



October 2016 Newsletter

14th October 2016

Dates to remember:

St Helen Auckland Community
Primary School
St Helen Auckland
Bishop Auckland
County Durham
DL14 9EN
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Parents Meetings:

Monday 17th October 2.45 pm Year FS2, Year 2 and Year 6
11.00am Nursery and 2's **stay and play**
2.15pm Nursery and 2's **stay and play**
Tuesday 18th October 2:45 pm Year 1 and Year 4
Wednesday 19th October 2:45 pm Year 3 and Year 5

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Please come and find out what the children have been learning so far this half term, how to support them at home particularly with phonics and spelling and any targets they are working on. Children from Reception to Y6 will have a mini report to let you know how they have settled into their new class. Their will be activities for you to join in with the children looking at the difference of having a closed mindset and a growth mindset—something we are working on with the children.

School Photographs

These will take place on Wednesday 23rd November for children in school. We will send out slips nearer the time for you to consider if you wish your child to be photographed and if so if it is with other family members in school or / and alone. It is not for children not in our school.

Upcoming dates:

- * Break up for Half Term
21.10.16
- * Return 31.10.16
- * School photographs
23.10.16
- * Book week 1st—3rd
November
- * Friendship Week & Children in Need
- * Break up for Christmas
16.12.16

Book Week

We will have the school Book Fayre in school when we return after the Half Term Holidays. Children will have the opportunity to look at the books in school time and the books will be available to purchase after school on 1st, 2nd and 3rd November.

Friendship Week

Advanced warning!! Christmas Dates:

Monday 12th December—Christmas Concert 1.15
Tuesday 13th December—Christmas Concert 9.30
Wednesday 14th December—Christmas Dinner (FS2—Y6)

Attendance

Just to remind everyone we monitor everyone's attendance on a regular basis and reward those each week with 100% attendance with a special sticker. The class with the highest attendance each week has the opportunity to receive dinner first on the 'Top Table'.

If you have any concerns with your child's attendance or want any help around getting your child to school on time please contact Paula or Jan our Learning Mentors and Parent Support.

Any child who has attendance under 90% in 3 rolling terms is now in the category of persistent absentee and school has a duty to bring this to parent / carer's attention, offer support and refer on to other agencies.

May I also remind ALL families that no holidays in term time will be granted and only exceptional circumstances will be considered. Taking your child out of school will decrease their attendance and could result in a fine.

Staffing News

Welcome to our new Office Manager, Mrs Bonas. She has settled in well to the challenging job of keeping us all organised. I know you will all welcome her and be patient with her as she learns new systems and everyone's names.

We will be interviewing for our new Deputy Headteacher on Monday 26th September and as soon as I am able I will let you know who the successful candidate is. In the meantime we are all very grateful to Mrs Elmes for covering this role.

We will be having teaching students in school again this year. Mr Randall is currently joining us and will be working with the children throughout school.

Gentle reminders

Children need P.E. kits in school on the following days this term:

Monday— Year 1 and Year 6

Tuesday—Year 3, Year 2 and Year 5

Wednesday—Year 1, Foundation 2 and Year 3

Thursday Year 2, Year 6 and Year 5

Friday—Foundation 2 and Year 4

We do recommend children get into the routine of bringing them in on Monday and taking them home on Friday.

Gentle Reminders continued

No jewellery to be worn except one pair of smooth round studs and a watch if needed in KS2.

Black school shoes to be worn by all pupils in school. Coloured trainers are not suitable. Children and families need to be careful around the scaffolding whilst the roof repairs are continuing.

Please be careful if you are dropping off and collecting children in cars. Double parking is a safety concern and the Police will periodically be monitoring this. I am sure you will all want to make sure the roads and footpaths are safe for all around school.

Safety on line

We have been asked to advise parents on KIK messenger—a popular app for some pupils. The Police are warning it is being used by offenders to groom children to obtain indecent photos and videos. It has a minimum age of 13 and as with all technology parents should manage children's use through privacy settings. If you need any assistance with this please ask a member of staff.

Shoe Box Appeal

We will be having an assembly in the next few weeks talking to the children about ways we can support vulnerable and needy children in other areas of the world through the Shoe Box Appeal. We will send out more information to families after the Assembly.

Applications for school places

We have given out information to Year 6 for parents to fill in their on line applications for secondary school.

We have also given out information for all parents of children who will be eligible for a Reception (Foundation 2) school place next September. If children are attending our Nursery they still need to apply for a school place for here or in another school.

School Support

It would be good to remind everyone that from time to time children and families may need extra help. In school we have access to the following:

- Counselling Service
- Therapeutic Drawing Talking Sessions—in school
- Targetted 1:1 Support and small group support with our Learning mentor in school
- 3 day programmes at The Centre to support a range of subjects including behaviour, friendship, emotions, self esteem, bullying, nurturing and anger
- Learning support—if you feel your child may have a specific difficulty with an area of learning
- The Educational Psychologist if you and school feel a more formal assessment may assist us in supporting your child's educational needs.

Please speak to any member of staff if you feel any of these may help.

We are also sending out this week Flyers for KipMcGrath English and Maths tutoring that Miss Richardson has set up in the Bishop Auckland area if that is of any help to any family concerned about a child's progress aged 4—16.

We have made a really positive start to a new academic year and thank you to all families for supporting school in many ways. It is very much appreciated by all staff.

Job opportunity

Fr McTeer is advertising for a Children's Worker 4 hours a week to deliver interactive play and craft sessions once a week.

There is also a Cook advertised for 4 hours a week to serve lunch to the Lunch Club and Jolly Tots.

We have information in school for anyone interested.

Maeve Mackenzie

Head Teacher