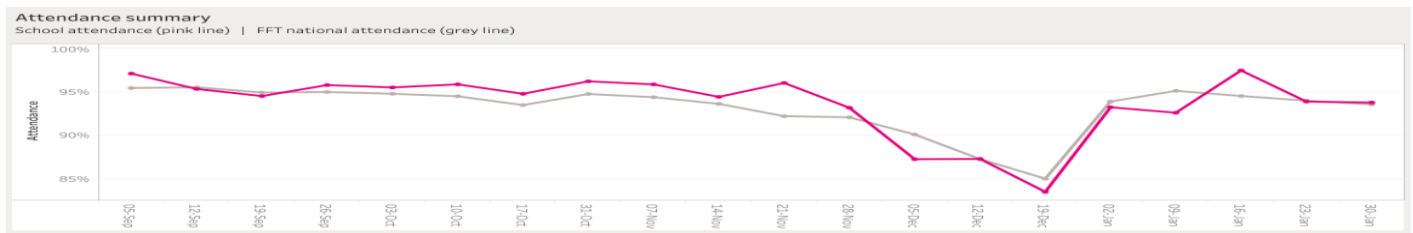




Dear Parent / Carer

As we near the end of the spring half term I would like to share some useful information and upcoming dates with you.

Attendance



The chart shows our attendance as the red line and the national average attendance as the grey line.

The attendance of our children was better than the national average for most of the autumn term; until the start of December when we were hit with winter illnesses like most schools across the country.

Both the national and our school's attendance bounced back in January and whilst we had two weeks at the start of the year our attendance was lower than the national average it has been above or similar up to the start of February.

There are still some winter illnesses circulating and we are attaching some advice to help you decide when it is appropriate to keep your child off school because of illness.

In school we still have our mid-day clean in place to wipe handles etc and we are still encouraging children to hand wash and have good respiratory hygiene; all those things that schools did during the COVID pandemic.

Please help us secure great school attendance by sending your child to school as often as possible so that our attendance can be over 95% again.

Please can you inform us via email or telephone before 9am if your child is going to be absent. You should report your child's absence everyday they are absent. If they have sickness and/or diarrhoea, they must remain at home for 48 hours after the last bout of sickness or diarrhoea. If you do not report your child's absence by 9.30am, it will be registered as an unauthorised absence and may lead to a fine. Please contact the school office if you have any queries.

Please remember that school starts at 8.50am and children should arrive by then to ensure that they are settled in class to start the school day. Children arriving after 9.05am will be registered as late and after 9.15am, unauthorised late.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

M Turner

School Funding and Teacher Strike Action

There has been one day of strike action so far this term and the next day of action is planned for Tuesday 28th February.

It is somewhat disheartening to see and hear that the media are focussing in on teacher pay. Whilst the teaching unions want to secure improved pay for their members the real issue is the lack of funding that the Government is providing for schools and this is a huge concern for school leaders and Governing Bodies across the country.

Our teachers take no pleasure in their strike action but they want the Government to listen and address the shortfall in school funding. We hope that there will a sensible outcome to the dispute so that education does not have to be disrupted.

We will let you know what is happening on the 28th when we return on the Monday 27th February.



Durham Gilesgate Primary School

School Menu changes

All school lunch menu changes must be made by a parent or carer. If your child would like to change what they have chosen, parents and carers can contact the school office to make changes. School meals are also increasing to £2.41 per day from 27th February.

School Communications

If you are not receiving school communications by email or text, please inform the school office. Please can parents and carers ensure that contact telephone numbers and emails are up to date and medical conditions too.

Important - Child's Details

Please can you ensure your child's address, contact telephone numbers, medical and dietary details are up to date. To update your child's details please see the school office for a paper copy of the required form.

Breakfast Club

In the autumn we asked you about breakfast club and we have been able to re-open this at the start of this week. In the first instance we are offering a breakfast with childcare from 8:00 am to the start of the school day and this is £2 per session per child.

School funding is very tight at the moment and we have delayed our plans for a free grab and go bagel for any child on entry to school but we will keep this decision under review once we have set our budget plans for the new financial year.

Down Syndrome Awareness Day – Tuesday 21st March

To show support and raise awareness, children can come to school wearing odd socks for Down Syndrome Awareness Day.

Parents Evening

Parents evening is taking place on Monday 6th and Tuesday 7th March. More details to follow.

Important Dates

Half Term – 18th February – 26th February – return Monday 27th February

World Book Day – Thursday 2nd March – Non-uniform – dress up optional

Parents Evening – Monday 6th & Tuesday 7th March

Down Syndrome Awareness day – 21st March – Wear odd socks

Dance Festival Y3/4 & Y4/5 – 29th March

Spring Holidays – 1st April – 17th April inclusive – return Tuesday 18th April

May Bank Holiday – 1st May

King Charles Coronation Picnic – 5th May

Additional May Bank Holiday – Monday 8th May

Year 6 SATS week – Tuesday 9th May – Friday 12th May 2023

May Half Term – 27th May – 4th June – return Monday 5th June

Summer Holidays – Last Day Friday 21st July

King Charles Coronation Picnic Day

On Friday 5th May, to celebrate King Charles' Coronation, our children can order a school picnic lunch or bring their own picnic lunch to enjoy on the school field weather permitting.

Please note there is an additional bank holiday on Monday 8th May.



World Book Day

To celebrate world book day on Thursday 2nd of March, children can come to school dressed as their favourite book character or can bring their favourite book and wear non uniform. Please do not go to any additional expense.





After School Clubs and Enrichment

Our afterschool club offer from 27th February to 31st March is:

Science Ambassador Club for the Y5 science ambassadors – Monday 3:20 – 4:20

Maths Club for KS2 children with Mrs Stringer Tuesday 3:30-4:30

Cre8 Gilesgate for KS2 with Emmanuel Church – Thursday 3.20pm – 4.30pm

French Club with Mrs Juby – Wednesday 3.20pm – 4.30pm (starting 8th March)

After half term we are also hoping to start a new Science Club, more precise details will follow after half term.



PE Timetable Spring 2

Monday

Year 1 Mrs Stubbs
Year 5/6 Mrs Matthews
Year 4/5 Swimming

Tuesday

Year 2 Mrs Stringer
Year 3/4 Miss Smithson

Wednesday

Thursday
Reception Mrs Bancroft
Year 1 and 2 Mrs Stringer

Friday

Nursery
Year 3/4. Miss Smithson
Year 4/5 Mrs Fowler
Year 5/6 Swimming

Upcoming PE Events

Mrs Stubbs our Y1 Teacher and PE Co Ordinator has arranged some exciting events for our children to attend and take part in.

Please see them listed below and more details will follow.

Spring Term 2 – 27th February – 31st March

6th, 7th, 8th & 9th Y5 & Y6 Bike Ability – letters previously sent home.

7th March Reception Maiden Castle -We're Going on a Bear Hunt – Afternoon

9th March Reception, Y3/4 & Y4/5 Judo – PE kits to be worn

10th March Y1, Y2 & Y5/6 Judo – PE kits to be worn

10th March Y4 Bike Ability – letters previously sent home

29th March Y3/4 & Y4/5 Dance Festival at the Gala

30th R- Y6 Intrasport Festival

Summer 1 - 17th April – 26th May

20th April Wellbeing Day in school

4th May Reception – Y6 Hoopstarz Day

17th May – Colour Run in school

23rd May – Y2 Multi Skills Festival afternoon

Summer 2 - 5th June – 21st July

8th June Y6 Walk & Talk programme Thursday Mornings for 6 weeks

20th June Y5/6 Quidditch Festival afternoon

13th July Rounders Day

Sports Day TBC

Road Safety and Parking

Please park in the streets away from the school gates and the garages and walk the last little bit into school. Parking is becoming a concern and a health and safety risk, particularly at pick up time. We do not want to see any child or parent injured as a result of parking habits. Residents in School View have complained to the local council because vehicles are blocking access to their street. There will be parking wardens making random spot checks and handing fines out. Please help us keep your children safe by parking away from the gates, the garages and the narrow road to School View.