



# MOORTHORPE NEWS - SEPT 2023

## Welcome back

I hope you all had an enjoyable summer break. We are delighted to welcome our new pupils to Moorthorpe Primary School and also our existing children back after the summer break. It is so lovely to see everyone back and looking so smart in their new uniforms. Our school is now completely full at 245 – we have no spare pupil places!

It has been a challenging start to the term as a result of delays with the roofing work. This has meant the scaffolding remains up and some children are having to move classrooms. Risk assessments have been completed and we are doing our best to keep things as settled as possible.

As in previous years, to begin with we are focusing on wellbeing, happiness and the enjoyment of school. These are the foundations of academic success. We want all our pupils to feel safe, settled and ready to learn. We are using a wonderful book called 'The Magical Yet' by Angela Di Terlizzi and Mrs Currie has devised some fantastic activities for the whole school to enjoy. It will link to growth mindset encouraging positivity and resilience, not saying "I can't do it" simply saying "I can't do it **yet** but I'll keep trying."

### **School Priorities 23-24**

This year we will be focusing on oracy, writing, curriculum assessment and staff workload and wellbeing. Oracy is so important: we want all our children to 'speak up' and be able to communicate clearly and fluently with their friends and adults, express their opinions, ask questions and share ideas. Also, good oracy improves writing!

### **Uniform**

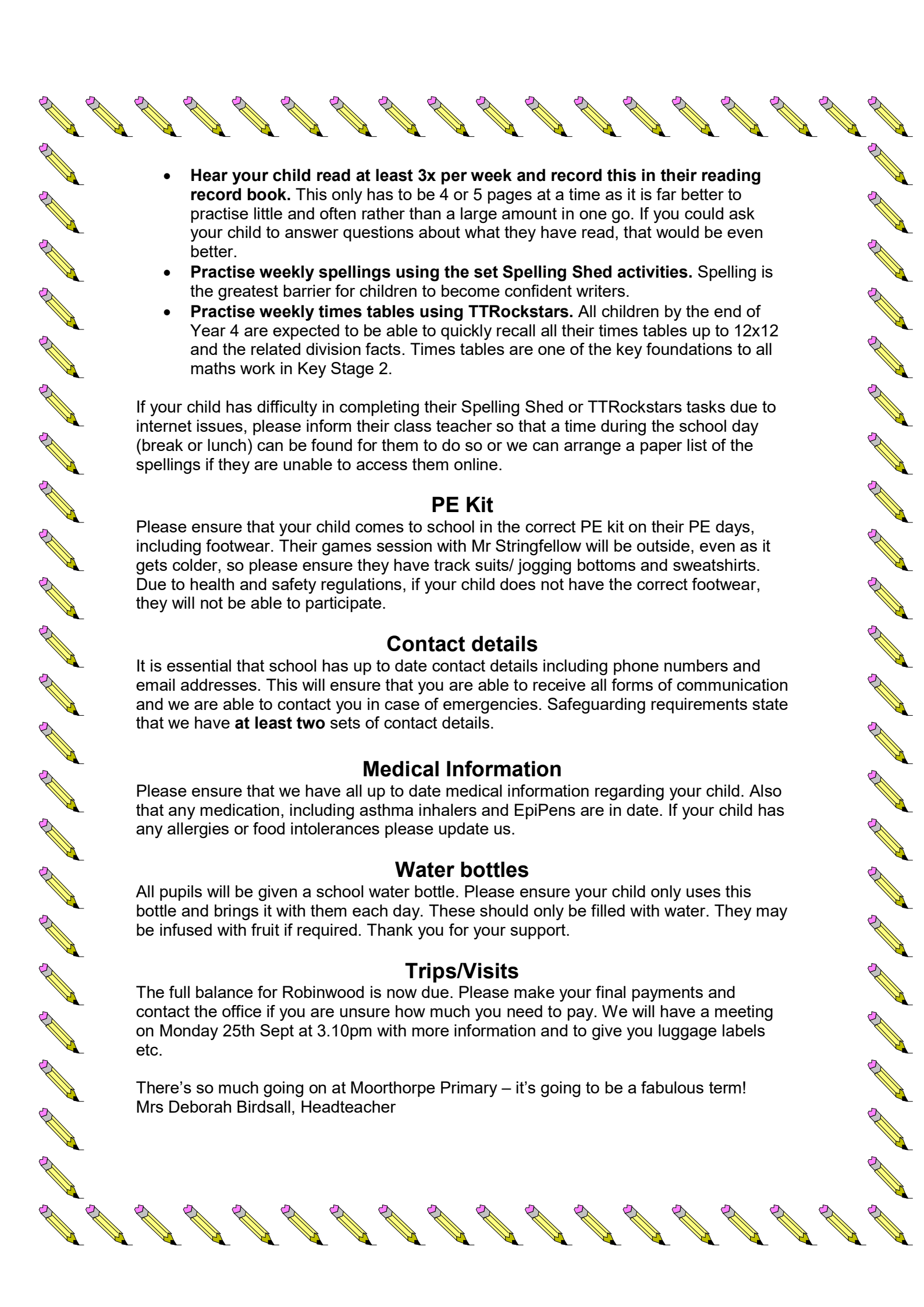
All pupils from Y1 to Y6 should be wearing ties (unless wearing summer dresses). They are online: google 'green and gold school ties'. I have also been told you can also buy them in Pontefract and uniform shop and on South Elmsall's Saturday market. We still have plenty of donated uniform in good condition so if you need anything please do ask at the office.

### **Attendance**

High attendance is vital if pupils are to make good progress in their learning. Please ensure your child is in school every day unless too ill. Please ring the school office to inform us of any absences.

### **Parents**

At Moorthorpe we are lucky to have such supportive parents/carers who are keen to support school and your child's development, we would please ask that you ensure that your child completes their homework. Homework will focus on the basics of reading, writing & maths, which can then be built upon in school. The tasks provided will involve a great deal of repetition of knowledge and skills as this leads to a change in long term memory and therefore learning, which can be recalled quickly and accurately. In order to do so, please:

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- **Hear your child read at least 3x per week and record this in their reading record book.** This only has to be 4 or 5 pages at a time as it is far better to practise little and often rather than a large amount in one go. If you could ask your child to answer questions about what they have read, that would be even better.
  - **Practise weekly spellings using the set Spelling Shed activities.** Spelling is the greatest barrier for children to become confident writers.
  - **Practise weekly times tables using TTRockstars.** All children by the end of Year 4 are expected to be able to quickly recall all their times tables up to 12x12 and the related division facts. Times tables are one of the key foundations to all maths work in Key Stage 2.

If your child has difficulty in completing their Spelling Shed or TTRockstars tasks due to internet issues, please inform their class teacher so that a time during the school day (break or lunch) can be found for them to do so or we can arrange a paper list of the spellings if they are unable to access them online.

### **PE Kit**

Please ensure that your child comes to school in the correct PE kit on their PE days, including footwear. Their games session with Mr Stringfellow will be outside, even as it gets colder, so please ensure they have track suits/ jogging bottoms and sweatshirts. Due to health and safety regulations, if your child does not have the correct footwear, they will not be able to participate.

### **Contact details**

It is essential that school has up to date contact details including phone numbers and email addresses. This will ensure that you are able to receive all forms of communication and we are able to contact you in case of emergencies. Safeguarding requirements state that we have **at least two** sets of contact details.

### **Medical Information**

Please ensure that we have all up to date medical information regarding your child. Also that any medication, including asthma inhalers and EpiPens are in date. If your child has any allergies or food intolerances please update us.

### **Water bottles**

All pupils will be given a school water bottle. Please ensure your child only uses this bottle and brings it with them each day. These should only be filled with water. They may be infused with fruit if required. Thank you for your support.

### **Trips/Visits**

The full balance for Robinwood is now due. Please make your final payments and contact the office if you are unsure how much you need to pay. We will have a meeting on Monday 25th Sept at 3.10pm with more information and to give you luggage labels etc.

There's so much going on at Moorthorpe Primary – it's going to be a fabulous term!  
Mrs Deborah Birdsall, Headteacher



## DATES FOR THE DIARY

### September 2023

#### INSET DAYS – school closed for children 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sept.

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> – School opens

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> – Y5 Swimming starts for the Y6 and Y5 classes (Mr Thorpe's Y5/6 class at a later date)

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> – After school football starts with M Stringfellow

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> – After school Y5/6 netball club starts with D Birdsall.

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> – Parents Robinwood meeting after school.

#### Harvest Festival:

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> Sept: Reverend Gallagher will lead a harvest assembly for Y1-6. Produce for the harvest can be brought to school from today.

All produce will then be distributed to elderly residents in the local community or taken to Food Bank.

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October at 2:00pm for EYFS – Parents invited.

### October 2023

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October – Introduction to Black history month

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October – World Mental Health Day – donations please. Non-uniform: Wear yellow

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> Y6 go to Robinwood

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> – UKS2 Healthy Lifestyles Fayre – Y5, Y5/6 & Y6 parents invited from 2pm.

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> – Flu vaccine for Reception to Year 6

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> Spooky day – Dress up & discos in the afternoon

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> – SCHOOL CLOSED – INSET DAY

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> School closes at 3.10pm for half term and reopens Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November.**

### November 2023

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> - Remembrance assembly 11am

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> – Anti-Bullying Week

Fri 17<sup>th</sup> - Children in Need - donations please. Non uniform/spotty clothing

Week beginning Monday 27<sup>th</sup> - Assessment week (whole school)

### December 2023

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> – Making xmas decorations in school (Parents/carers in pm)

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> – Christmas jumper day (non-uniform) and xmas Fayre (school closes at 1.15pm)

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> - EYFS xmas concert am (Parents/carers)

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> – KS1 xmas concert pm (Parents/carers)

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> – KS1 xmas concert am (Parents/carers)

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> – KS2 xmas concert pm (Parents/carers)

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> - KS2 xmas concert am and pm (Parents/carers)

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> – Xmas party day (party clothes/ non uniform)

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> – Xmas eve in school (PJs, hot choc, cookies and a film plus a visit from Santa)

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> **Break up for xmas to return Mon 8<sup>th</sup> Jan 2024**