

## Message from the Head Teacher

Hello everyone,

This term is always very busy so please see a reminder of our dates further down. There have been some important assessments completed in school.

Our Year 6 have taken their SATs tests in May. They have been working extremely hard all year and we believe every one of them have genuinely tried their best. They have been supported throughout by their teachers and teaching assistants.

As a school we have invested in an online programme called SATs Companion to give all Year 6 children a boost leading up to their tests. We will fund this for the years to come.

We have also subscribed to another programme called Reading Plus which helps to develop children's reading speed and comprehension skills when they are in Key Stage 2.

In Key Stage One and Reception, children have a log in to Collins eBooks which gives them more choice in what they can read.

Year 1 children will be attempting their phonics screening check this month and our Year 4 children will be taking a Multiplication Times Check.

We continue to have high expectations for all of our children no matter what level of ability they are – we believe



they should all fulfill their potential whilst they are at New Pastures.

Teachers have been busy organising educational visits and visitors to enhance the curriculum and help to make the learning is even more meaningful and put into context.

## Poetry Takeaway

Our Year 4 pupils have had the wonderful opportunity of working with a local poet company called 'Poetry Takeaway'.

The pupils worked in school to practice and develop their poetry writing skills before going into Mexborough market to work in the poetry van writing poems for the general public.

They really enjoyed themselves and increased their confidence as well as their love of poems.



## Personal Development

As a headteacher and previously as a teacher of many years, I firmly believe that we are here to educate and develop the whole child. Academic education is an important part of children's school life but also is our role in preparing children for becoming responsible and caring members of society.

We promote personal development in a number of ways.

Assemblies are held in which we promote positive mental and physical well-being including sharing strategies for enabling children to cope when they face challenges both inside and outside school.

We often discuss how they can keep themselves safe both online and in the real world.

All the assemblies are age and stage appropriate, and we

make sure we use language the children can understand.

All staff are available to talk to children throughout the day if they have any questions or concerns. We will always involve parents if we believe it is necessary.

Our personal, social, health education (PSHE) that we follow is Jigsaw.

Each half term focuses on a different theme – Being me in my world, Celebrating difference, Dreams and goals, Healthy me, Relationships and Changing me.

The school nursing team also visits throughout the year in different year groups to give the children advice and answer any questions about keeping themselves clean, safe and understanding changes while growing up.

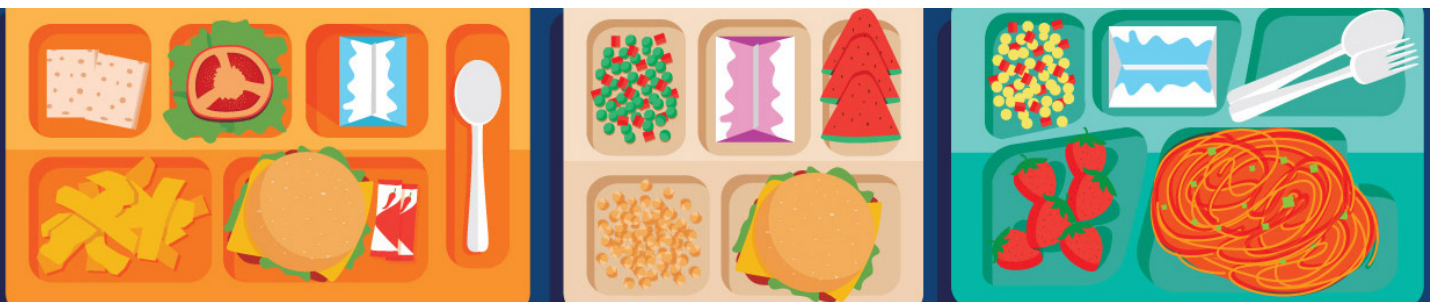
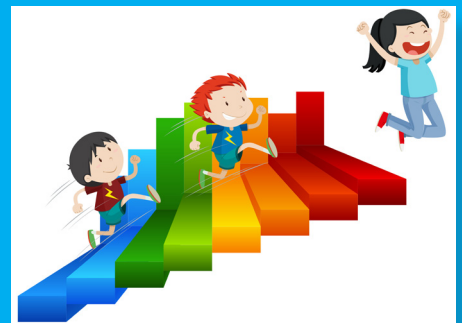
Every year, our Y6 children visit Crucial Crew which helps them to think of making the right choices as they move



through their teenage years.

Children are encouraged to share their opinions and viewpoints in lessons as well as during casual conversations in the playground.

Staff listen to and respect our children as we believe this is a value that must be acknowledged both ways.



## School dinners

More and more of our children are choosing to eat school dinners now. We prepare our meals on site with a trained school cook producing nutritious and delicious food for just £1.50 which is the cheapest in Mexborough.

If your child is on packed lunches and would like to try for a day to see what they are like you need to order it via the school grid app. You should have had log-in details sent previously. You will need to pay for any meals selected on Parent Pay. Why not give it a go?



# Current attendance

Our current attendance is **94.7%** which indicates we are improving all of the time.

However, we all still need to be mindful of how time away from school can damage a child’s education. The chart points out how many hours of lost learning there are when children have time off school.

Children can’t get this time back so it is really important they are in school to learn, achieve and socialise. We have high expectations for all of our children in terms of academic success so they need to be in school aiming for at least **96%** attendance.

We do reward children with good attendance with

Descriptor	Threshold attendance	Actual attendance	Whole days of absence	Learning Hours Lost
Excellent	100%	190 days	0	0
	99%	188 days	2	10
Good	98%	186 days	4	20
	97%	184 days	6	30
	96%	182.5 days	7.5	37.5
Cause for Concern	95%	180.5 days	9.5	47.5
	94%	179 days	11	55
	93%	177 days	13	65
	92%	175 days	15	75
	91%	173 days	17	85
Unsatisfactory	90%	171 days	19	95
	89%	169 days	21	105
	88%	167 days	23	115
	87%	165 days	25	125
Serious cause for concern	86%	163 days	27	135
Critical	85%	161.5 days	28.5	142.5
	84%	159.5 days	30.5	152.5
	83%	158 days	32	160
	82%	156 days	34	170
	81%	154 days	36	180
	80%	152 days	38	190

certificates given out every half term. For those children achieving 100% attendance in a half term, they get a reward and their name goes in a hat with the chance of being pulled out for a bigger prize – often an Amazon voucher!

Obviously if they are very poorly, they need to stay at home but if they only have a runny nose or mild cough, they are well enough to be in school. We will always contact you if your child becomes too unwell to stay.

# Summer dates

- 12th-14th June -Y6 residential
- 17th June - school closed
- 24th June - sports day. Lower site - morning  
Upper site - afternoon
- 5th July - Summer fayre
- 8th July - transition day (morning), children to meet their new teacher and teaching assistant
- 8th & 9th July - Y6 transition days - Laurel
- 9th July 2:15pm - Y4 ukulele concert
- 11th July 1:30 pm - Y2 parents invitation to visit upper site
- 12th July 9:00am - Y2 parents invitation to visit upper site
- 12th July - reports out to parents



- 16th July 2:15 - Y6 leavers’ assembly
- 17th-19th July - Y6 transition days - Wath
- 19th July - Nursery teddy bear’s picnic
- 19th July - School breaks up for Summer 1:15pm lower site, 1:20pm upper site



## Meet the teacher - Miss Spencer

Each newsletter we will get to know a member of staff a little bit better. Our next 'volunteer' is Miss Spencer who teaches in Year 3/4.



### Why did you want to become a teacher?

To have a positive impact on children's lives and give them the building blocks for a great start in life

### Were there any other jobs you wanted when you were younger?

Yes – a librarian, so I could sit and read books all day, and be paid for it!

### Have you had any other jobs apart from teaching?

I was a waitress for 6 years. I used to work on the bar serving old ladies tea and cake (and often feed it to myself too!)

### If you could be an animal what would it be and why?

An elephant – they're strong and smart and sooooo cute! Who wouldn't want to look like that?!

### Do you have any pets?

I used to have a golden retriever named Charlie. He was bright white and people mistook him for a polar bear once!

### If you could choose any animal in the world as a pet what would it be and why?

A micro-pig, because even though they're a little bit smelly, they have adorable faces and could sit on the sofa with you and watch TV

### Which TV programmes do you like to watch?

I love all the girly ones (of course); gossip girl, 90210, Emily in Paris, The Vampire Diaries

### What music do you listen to?

Pop - especially Taylor Swift!

### What kind of books do you like to read?

Mystery – I like not knowing what will happen next and left in surprise! I can spend hours

reading (if I have any time)

### What is your favourite food?

Pizza – with peperoni, onions, peppers, jalapeños and extra cheese (not to be specific)

### Are you scared of anything?

Spiders – I try and be brave if I see one in the classroom but I normally end up screaming with the children and have to ask Mr Ridgill to come and remove it for me

### If you could go back in time, what advice would you give to your younger self?

Not to spend time worrying about things you can't change! Everything always works out in the end, and you're often better off for it! Just enjoy everything you can and live life to the fullest.

