



September 2020 Newsletter - Head Teacher's Message

Dear Families,

It has been wonderful to see and hear pupils around the school, we have really missed them! Pupils have settled in well and are very clear about their new routines. I would like to thank you all for adhering to social distancing and respecting our new procedures in order to keep us all safe and also thank you for the positive feedback received since re-opening, it is greatly appreciated! We continue to follow government guidance and responding to any changes which are reflected in our risk assessment.

I would like to give a special welcome to our new Reception class families and despite an unusual start, the children have settled in well to their new environment.

Your children need to be back in school as already their education has suffered as a result of not being in for so long. Please support their attendance by not keeping them off unnecessarily as this is detrimental to your child's wellbeing and education.

It is imperative that you support your child in online learning in the event of a 'bubble' closure or if your child is having to self-isolate. We will provide work daily and teacher's will provide feedback. Should you have any challenges in accessing this work then please contact your child's class teacher. Together we can ensure continuity of your child's education.

To keep up to date with the latest information related to COVID-19 you can visit the school website:

<https://www.nishkamschooltrust.org/npsw/page/?title=Coronavirus+Update&pid=777>

Thank you



Dates for your Diary

Date	Event
Friday 16 th October	Last day of Term
Monday 19 th October – Friday 30 th October	Half-Term holidays (no school)
Monday 2 nd November	Return to School
Friday 6 th November	Pupil/Sibling Photographs
Monday 9 th November	Flu Vaccinations
Friday 20 th November	Scholastic Book Fair – provisional booked
Friday 27 th November	Inset day- no School
Friday 18 th December	End of Autumn Term

Safeguarding Children

If there are any questions, queries or concerns relating to the safety and wellbeing of any child or adult the designated people you should talk with are:



Mr H Dhanjal
(Head Teacher)
**Designated
Safeguarding Lead
(DSL)**



Mr J Gomersall
(Deputy Head Teacher)
**Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead
(DDSL)**



Mrs J Brettle
(SENDCO)
**Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead
(DDSL)**



Mrs S Latif
(Family Liaison
Officer)
**Deputy
Designated
Safeguarding Lead
(DDSL)**

There are times when we all feel the strain. As parents and carers, there are ways we can support children and young people to give them the best chance to stay mentally healthy. Please visit the NHS website for more information and support:
<https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/childrens-mental-health>

Admissions 2021

Time goes so fast that we are already planning our Admissions for next year. If your child is aged between **1st September 2016 to 31st August 2017** then they will be due to start school next year (September 2021).



Pupil admissions will open on the 10th November 2020. You will be given 5 choices, rated 1-5, it is imperative that if you wish to send your child to our school, we are listed as number 1 in your options. As we are a multi-faith school there are selection criteria that has to be considered, therefore to ensure you make the right application please visit our website using the link below:

<https://www.nishkamschooltrust.org/npsw/page/?title=How+to+Apply&pid=355&action=saved>

Children grow so fast, but here at Nishkam we care not only for their educational needs but also their social and moral needs. Good routines along with good virtues will set them up for the best start in life. If you would like to find out more about our school please contact Mrs Bahia on 01902 537 970 option 3.

ParentPay

We are proud to advise parents that all the children have had the opportunity to have a hot meal and cold meal option in school, which under the current climate is fantastic as most meals are served to children directly in their classrooms. We took this further for those paying for their meals in KSI, by giving the children the opportunity to choose their meal type from our full school menu. Their pre-order meals from our 3-week school menu, successfully started from the 2nd week of the term. As restrictions ease in the future we would then be able to return to normal service for all our children.

We are pleased to inform you that we have now re-introduce Pizza Fridays! If your child brings a packed lunch to school, they now have the option on a Friday to have a school meal.

The menu for Friday's is Pizza, Beans & Chip/Wedges, with an option of salad and a dessert. Pizza Friday is a popular choice for our pupils and therefore we wanted to continue this service despite the challenges of working under Covid restrictions



We would like to remind our parents that children should remain on the same meal choice each half term, so either a packed lunch from home or a school meal.

School meals are free for Reception/KSI children, for children in KS2 (Year 3/4/5/6) there is a daily charge of £2.20, apart from those eligible for free school meals. Dinner payments can be made via ParentPay by selecting the Dinner payment item and should be paid in advance. If payment is not made in advance of the period, we may have to contact you prior to lunchtime to secure a payment. To ensure there are no disruptions to your child's school meal and to help the office, please ensure payment is made in advance.

Truth 1 and Truth 2

A warm welcome to all our wonderful new pupils and families. We are so happy that you have chosen Nishkam Primary School. We want to thank you for all your support and help during the transition of your child starting Reception. We appreciate there is so much information to take in but we are so happy with the start that we have had.

Dojo is working brilliantly, please ensure that you are logged on and check it regularly. Homework will be set on here weekly, please upload one piece (or more should you wish) so that it can be marked and approved.

We are still having a few issues with uniform without name labels, please can you ensure all uniform is clearly named. As the weather gets colder and possibly wetter, please remember to bring in wellies for your child (pop their name inside).

It's lovely to see lots of water bottles in school, please send in daily and ensure the name hasn't washed off during cleaning. Fresh water is preferable to squash please. We top these bottles up as needed.

The children have enjoyed their settling in phase and are now loving our topic 'Woodland Walks' we have read Stickman and the Gruffalo, so far. These episodes are available on BBC iPlayer should you wish to share these with your child.

Independence is our biggest push during this early stage in your child's school career. Please help them learn how to put their own coat on and attempt to fasten it at home. Also shoes being put on the correct feet is another thing you might like to support us with.

A big well done to all of our new little friends, keep up the good work everyone!

EYFS Team 😊



Service 1 and Service 2

Service class have had an amazing start to the year. Both Miss Badhan and Miss Latif have been blown away by the enthusiasm and resilience all the children have shown so far.

Our topic this half term has been all about dinosaurs, so we have incorporated this into a number of our subjects.

In English, we have been reading the 'Harry and the Dinosaurs' series. We have written character descriptions, retold our favourite stories and even had a go at writing our own Harry and the Dinosaurs story.

In History, we have been learning about dinosaur timelines and ways in which they may have become extinct. In Art, we have made many wonderful art pieces related to dinosaurs, including; collages, prints and 3d sculptures.

In Maths, we have been very busy looking at place value and addition. We have been learning lots of new mathematical vocabulary that we are using in every lesson.

Well done everyone for a great first month back! We can't wait to see what October brings!

Humility 1 and Humility 2

What a brilliant start the children have had to Year 2! Miss Gull and Mrs Johal are really impressed with the determination that the children are showing in settling back into school life.

In Maths we have been working on consolidating our understanding of Place Value. We have excelled at partitioning and now know that we can break our numbers down in lots of different ways. Furthermore, we have been working hard on our times tables especially our 2 times tables! Our new English book is called Patten's Pumpkin. We have already done lots of writing such as descriptive sentences, diary entries and newspaper reports!

In History we have been learning about The Tudors. The children have loved learning about Henry VIII's brutal nature. Ask them to tell you all about it!

Just a reminder that homework is now set weekly on Class Dojo. The homework uploaded does not need to be printed out as the children have their homework books where they can write their answers. Then please upload a picture to the portfolio for the week.

Stay safe and we look forward to seeing what October brings!

Compassion 1 and Compassion 2

Dear parents and carers, welcome back! We hope you are all well and continuing to stay safe. It has been a pleasure to welcome back Compassion 1 and Compassion 2 to school and we have been delighted to get started with this year's learning. The children have all settled into Year 3 brilliantly and have adapted to our social distancing and routines extremely well!

In Maths we have started the Year 3 curriculum of "Number and Place Value" as well as recapping areas of the Year 2 curriculum. In English children are reading the text "Ug – Stone Age Boy" and have started producing some fantastic diary entries from the perspective of the main character 'Ug'. In History, the children are learning about the Stone Age. In Art we are designing and creating our own versions of cave paintings. In Faith and Values lessons we are exploring the creation stories.

Homework will be uploaded onto Class Dojo every Friday, this will include English, Maths and Spellings. We expect homework to be uploaded onto Class Dojo by the following Thursday and spelling tests will be carried out on the following Friday.

Thank you to parents and carers for your continued support. We look forward to the year ahead! Best wishes from Miss Meras, Mr Landers and Mrs Matharu.



ClassDojo

As you will be aware by now your child's homework is now set on Class Dojo, which is an interactive online platform that the children adapted to very well during lockdown. This method saves on homework preparation time and more importantly links with our Niskham Virtue of Accountability, as we are now using much less paper/printing due to the online homework initiative. Please continue

to support your child with their learning. **Catch Up Program** – All the children were assessed on their return to school this September and their new teachers have already mapped their outcomes and set their targets. Interventions are underway, along with a focus in class on core subjects. Therefore parents support with homework is imperative.

Thank you for your support.

Forgiveness 1 and Forgiveness 2

A warm welcome to all parents and carers. Both Forgiveness's classes have had an amazing start to the year! Miss Dawar and Miss Holman are really impressed with the value of enthusiasm and resilience the children have shown coming back to school. The children in Forgiveness have settled well into Year 4 and are showing great values in their behaviour and their learning.

In English the children have started reading the text "The Iron Man" by Ted Hughes. We are analysing the characters, making predictions and will be focussing on a range of writing skills and techniques including diary entry, character descriptions and understanding the style of writing of the author.

In maths the children have been focusing heavily on their timetables and fluency. We are also looking at roman numerals and place value. There is a strong focus and drive for children to be able to prove and explain their understanding of a Maths concept to ensure that learning has been embedded.

We would like to say a huge thank you to all parents and carers for your continued support. Stay safe and we look forward to the year ahead!

Contentment 1 and Contentment 2

Dear parents and carers of children in Contentment 1 and Contentment 2. We hope you are all continuing to stay safe and well during these unprecedented times. It has been an absolute pleasure to have so many children return to school and we can reassure you that they have now all settled in well into their new classes. Year 5 are now experts at handwashing and social distancing!

In Maths we have started the Year 5 curriculum of "Number and Place Value" as well as recapping areas of the Year 4 curriculum.

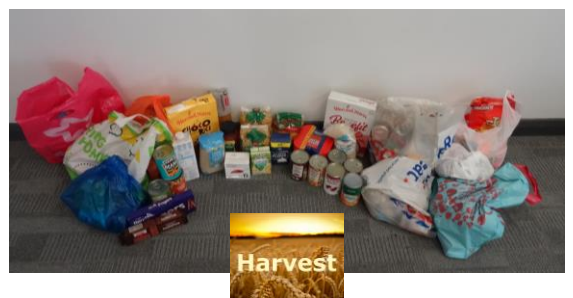
In English children are reading the text "Cosmic" and have started producing some great pieces of writing about the character – Liam Digby and the adventures he has encountered.

In History, the children are studying the Victorian era and child labour. In Art we are studying the artist Paul Nash and in Faith and Values lessons we are exploring the creation stories.

Homework and spelling will be given every week on a Friday and children will be expected to upload all their homework once they have marked it onto class dojos by Thursday of the following week, answers will be given before the due date.

Finally, we would like to say a big thank you to all those parents and carers who continued to support their children during lockdown, many thanks and best wishes from the Year 5 team, Miss Kainth, Mrs Chahal and Mrs Bhambra.

Harvest Festival is a celebration of the food grown on the land. This reminds Christians of all the good things God gives them. This makes them want to share with others who are not so fortunate. In schools we had a harvest collection, thank you to those were Nishkam (selfless) is sharing what they have.



Optimism

It's good to see everybody back in school now after having such a long time out of the classroom! Year 6 have now become fluent in the art of hand washing and sanitising throughout the day and are getting used to using their own equipment from their desk drawers in all lessons.

It has also been exciting for us as we have moved into our new purpose-built classrooms above the nursery. We have two newly built classrooms with air-conditioning and brand-new interactive whiteboards.

In Maths, we have been learning about place value and the use of the four operations. This has included a lot of problem-solving work that will help us in our SATs tests next year.

In English, we have been learning about the text Goodnight Mister Tom. We have been writing letters in character as William Beech and newspaper reports about the outbreak of World War 2.

History has seen us learning about The Ancient Greeks. So far, we have learnt about their daily lives, their contributions to modern democracy and their beliefs and religion.

Well done children keep up the hard work!

Year 6 – Admission to Secondary School – September 2021 Applications must be made by 31st October 2020

It is important for our parents/carers in Year 6 to understand and adhere to the secondary school admission process. By now all parents should have received a letter from Wolverhampton Education Authority or the Authority they reside under, notifying them of the application process.

For the majority of our families, it is their first experience and rightly can be quite a daunting experience too, choosing the right school for your child is an important decision to have to make. Please ensure you read the **admission arrangements** for the secondary schools you are interested in to see how likely it is that your child will be offered a place there. There are many things to take into consideration for example, supplementary information for a faith school and some academies, catchment area etc.

May we remind you, if you apply after the final closing date of 31st October 2020 your application will be considered as a late application and **late applicants are less likely to be offered a place at one of their preferred schools.**

If you require further information, please do speak to Mrs Latif. Wishing you the very best!



The World's Biggest Coffee Morning is Macmillan's biggest fundraising event for people facing cancer. People all over the UK host their own Coffee Mornings and donations are made to Macmillan Cancer. This year, our coffee morning was a little different, a Macmillan staff

lunch was hosted in honour of those who have experienced cancer. A total amount of £204 was raised.



May we take this opportunity to thank Veggie Supreme and Veggie Ways for their kind support!

SENDCo.



Medical Needs

It is lovely having the children back into school.

Can I please remind you, if your child needs to have medication administered in school, for any reason, you must complete a medicines in school consent form.

This can be obtained via the office, please call to request a copy or refer to the email sent on the 24th August 2020.

We are not permitted to give any medication unless prescribed by a doctor. If your child needs regular medication, for example an Inhaler for Asthma, you will also need to complete a care plan for them.

Allergy Alert

Several of our children have sensitivities or severe allergic reactions to nuts, can I respectfully ask you refrain from sending nuts into school to safeguard these children please.

SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability).

Unfortunately, due to Covid restrictions, we are not permitted to have our regular coffee mornings. However, I would like to remind parents I am always available, please call the school office to contact me.

We believe early intervention and detection is key to a child's success. If you have any concerns for your child's learning or well-being and wish to speak with me, I will be very happy to make an appointment with you, where we can discuss your concerns (in line with Trust and government Covid guidelines). This could be via the telephone or face to face. Please call the office to arrange an appointment.

If you require an interpreter, please do mention this as the time of making the call.

General Information.

Wolverhampton Information, Advice Services (IASS) offer Impartial information, advice and support on matters relating to a child or young person's special educational needs or disability from birth to 25 years.

They can be contacted here:

01902 556945

<https://wolvesiass.org/>

Also checkout Wolverhampton's Local offer here:

<http://win.wolverhampton.gov.uk/kb5/wolverhampton/directory/localoffer.page?localofferchannel=0>

Kindest Regards

Mrs. Brettle

COVID-19

May I please take the opportunity to thank you for your patience and support during these challenging times. We are confident that we are operating as efficiently and safely as we can under the current government guidelines. Please could you take the time to look at the following

You and your entire household must isolate if:

Your child(ren) have one or more of the following:

- A new continuous cough
- A high temperature (either 37.6 and above or hot to touch on the back or chest)
- A loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

Do not send any of your children to school

Next steps:

Contact us straight away.

We will advise you to get a test immediately online: <https://self-referral.test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/antigen/name> or by calling 119.

If the test is negative, please tell us straight away and you may send you child(ren) back to school if they are well.

If the test is positive, please tell us straight away and we will take immediate action. Please call the school on 01902 537 970, we also have a out of hours service set up so we can respond to this immediately.

A reminder when dropping off or collecting children please could you ensure that:

1. You keep at least **two metres** away from other families
2. You turn up at your allocated slot for dropping off and picking up
3. Please do not approach members of staff unless it is urgent
4. Refrain from spending time engaging in conversations around the vicinity of the school premises
5. Follow the one-way system to minimise contact with each other

A reminder of what else we have done to support the school community:

You asked:	We:
For fewer staggers.	We have reduced from the three staggers to two.
For siblings to be dropped off at the same time and to come through one entrance.	We have procedures in place to enable this.
For siblings at different times to be picked up and dropped off at the same time.	We have come up with a system, so all siblings can come in and be picked up at the same time, from the same location.
For clarity of PE changing.	We have adopted a method of children coming in dressed for PE to limit the risk of cross contamination.
For more clarity regarding our one-way systems	We have made the one-way system clearer with more signage and markings on the ground.
For a choice of lunches for those who pay for it	We have a system for children to choose the option they want over the 3-week menu, including choosing their dessert option.

We will continue to engage with our parents on a regular basis, thank you for your support thus far.

School Attendance

A warm welcome to our new and existing pupils. As you are aware in March when the Covid-19 outbreak was increasing, the Government made it clear that no parent/carer would be penalised or sanctioned for their child's non-attendance at school. Schools were then closed to all but a specific group of pupils.

Now that the circumstances have changed, it is vital for all children to return to school to minimise as far as possible the longer-term impact of the pandemic on their education, wellbeing and wider development. We know that children have missed being with their friends and the wider social aspects of school. Missing out on more time in the classroom risks pupils falling further behind. It is a known fact those with higher overall absence tend to achieve less well in both primary and secondary school. Hence, school attendance became compulsory again from the beginning of this autumn term. This means since September 2020, the usual rules on school attendance apply, including:

- parents' duty to send their child to school regularly;
- schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence.

While coronavirus (COVID-19) remains in the community, we understand you may be worried about your child attending school and would like you to know we are here to support and guide you, the first port of call is to discuss your concerns with us. After so much disruption to your child/ren's education over recent months, the most important thing is that the school and parents work together to get children back into school.



Please do speak with Mrs Latif, our Family Liaison Officer or a member of staff if you have any worries, or you would like to discuss your child's attendance, together we will support you.

As children have already missed so much learning, may we mention this is not the time to take your child out of school for a family holiday or other term time leave. It is unlikely that any leave will be authorised by the Headteacher after so much enforced absence from school. The more your child is in school, the more they will catch up.

Family emergencies need careful consideration. It is not always appropriate or in the best interest of the child to miss school for emergencies which are being dealt with by adult family members.

School attendance is being monitored and no school or local authority wants to take legal action, hence every attempt to resolve parents' concerns and improve a child's attendance will be made before any formal action is considered.

However, at the same time, we must mention as part of our support network, where there are persistent absences, there will be early intervention from our Education Welfare Officer and other specialist support services. May we remind you **parent's/carer's have a duty to ensure that their child's regular attendance at school and failure to do this is an offence under Section 444 (1a) of the Education Act 1996.**

Attendance is always celebrated in whole schools assemblies which are at presently taking place virtually. Our celebrations will resume after the October half term break as normal. We wish you and your child all the best for the coming academic year and look forward to your support.

In line with Government guidance to support children's return to school just some of the things we have in place;

- Robust hand and respiratory hygiene
- Clean hands thoroughly more often than usual
- Ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
- Enhanced cleaning arrangements, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often.
- Active engagement with NHS Test and Trace
- Formal consideration of how to reduce contacts and maximise distancing between those in school wherever possible and minimise potential for contamination so far as is reasonably practicable.
- Grouping children together in class bubbles
- Avoiding contact between groups
- Classrooms have been arranged with forward facing desks
- Minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have any symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school.
- Parents/Carers are encouraged to wear face coverings, especially whilst on school premises.

A simple guide to making a face covering. A cloth face covering should cover your mouth and nose while allowing you to breathe comfortably. More information on [using face coverings](#) during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic is available at:

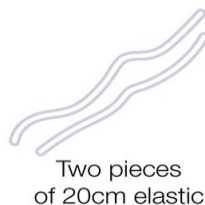
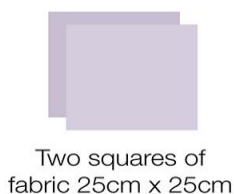
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-to-wear-and-make-a-cloth-face-covering/how-to-wear-and-make-a-cloth-face-covering>

If you would like more detailed information on how to make a face covering please visit the [Big Community Sew website](#)

To make a simple face covering

You will need:

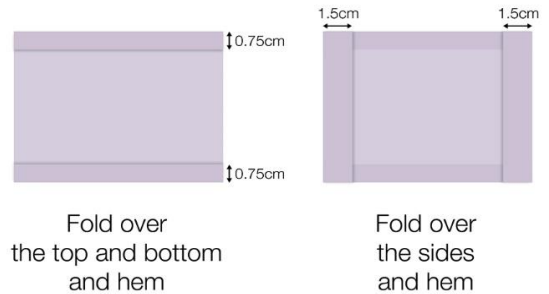
- two or three 25cm x 25cm squares of cotton fabric
- two 20cm pieces of elastic (or string or cloth strips)
- needle and thread
- scissors



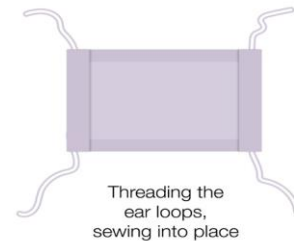
Items you need for a sewn cloth face covering

Step 1: Cut out 25cm x 25cm squares of cotton fabric. Stack the squares on top of each other.

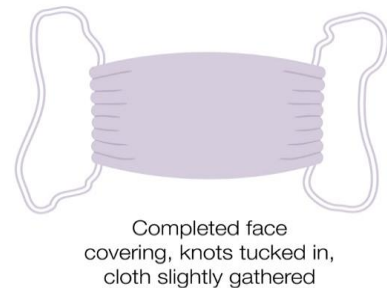
Step 2: Fold over one side by 0.75cm and hem, then repeat on the opposite side. Make 2 channels by folding the double layer of fabric over 1.5cm along each side and stitching this down.



Step 3: Run a 20cm length of elastic (or string or cloth strip) through the wider hem on each side of the face covering. These will be the ear loops. Use a large needle to thread it through. Tie the ends tightly.



Step 4: Gently pull on the elastic so that the knots are tucked inside the hem. Gather the sides of the covering on the elastic and adjust so the covering fits your face. Then securely stitch the elastic in place to keep it from slipping. These elastic loops fit over the ears.



Face coverings should not be used by children under the age of 3 or those who may find it difficult to manage them correctly. For example, primary age children unassisted, or those with respiratory conditions.

Always take care to use equipment safely to avoid injury. **Children should only follow these instructions under the supervision of an adult.**

Find out what support you can get

For example, if you're out of work, need to get food, or want to take care of your mental health.

→ **Find support**



Visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Your support and consideration towards others is much appreciated!