

Pegswood Primary School News

<http://www.pegswood.northumberland.sch.uk/website>

Issue 2



Friday 16th
September

Monday 19th September

A reminder that school will be closed on this day as it is a Bank Holiday due to the state funeral of Queen Elizabeth II. School will reopen on Tuesday at the normal time.

Class Dojo

Class Dojo is our communication method between school and home that I am sure you are all well used to. It allows you to contact our main office and your child's teacher with any queries you may have. If you message class teachers during the school day, they may well not respond as they are in the classroom teaching. They will respond at the earliest convenient time.

If you message either the office or individual staff out of hours (usually before 8.00am or after 5.00pm and at the weekends), please do not expect a reply at that time, or that your query has been resolved. Staff may wish to reply and deal with the query there and then, especially if it was urgent. However, please respect that all staff have families outside of school and are not always in a position to reply.

We do live in a world where more and more we all expect immediate responses to messages sent via technology. Unfortunately, this is not always possible, nor should it be. Very few, if any staff, restrict incoming message on Class Dojo to certain times, due to their commitment to their class and parents. I am sure that you will be sympathetic to the above request.

Free School Meals

If you think that your circumstances may have changed over the summer holidays and you now may be entitled to Free School Meals, please look below. Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit



• Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

If your child is eligible for free school meals, they will remain eligible until they finish the phase of schooling (primary or secondary) they are in on 31 March 2022. Free school meals covers school meals, milk and Northumberland County Council food vouchers during the holidays.

The application for Free School Meals is not referring to the Universal Free School Meals that were available to all children from Reception to Year 2.

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

School Admissions

The portal to request a place at secondary school from September 2023 is now open and will close on **Monday 31st October 2022.**

You can log on via the Northumberland County Council website, or by clicking [here](#). This page will give you all the important dates and a link to the Online Admissions Portal, where you must register if you are not already in the system, to complete the admissions form. **It is critical that parents with children in Year 6 complete this online form before Monday 31st October 2022.** Applications after this date will be classed as 'late' and will not be processed until all 'on time' applications have been allocated. If your request is processed as 'late', it will be very unlikely that you will receive your first choice school.

The link [here](#) is to the Local Authorities secondary school admissions handbook, which has more information about each secondary school in Northumberland.

Northumberland County Council does not control admissions for Ashington Academy. The North East Learning Trust are responsible for determining and applying their policy, which can be found on page 34 and 35 of the online admissions handbook. Page 55 will give you further details about schools in the Ashington area.

Please contact the school office, if you are having trouble with anything related to the admissions process. Please be aware that school cannot complete the admissions process for you.

Individual Photographs

Our photographer will be in school on Monday 10th October to take individual and sibling photographs (only siblings in school). More information will follow closer to the date.

Park Opening

The official opening of the park in Pegswood has been postponed until Saturday 24th September between 10.30am and 12.00 pm, due to the official period of state mourning.

