

Dear Parent or Carer,

I hope that you all had a great Christmas and New Year. The start of term has been really positive and it has been lovely to see so many of our children back in school with smiling faces.

The second part of the autumn term saw a variety of winter illnesses pass through the school which has brought our overall attendance down. The holiday seems to have acted as a breaker and attendance is improving again. Can I refer you the NHS guidance "Is My Child Too Ill for School?"; you can Google this or find a link on the attendance page of the school website. The guidance provides advice on a range of childhood illnesses and lets you know if your child can still attend school or not. I would like to reassure you that the NHS and the Chief Medical Officer say it is usually appropriate for parents and carers to send their children to school with mild respiratory illnesses, including general cold symptoms like a minor cough, runny nose or sore throat.

Last week I was also able to give bronze 100% attendance awards to children who had perfect attendance over the autumn term. I hope that when we reach the Easter break I will be able to give out some silver 100% awards for two terms of perfect attendance and also some more 100% awards for perfect attendance from January to Easter.

You may have heard that in 2024 the DfE is changing the criteria for 2 Year old places so that more children become eligible for 15 hours of 2 Year old education. We are going to circulate a questionnaire to see what parents want from our 2 Year old and nursery provision. If lots of parents want this we may be able to offer afternoon places. Our questionnaire will also ask you about before and after school child care; if parents want this facility we may be able to offer it if there is sufficient demand.

Please look out for the questionnaire, which will be circulated later in the month and if you have friends or neighbours with very young children, you can come and get a questionnaire for them too.

Finally, after last week's letter regarding a parent vacancy on the Governing Body we have two parents who have put themselves forward. It is great that parents want to be actively involved in our fantastic school but it means that we will have to hold a ballot; so please look out for the information that is coming out shortly and return this with your vote.

Kind regards

Mark Turner

We love to acknowledge and reward to good attendance of children. Each week, if a child has been in school every day they will get a 100% attendance sticker and we give a silver trophy to the class with the best attendance that week.

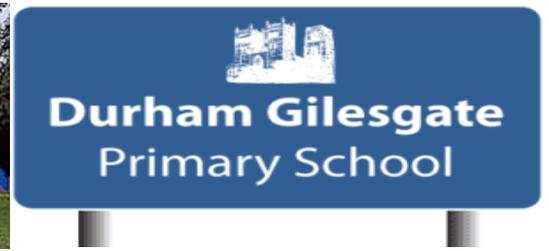
We have introduced 100% attendance badges at bronze, silver and gold level.

Children who have 100% attendance in the autumn term will be awarded with a bronze badge. If they continue with perfect attendance in the spring and then summer terms they will achieve silver and gold badges respectively.

If a child has been absent in the autumn they can still achieve their bronze badge or bronze and then silver badge with perfect attendance in the spring and summer term. Children with perfect attendance in the summer term only will earn a bronze badge.

The photograph shows the bronze badge winners from autumn term 2023.





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 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.



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.



Down Syndrome Awareness Day – Thursday 21st March

To show support and raise awareness, children can come to school wearing odd socks for Down Syndrome Awareness Day on 21st March.



Wellbeing Day – Monday 22nd January

On Monday 22nd January, our children are taking part in Wellbeing sessions during the school day. Can all children come to school in their PE kit on and wear suitable footwear.

If you care share day

Children can come into school in non-uniform on Wednesday 7th February to promote positive mental health. The children can wear an item of clothing inside out to encourage children to share their feelings. Suggested donation £1.00 per family.

World Book Day

To celebrate world book day on Thursday 7th 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.





**Durham Gilesgate
Primary School**

PE Days

Spring 1 - 4th January – 16th February

Monday

Year 1

Y5/6

Tuesday

Year 4/5

Year 3/4.

Wednesday

Year 2

Year 5/6.

Thursday

Reception

Year 4/5. Swimming

Year 1

Year 2

Friday

Nursery

Year 3/4.

Important Dates

Thursday **25th January** – Y5/6 Nissan Trip

Wednesday **7th February** – Whole School - If you care share – non uniform/inside out

Friday **9th February** Dance Club performing at the Gala Theatre Dance Festival

Monday **19th February** – return Monday **26th February** - Half Term

Thursday **7th March**-Whole School - World Book Day - Non-uniform/dress up optional

Monday **18th March** – Y1-6 Afterschool – Spring Disco

Thursday **21st March** – Down Syndrome Awareness day - Wear odd socks

Fri **29th March** Inclusive – return Tuesday **16th April** - Spring Holidays

Monday **6th May** - May Bank Holiday

Monday **6^h May – 10th May** - Deaf Awareness Week

Monday **13th May** – Thursday **16th May** Year 6 SATS week

Monday **27th May** – return Monday **3rd June** - May Half Term

Monday **10th June** Year 1 Phonic Screening Test Week

Tuesday **23rd July** - Last Day - Summer Holidays

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. Children must wear their PE kits with suitable footwear.

Please see them listed below and more details will follow.

Spring Term 1 – 4th January – 16th February

Tuesday **16th January** Y4/5 Team Building

Monday **22nd January** Whole School – Wellbeing Day

Tuesday **30th January** Y3/4 Multi Skills Festival

Friday **9th February** Dance Club performing at the Gala Theatre Dance Festival

Spring Term 2 – 26th February – 28th March

Tuesday **12th March** Reception Maiden Castle -We're Going on a Bear Hunt
More events to follow

Spring Disco

On Monday 18th March 3.20pm – 4.30pm our Y1 to Y6 children can attend the Spring Disco. Tickets are available from the school office for £2.00 per child which will include admission and a pizza square with a drink. Children can bring spending money if they would like to buy sweets from the tuck shop. Tickets available at a later date.

