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Dear Parent/Carers

Welcome back to our new year at Norwood School. It was wonderful to have our children return to school excited about the year ahead and share with us their wonderful experiences over the summer break. We also welcome new members of staff and children to Norwood School, who I am sure will quickly settle into our school. During the holidays we had extensive building work carried out throughout school, involving asbestos removal, new ceilings and new lighting. This work has had a significant positive impact on our learning environment. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the staff who once again went above and beyond to ensure that the school was prepared for the start of term.

Due to the death of Mr Warn over the summer, yesterday was a difficult day initially. The school was well supported by a number of professionals and our fantastic team all pulled together to create a successful first day. Thank you to all of the parents and carers for their kind words, support and thoughtfulness at this time.

The book of condolences has moved from Paston Church to Norwood School. The book will be available until Friday 18th September and if you would like to take the opportunity to contribute to this, please enter the school via the office.

Norwood School continues to accept donations to the memorial fund and contributions will be used to create something that the children within school choose to commemorate the life of Mr Warn.

I would also like to take this opportunity to share with you our amended staffing structure for September 2009.

Year Group	Class Teacher	Support
Reception	Miss Swift (Acting Assistant Head Teacher)	Miss Greenwood, Mrs Lewin
Year 1	Miss Heatherington	Mrs Todd, Mrs Sprouse
Year 2	Miss Watt	Mrs Thornburn, Mrs Spillett
Year 3	Miss Perkins	Miss Beach, Mrs French
Year 4	Mrs Tilson	Miss Odain
Year 5	Miss Benson	Mrs Mee
Year 6	Mrs Cotton (Member of the Leadership Team)_	Mrs Frost

Miss Back, our KS1 Higher Level Teaching Assistant and Mrs Locke, our KS2 Higher Level Teaching Assistant will work across school supporting the children and providing the legally required PPA (Planning, Preparation and Assessment) time for our teachers.



Last academic year Norwood School successfully developed a new curriculum that engaged and enthused the children through a themed approach to their learning. As with any drive for school improvement, we continually evaluate and monitor our progress and measure the impact our implemented changes have made. Through our rigorous and reflective process of evaluation, we have identified further improvements for this coming academic year which will enable us to build on the success of last year.

Each year group will have a link class that they will work in partnership with, studying the same learning theme for half a term. Whilst the learning theme will be the same for both classes, the skills and knowledge the children encounter will be progressive and differentiated to the children's ability and National Curriculum age related expectations. Below is outlined the learning themes for Year 1 to Year 6 for this coming year.

	Autumn 1 st Half Term	Autumn 2 nd Half Term	Spring 1 st Half Term	Spring 2 nd Half Term	Summer 1 st Half Term	Summer 2nd Half Term
Year 1 and 2	Party Planner	All Creatures Great and Small	Mrs Armitage's Vehicle	Castles	The Seaside	Creative Arts Unit
Year 3 and 4	Audio/Visual	Invaders or Settlers- The Romans	Chocolate	Our Inner Space	Gambia	Creative Arts Unit
Year 5 and 6	Out of This world	The Jenkins Family	Mini- enterprise	Olympics	Together we can...	Creative Arts Unit

The curriculum will follow a 2 year cycle, with the second year as follows.

	Autumn 1 st Half Term	Autumn 2 nd Half Term	Spring 1 st Half Term	Spring 2 nd Half Term	Summer 1 st Half Term	Summer 2nd Half Term
Year 1 and 2	All about Me and my Friends	The Aliens are Coming!	Kung Hay Fat Choy	Water World	Our Great Exhibition	Creative Arts Unit
Year 3 and 4	Bright Sparks	Ancient Egyptians	A Taste of India	Creepy Crawlies	Town Planners	Creative Arts Unit
Year 5 and 6	Mysterious Materials	Elizabeth 1- The Tudors	Fairground	Our Place	European River Experience	Creative Arts Unit

This two year rolling programme will ensure that all children are taught the full entitlement of the National Curriculum, but through the introduction of partner classes there will be many benefits and positive outcomes, including

- Through team planning we will see a more creative approach to learning that can be developed through the support that the partnerships will cultivate.

- Trips, experiences and visitor costs are lower when 2 classes of children engage in an activity simultaneously, particularly when a coach is required.
- Celebrations of the learning theme will have a larger audience and therefore a wider purpose.

The learning will continue to be pitched at the children's particular level to ensure success and challenge for all. Literacy and Numeracy planning and delivery will continue through the Primary Framework for each relevant year, with RWI for specified children.

Unfortunately the skating provision that the children in Year 2 and Year 3 have experienced for the last two years is no longer available through Planet Ice. Norwood children in Year 3 and Year 4 will swim during the Autumn Term, with additional Summer Term 'top up' lessons available for any non swimmers in Year 6. I would also like to remind you that swimming is now a free activity for under 16s at any of the Peterborough City Council pools, including Jack Hunt, The Regional, Stanground and the Lido. This offer is nationwide and therefore extends to our neighbouring counties of Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire.

Each class will continue to receive their personalised curriculum letter for each half term, a document that shares with parents/carers the content of their child's learning. The information included in the letter outlines the learning theme, any proposed trips or experiences, links to any relevant websites and additional general information such as requirements for P.E.

If you have any questions or queries please contact your child's class teacher at the beginning or end of the school day, or for a specific appointment please contact the school office.

Norwood School continues to be proud of the range of extra curricular activities that are available to your child. Our highly successful Ofsted report comments that *'The wide range of clubs on offer are varied, have a high take up and are much enjoyed'*. We are currently organising the provision for children from Reception through to Year 6 and will issue further information this month giving details of the clubs that your children will have an opportunity to partake in.

Unfortunately due to vandalism and inappropriate use of Norwood School field over the summer holiday, the Governing Body have decided, with regret, the children are unable to use our field. We can not ensure the safety and health of your children during playtimes, lunchtimes and P.E. session on the field. The current main issues are the destruction of the small wooden fence resulting in an unsecured environment, animal faeces, broken bottles, cans, general litter and used discarded litter of a sensitive nature. We continue to work with the Local Authority to develop ways of ensuring that children have their entitlement of a safe, secure outside learning provision.

Once again, I thank you for your continued support and look forward to working with our families over the next academic year on our many exciting projects we have planned for this year.

Yours faithfully

Mrs D Reynolds and the Norwood Team

