

Tonacliffe Road
Whitworth
Lancashire OL128SS
Telephone: 01706 344609
E-mail: sbm@tonacliffe.lancs.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mrs Joanne B Heap
Web-site: www.tonacliffe.lancs.sch.uk



Where only our best is enough

3rd September 2025

WELCOME BACK!

Dear parent/ guardian,

Welcome back...we hope you had a lovely summer break and your children are ready for the start of an exciting autumn term! A special welcome to all of our new reception and nursery children starters too – we hope they enjoy their first experiences of school and nursery.

Our School Spider app is the main source of all our school communications, so please make sure you have downloaded this app. All notices are posted on here, and you will be alerted on the app when anything is posted.

Our website ([Tonacliffe Primary School: Welcome to Tonacliffe Primary School](http://www.tonacliffe.lancs.sch.uk)) also holds a wealth of information too about what is happening in school so please do take the time to look at it. The school's weekly newsletter contains updates and diary dates – this will be sent to you via the School Spider app weekly and can also be accessed on the school's website.

Class teachers will be busy updating their class web pages this week. From Monday 8th September, all class pages should be up to date. To check what your child will be learning about in the forthcoming term, please look on the website under your child's class colour or under nursery and also in the key information section marked: curriculum.

Attendance

Good attendance at school for your child is vital if they are to make good progress with their learning; your help and support with this is greatly appreciated.

If your child is unwell, you must inform school as soon as possible and at the latest by 9.15 am on the first day of absence by calling school on 01706344609 or via the School Spider app.

If you need to request 'leave' in term time there has to be exceptional reasons as to why the leave needs to be taken then. We will not be able to grant permission if the reason is cost as this is the same for everyone. Please do not book a holiday and then ask permission – seek permission first using the leave in term time absence requests, which are available from the school office. Any leave taken may incur a fixed penalty notice.

Remember, it is really unfair on your child if you take them on a holiday and inform school of differing reasons for absence. Children find this very stressful and do tell, which then places everyone in an awkward situation.

Year 1 – 6 Home School Agreements and Acceptable Use Policies (AUP)

As part of our home school agreement and safeguarding procedures, there are documents for you to agree to in order for your child to be able to use the computers and other equipment in school. These documents have been sent electronically to you - please look out for those emails.

These policies are in place to support keeping your child safe whilst online and using equipment in school.



Achievement, individuality and respect through working together

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Uniform

The children look incredibly smart in their new uniforms – thank you for this.

A polite reminder: when it is a PE day, please remove your child's earrings for school or teach them how to remove their earrings or ensure they come to school with plasters to cover their earrings. Remember, long hair should be tied up. Bobbles and hair clips etc. should be in the school colours and should be small and unobtrusive.

School Meals and Free School Meals (FSM)

Children in reception, year one and year two are entitled to universal free school meals; however, if you are in receipt of certain government benefits your child may be entitled to FSM. This needs to be claimed from the local authority where you live by applying online to Rochdale or Lancashire.

School receives extra funds, in the form of the pupil premium grant, when children have been in receipt of FSM for six months or more. Therefore, I really would urge you to make a claim if you are eligible – even if your child is in reception, year one and year two.

In years three to six, school meals must be paid for unless your child is entitled to FSM. If you have difficulty in paying for school lunches, we ask that you provide your child with a packed lunch rather than running up a debt. School budgets are under tremendous pressure and any debts will have to be followed up.

School dinners can be booked and paid for via the school spider app. Meals must be paid and booked in advance. Children in the infants and children entitled to FSM, do not pay for school meals; however, meals still need to be booked for in advance using the school spider app.

Homework

Your child's class teacher will provide details of your child's weekly homework and the expectations of this. Please remember to keep on reading regularly with your children too because this does make a huge difference in helping them to make progress with their learning as well as being fun and enjoyable!

Parental Workshops

During the autumn term a variety of parental workshops will be on offer. These workshops are held so you are able to support your child's learning at home. The workshops will be approximately 30 – 45 minutes in length. Further information will be sent to you in separate letters so keep an eye out for these on the School Spider App.

Concerns

Remember if you have any worries or concerns, big or small, please do not hesitate to contact me or come and chat with me on the yard at the start or end of a school day and I will do my best to help you.

With best wishes,

J. B. Heap

Mrs Joanne B. Heap
Headteacher



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