never come across one like Newton Hill Community - from the way the school is run as a whole to how the staff members are – our experience has been outstanding!"

"The school's approach to SEN and inclusivity is second to none! The support, kindness shown by staff SENCO and Headteacher make all the difference to my child being able to access education."



Wellbeing Coffee Event

Managing Big Emotions – How to support your child

Thank you to everyone who attended the session led by FIM. Please find attached some documents that you may find useful. The documents also have a page of useful websites for you to access.

Anxiety - A Guide for Parents & Carers

NHS My Self Care Plan

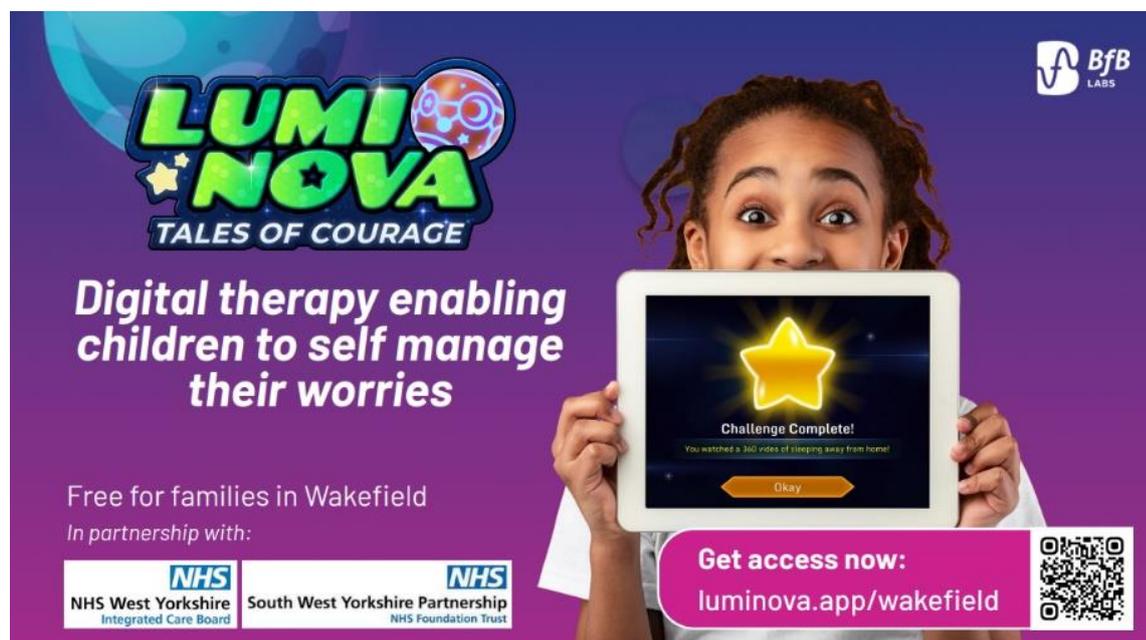
If you would like any further support, please do not hesitate to contact school to speak to Mrs Dundas.

Lumi Nova

Just a reminder that there is a FREE NHS-funded service for children aged 7-12 designed to build resilience and life-long skills - Lumi Nova. **This is currently a free service for families in Wakefield.**

What is Lumi Nova? It is an intergalactic adventure game, Lumi Nova empowers young people to fight fears and manage worries. Whilst exploring planets, and earning treasure, your child breaks their fears and worries down into manageable steps, learning life-long skills and building resilience.

For more information or visit please visit: <https://luminova.app/get-access>



The advertisement features a young girl holding a tablet that displays a 'Challenge Complete!' message with a glowing yellow star. The background is a vibrant purple and blue space theme. The Lumi Nova logo is prominently displayed in the top left, and the BfB LABS logo is in the top right. Text on the left describes the digital therapy as a tool for children to manage their worries. At the bottom, there are logos for NHS West Yorkshire and South West Yorkshire Partnership, along with a QR code and a call to action to get access now.

LUMI NOVA
TALES OF COURAGE

Digital therapy enabling children to self manage their worries

Free for families in Wakefield
In partnership with:

NHS West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board | South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

Get access now:
luminova.app/wakefield

Challenge Complete!
You watched a 30s video of sleeping away from home!
Okay

BfB LABS

Attendance

Our current whole school attendance figure for this academic year is 94% which is below the national DfE expectation of 96%.

Just a reminder of the information from the Chief medical officer regarding illness and school attendance. Please be assured that we will contact you should your child become ill at school. For further support and information, please see the following link to NHS Guidance: Is my child too ill for school?

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

There is wide agreement among health professionals and educational professionals that school attendance is vital to the life chances of children and young people. Being in school improves health, wellbeing and socialisation throughout the life course. The greatest benefits come from children and young people attending school regularly. It is usually appropriate for parents and carers to send their children to school with mild respiratory illnesses. This would include general cold symptoms: a minor cough, runny nose or sore throat. However, children should not be sent to school if they have a temperature of 38°C or above.

Assessment Calendar

Below are the key dates for statutory assessments in school.

Year Group	Dates	Assessment
1	Monday 10 th -Friday 14 th June	Phonic Screening Check
4	Monday 3 rd June -Friday 14 th June	Multiplication Times table Check
6	Monday 13 th May to Thursday 16 th May	Statutory KS2 Tests (SATs)

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact school.

Thank you for your continued support. Wishing you and your family a safe and happy holiday.

Kind regards,

Mrs Wheatley

<u>Dates for your diary</u>	<u>Event</u>
INSET Days 2023/2024 (School is closed on the following days).	Monday 4 th September Monday 20 th November Friday 22 nd December Thursday 2 nd May (Polling Day) Monday 22 nd July
Friday 22 nd March	School breaks up for Easter
Monday 8 th April	School Open for Term 3a
Wednesday 10 th April	KS1 Rhubarb Workshop
Thursday 25 th April	KS1 Hepworth Gallery Visit
Monday 15 th April	Nursery to Year 6 Open session – 3:30-4:15pm An opportunity to have a look at your child's work with your child/children.
Tuesday 30 th April	Class Photographs
Tuesday 30 th April	EYFS Parents are invited to an EYFS Bedtime story fundraising event at 3:30pm
Thursday 13 th June	Save the Date – NHCS Summer Fair 3:30pm
Monday 24 th , Tuesday 25 th and Wednesday 26 th June	LKS2 Stone Age Visit (Y3/4, Y4 and Y3)
Thursday 2 nd May	INSET DAY – school closed to children
Monday 6 th May	Bank Holiday – school closed
Tuesday 7 th May -Friday 10 th May	Year 5 Bike-ability Sessions
Friday 24 th May	School breaks up for half term
Monday 3 rd June	School Opens for Term 3b
Friday 19 th July	School breaks up for summer
Monday 22 nd July	INSET Day

Wakefield Family Hubs

**HEALTHY
MEAL
PROVIDED**

For
Children
aged 4-11
years



COME AND JOIN US!



HAPPY HEALTHY HOLIDAYS IS BACK FOR THE EASTER SCHOOL HOLIDAYS!

**Activities are FREE to children and young people who
receive benefits-related free school meals.**

STANLEY FAMILY HUB

Tues 26th March - Forest school, Den making and activities 10am-2pm
Ages 8 years-11 years (Child Only)

Friday 5th April - Sports Day outdoor sports activities 11-3pm
Age 4-7 years with parents 8-11 years (Child only)



SUNBEAM FAMILY HUB

Thursday 28th March - Family fun day- Parents, carers, and children of all ages-
Spring planting, magician, face painter, bath bomb, crafts. Fun and games for all
Wednesday 3rd April- Lego and games session- 10am – 2.30pm 8-11 years (Child only)



CASTLE FAMILY HUB

Monday 25th March - Outdoor activities - Den making and activities 10am-2pm
Ages 8 years-11 years (Child Only)

Thursday 4th April - Wild time encounters– outdoor activities chance to see wild animals
10.00 am– 3.00pm

Find and book **FREE** activities by visiting
www.wakefieldfamilies-together.co.uk/community-support/happy-healthy-holidays
or scan the QR Code



Funded by

Department
for Education



For your reference:

Attendance

Please can you let school know if your child is going to be absent from school.

If we do not know the reason why your child is absent, we will follow our procedures - this is a telephone call to all contacts and a home visit. If we are unable to make contact with you, we will refer the absence to the local authority. If you know your child is going to be absent, please complete an absence request form (available from the school office). Please note holidays in term time are not permitted. Following Local Authority guidance, penalty notices may be issued for holidays taken in term time. If your child is absent from school, please let the school office know as soon as possible by leaving a voicemail through the school telephone system or emailing admin@newton-hill.org.uk. Thank you for your cooperation.



Free School Meals

If your circumstances have changed you may be eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) until Year 6, please contact school as the application process is changing. There is no difference for how children order or receive meals if they are eligible for FSM. If your child receives FSM (Reception to Year 6) the school will also receive additional funding to support your child. Children in receipt of FSM also received confidential support with educational visits.

School meals for children in Reception and KS1 are FREE – this is part of the universal free school meal offer.

Our Local Community

Just a polite reminder to park safely and to be respectful to our local residents when picking up and dropping off particularly on Newton Avenue and East Street.

Thank you.



School Uniform

Please can we ask that all uniform/property is clearly labelled.

Thank you to everyone who follows our uniform expectations. The pre-loved uniform is always available – please contact Mrs Dundas for further information or support. We have a range of uniform – all ages. Please make use of the uniform available - all requests will be dealt with confidentially.

Safeguarding

If you have any safeguarding concerns or need any support or advice, please do not hesitate to contact the school.



Our Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) are: Mrs Wheatley, Mrs Whelerton, Mrs Luck, Mr Paine, Mrs Dundas, Mrs Myton, Miss Land and Mrs Bashforth.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/> This website offers advice and guides for parents which you may find useful.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/pants-underwear-rule/>

If you need support or advice, you can also contact Wakefield Social Care Direct on 0345 8 503 503. There are other numbers you may find useful on our school website under Safeguarding.

Keeping Safe Online

You may find the following sites and information useful:

[Keep Children Safe Online: Information, Advice, Support - Internet Matters](#)

[What is the metaverse? - What parents need to know | Internet Matters](#)

[Social Media Checklists | SWGfL](#)

Mental Health Team

We have a number of staff members who are mental health first aiders who can offer advice and support for your child and you. Please contact the school if you would like any support.



Telephone: 01924 303680

admin@newton-hill.org.uk

www.newtonhill.wakefield.sch.uk

APPROVED SCHOOL CALENDAR 2023/24

August 2023						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

September 2023						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

October 2023						
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

November 2023						
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

December 2023						
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

January 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

February 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29			

March 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

April 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

May 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

June 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

July 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

- = Bank Holidays
- = School Holidays
- = UK Parliamentary, West Yorkshire Combined Authority Mayoral and District Council Elections (schools will need the authorisation of the Returning Officer if they are to be used as a Polling Station and wish to remain open on this day. Otherwise schools used as a polling station should be closed for INSET). Schools not used for election purposes may arrange alternative closures for INSET. Individual schools may decide the dates of the remaining 4 INSET dates.

Number of pupil days:	195
Less INSET days to be fixed:	5
Total number of pupil days:	190