



'Let your light shine'

18th July 2024

Dear Families,

As we come to the end of the academic year, we take time to reflect on all of the wonderful opportunities, memories and fantastic progress that the children have made this year. We have enjoyed watching your children flourish, grow and let their individual lights shine. We are sure that you are as proud as them as we are and are looking forward to spending quality time at home over the holidays. Monday 2nd and Tuesday 3rd of September are teacher training days and school resumes for all children on Wednesday 4th September.

As our Year 4 children move on to their next chapter in middle school, we would like to wish them luck and encourage them to embrace the new opportunities they will have. Above all, we want you to be happy and to let your light shine brightly in whatever you do!

We are looking forward to welcoming our new Reception children and Nursery starters in September who have already completed their transition with us.

Exciting news for our school!

Tritlington First School has formed an alliance with five other first schools and two primary schools in Northumberland. Led by a group of like-minded head teachers, who want the very best for our children, it will be known as the **Font Alliance**. The alliance provides for closer working with other similar schools, collaboratively sharing ideas and resources along with Northumberland County Council. We will continue working with the Morpeth partnership schools as normal, and pupils will continue to feed into Morpeth Middle and High Schools, but feel the Font Alliance will be better placed to focus on the early stages of education. Please note that this alliance is merely a collaboration and not a federation or the creation of a multi-academy trust.

The schools involved are:

Cambo First School, Longhorsley C of E First School, Morpeth First School, Ponteland Community Primary School, Rothbury First School, Stannington First School and Whalton C of E Primary School.

Breakfast Club / Wraparound Care update from September 2024

Following our Childcare survey which we sent out to parents of Reception to Year 4 children, we have evaluated the feedback and following guidance from the Department for Education, our aim for our Wraparound Care offer will be:

Breakfast Club will continue to run from 8am until 8.45am from September at a cost of £3 for the session.

After school club / Wraparound Club (Tritlington Explorers) - will run from 3.15pm - 6pm.

This will be split into 2 sessions: 3.15pm - 5pm at a cost of £7 and 3.15pm - 6pm for £11, as long as there is more than one pupil to make it viable. This is equivalent to £4 per hour. Help is available to support parents with these costs - please see the item below in this newsletter.

Breakfast Club and Afterschool clubs / Wraparound Care are to be booked in advance and paid for our new parent pay app, further information will follow regarding a new payment system.

We will need to recruit staff to deliver our wraparound care over the summer break. It may be that we will not be in a position to offer care up to 5 or 6pm at the start of term. However, we will keep you informed and let you know as soon as we can start.

Thank you for your cooperation with this.

Tax Free Child Childcare

School is now set up as a Tax-Free Childcare Provider. This can be used by working parents to pay for breakfast club/after school clubs, with the government adding £2 for every £8 you pay in .

If you use a tax-free childcare account, some other benefits can stop so please make sure you read the guidance on the government website before applying. Please find further information [here](#)

Free School Meals (Pupil Premium)

It's simple and easy to see if your child is entitled to free school meals. This is not the same as Universal Free School Meals, which every child is entitled to from Reception to Year 2. You will be able to access subsidised educational visits, free milk, subsidised clubs including Breakfast Club, as well as school receiving £1500 per pupil which supports resources and staff for your child. The number to apply is 0345 6006400 and they can check by using your national insurance to see if you are eligible. Please help yourself and the school by giving them a ring. Thank you!

Summer Reading Challenge

Get ready for a Summer of fun with Marvellous Makers arriving in Northumberland libraries from Saturday 6th July. The Summer Reading Challenge is aimed at children aged 4 - 12 years old. It's a great way to encourage children, no matter how young, to regularly borrow and read books over the summer. The card also contains some fun activities.

The Summer Reading Challenge features amazing books and plenty of ideas for fun activities. Are you ready to take up the Challenge? Children will need to:

- Borrow and read six library books, eBooks or audiobooks over the school holidays.
- Complete the Challenge, after reading 6 books - and feel proud as they are presented with a special certificate to celebrate their achievement.
- Have lots of fun and read some amazing books.
- There are also lots of fantastic prizes to be won throughout the summer!

The Marvellous Makers website lets the children carry on the fun at home. Get book recommendations, take part in mini-challenges, play games and more by visiting the [Summer Reading Challenge Website](#).

Attendance - New Penalty Notice Rules from September 2024

You may be aware that the Department for Education has issued new rules for penalty notices coming into force from September 2024, a copy of which can be found [here](#). Please take the time to read and familiarise yourself with it. We will be updating our attendance policy in line with this guidance. Northumberland County Council have issued guidance which we will be using. A copy of this guidance can be found [here](#). At Tritlington we have been very lenient with regard to holidays taken during term time, however due to the new guidelines this is out of our hands from September 2024.

Parent Governor Vacancies

We are delighted to tell you that we will be moving forwards from September with our own Governing Body following the cessation of our IEB. The IEB has provided Tritlington School with strong, effective governance over the last four years and we would like to publicly thank them for their time and dedication. We now need some parent governors for the Governing Body. If you are interested in this role, please contact school for further information.

Summer Fair

Although the total has not been finalised yet, we are delighted to tell you that the Summer Fair has raised around £500. We would like to thank Tritlington Friends, all volunteers, stallholders and yourselves for your continued support.

Have a safe and restful summer break, Mrs O'Dell and Mrs Stephenson, Joint Headteachers