

Newsletter



As you know the inspection process for schools carries on. Under this process we know that at some point this year we will be being inspected. One of the things that inspectors look at is the views of parents. I would urge as many parents as possible to log on to www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk to register their views about the school.

We have planned a whole school outing to see Cinderella at the Gala Theatre on Thursday 3rd December



MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW

WELCOME BACK

A big welcome back to all our children both old and new !
It has been a real joy to see all of the children return from their summer holidays looking so smart and we would like to thank all of our parents for their efforts in this. Last year the school made real progress towards our goal of being judged a good school and all of the staff are working hard to make sure that progress continues. We welcome Mrs Parlett to our team in Year 5. We look forward to working with everyone this year.

New Curriculum

As you will have seen on the news there have been some changes to the national curriculum. We are working with the new curriculum and there are details of the topics that your children will be studying on the website. It is true that some areas of the curriculum have been slimmed down while other parts are new. We will continue to look at our curriculum and constantly evaluate how we are doing so that we can make sure we are doing the best we can for all of our children.



As we start a new year this is an ideal time to remind people of some of the expectations we have as a school.

Teacher Meetings Year 1 – Year 6

There will be a chance to meet your child's teacher on **Monday 14th September** to discuss any issues and class routines. There are 2 sessions available 5.30pm & 6.00pm.

Following some parent suggestions on our recent questionnaires, we have reviewed our homework policy to ensure consistency across the classes. This will be shared with parents at these meetings.

Please try to attend these meetings to enable you to support your child fully with school/homework etc.



Uniform

I have been impressed with how smart many of the children are looking. May I remind you that uniform states:

- Black shoes/trainers (brightly coloured shoes/trainers are not allowed).
- Jewellery should not be worn other than a wrist watch or stud earrings.
- No nail varnish or make up should be worn for school.

PE

I know that many schools have banned the wearing of earrings due to health and safety concerns. Our policy has been to allow children to wear studs only and that they **must** remove earrings to take part in PE. I have already noticed that some children are not keeping to this policy and I would ask for your support in this. We must take every precaution to minimise the risk of injury to the children.



Dinner monies are £1.95 per day or £9.75 per week. We would ask that dinner money is brought in on a Monday into your child's class in an envelope marked with your child's name.

It would be greatly appreciated if the correct money could be sent in please.

Children in Key Stage 1 (Reception, Years 1 & 2) now receive free school meals through the government's new initiative.

Two weeks' notice is required should you wish to change your child's meal pattern. Forms available from school office.

If you think you are entitled to free school meals please contact the school office as the school receives funding for those pupils **entitled** to free school meals.

Early Morning Routines

- Access to school is via the footpath next to the church. If you are arriving by car, please join this footpath, so leaving the school gates free for deliveries etc.....This is for the safety of the children.
- Children should be arriving around 8.45am to ensure they are ready to line up when the bell goes.
- When the bell rings at 8.55am, we would like parents to allow the children to line up **independently** please. Parents should not be standing in line with children holding their bags etc, or walking into school with their child's line. Also it would be appreciated if parents left the main yard when the bell rings before the children walk into school.



Absence

The school has a messaging service on our school telephone number(5813090) for parents to record their child's absence. This should be done as soon as possible at the start of the school day on the first day of absence.

Lateness

Lateness can cause serious disruption to the learning of all children in school. There can be NO excuse for children being late on a regular basis. The new Durham County guidelines state that lateness will be recorded on your child's report and will remain on their report throughout their school life.

Children arriving after the close of registration (**9.15am**) will be deemed absent without permission.

County guidelines state that penalty notices can now be applied to persistent late comers

Attendance

As mentioned in previous newsletters the government has given new guidelines to schools that mean that family holidays during term time cannot be authorised. Any holiday requests will unfortunately have to be declined unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Please find enclosed the latest guidelines.

Collecting Times

Just a reminder, Reception class and Y1 & Y2 children finish school at 3.00pm and Y3,4,5 & 6 children at 3.15pm. While we understand that there may be siblings finishing at different times, **ALL children should be collected by 3.15pm.**



Snacks

Healthy snacks are allowed at break times. **Snacks should not be put in children's lunchboxes. Please send them separately.** No sweets/chocolate or crisps. Water/flavoured water is allowed in school, no juice or fizzy drinks please.

Please be aware that we have children in school with serious nut allergies when giving your child a snack.

Reception class, Years 1 & 2 still receive a free piece of fruit daily.

Music Lessons

Years 4, 5 & 6 Guitar lessons - Thursday

Years 5 & 6 Violin/Viola lessons - Thursday.

Please ensure your child brings their instrument on the relevant day.



Texting Service

If you have a new mobile number or you have changes such as addresses, home numbers etc, please let the school office know as soon as possible.

Labelling Clothes

As you will appreciate, it is vital that your child's name should be on all uniform, PE kits etc, With this in mind we have a fundraising initiative called 'My Nametags'. This is a company supplying nametags for uniform and their website is www.MyNametags.com when you place your order and use our school ID which is **32911** school gets money back.

Term Dates

Holiday	Closing Date	Re-opening Date
Summer		Wednesday 2 nd September 2015
Autumn half term	Friday 23 rd October 2015	Monday 2 nd November 2015
Christmas	Tuesday 22 nd December 2015	Thursday 7 th January 2015
Spring Half Term	Friday 12 th February 2016	Monday 22 nd February 2016
Easter	Thursday 24 th March 2016	Monday 1 st April 2016
May Day Bank Holiday	Friday 29 th April 2016	Tuesday 3 rd May 2016
Summer Half term	Friday 27 th May 2016	Monday 6 th June 2016
Summer	Tuesday 19 th July 2016	To be determined

Please note that School will be closed for two further Professional Development days this school year:
Friday 27th November 2015
Friday 17th June 2016

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