



AUTUMN TERM NEWSLETTER

Dear Parent / Carer

The autumn term has started well and the children are settled and working hard in their respective classes, as we approach half term I thought it would be good to inform you of some developments and to clarify some dates.

School attendance is currently a little lower than the national attendance this is partly because of a sickness bug. We are reminding children to wash their hands (like we did during COVID) to prevent spreading germs. Please reinforce this message at home too so that we can get on top of the illness and stop it spreading further. The school website has an attendance page where there is a link to the current NHS advice re common illnesses. This is a good starting point for parents if your child is ill.

Whilst, on the topic of illness we are in the process of reviewing our management of medication policy and will update you after October half term with the changes. As a sneak preview we will be able to administer prescribed medication where the dose is three times a day, we will also be holding a secure stock of calpol/paracetamol and will ask you to complete a permission form so we can administer this if needed. This will mean that if your child had tooth ache (or similar) we will give you a call and administer the calpol with you permission. It will mean that you don't have to come to school to do so and we hope this is a change that you find useful.

One final think as a reminder; it was chilly this morning and there was a light frost. Please make sure your child has their coat and winter shoes when coming to school so that they are not cold at playtime.

Kind regards
Mark Turner

Attendance

A big thank you for sending your children to school every day possible; please keep this going in the lead up to the Christmas, so that our school attendance remains in line with or above the national average.

Reporting Absence

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. Please contact the school office if you have any queries.

Punctuality

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.



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 now £2.50 per day from 1st September. The new menu starts on Tuesday 7th November.

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.

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.



Reception and Nursery Places – September 2024

To apply for a Reception place for your child to start in September 2024, please complete the application form on

www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions

Closing date is Monday 15th January 2024.

Our Nursery also has availability please contact the office for information.

Y7 Applications – September 2024

Parents can make their application for Secondary School online by

visiting www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions

The Closing Date for Secondary School

Applications is the Tuesday 31st October 2023.

Outdoor clothing

Could all parents and carers ensure that all children come to school with a suitable outdoor coat as we are outside in all weathers.

When possible please send hats, scarves and gloves too.

Breakfast Club

We continue to offer a breakfast with childcare from 8:00 am to the start of the school day and this is £2 per session per child.



Children in Need – Friday 17th November 2023

To raise money for Children in Need we will be holding a nonuniform day on Friday 17th November. Suggested donation £1 per family.





**Durham Gilesgate
Primary School**

Important Dates – More information to follow

Wednesday 18th October – Y1 Gymnastics Festival

Tuesday 24th October – Y2 Halloween Themed Festival

Tuesday 24th October – Y1-Y6 Movie Night Elemental

Friday 27th October – Spooky Day Non-uniform – fancy dress optional

28th October – return Tuesday 7th November - Half Term

Friday 10th November – Reception – Y6 Flu Vaccine

Mon 13th & Tue 14th November – Y1-Y6 Parents Evening – appointment letters to be sent out at a later date - EYFS Mon 13th & Wed 15th Nov.

Friday 17th November Children in Need – Non-Uniform

Friday 24th November - Panto Y1 – Y6 Durham Gala

Wednesday 6th December – Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 6th December - Christmas Jumper Day

WC Monday 11th December – KS1 Christmas Performances (date TBA) - More details to follow.

Friday 15th December–Nursery 3s and Reception Christmas Performance - More details to follow.

Friday 15th December –KS2 Carol Service (Y3,4,5,6)-More details to follow

Monday 18th December - EYFS Party – Morning

Monday 18th December - Y5 and Y6 Party - Afternoon

Tuesday 19th December - Y3 and Y4 Party– Morning

Tuesday 19th December – Y1 and Y2 Party - Afternoon

Christmas Holidays – Last Day Tuesday 19th December

Return to school – Thursday 4th January 2024

Dance Festival 7th February – 9th February – details TBC

Spooky Day – Friday 27th October

Friday 27th October is our last day before October half term and children can come to school in non-uniform or spooky fancy dress. Please do not go to any additional expense. We are raising money for our school fund and ask for a voluntary donation £1 per family donation.



Sleeping Beauty at Durham Gala Theatre

It's nearly that time of year again (oh no it isn't). Our Year 1 to 6 children will have the opportunity to enjoy Panto at the Gala Theatre in Durham. Uniform is to be worn with comfortable shoes. The children are attending the afternoon performance on Friday 24th November and will arrive back to school approximately 4.15pm.

Y1-Y6 Autumn Movie Night

On Tuesday 24th October from 3.20pm – 5.15pm our Y1 to Y6 children are invited to attend our Autumn Movie night. The movie is Disney's Elemental. Tickets are available from Tuesday 17th October and are £1.00 per child. Children can bring spending money if they would like to buy sweets from the tuck shop. Children are to come to school in uniform.



Christmas Post Box

Our Christmas post box will be available from Monday 27th November to Friday 15th December. Please remember to include the year group on the envelope.

