



May 2017 Newsletter

15th May 2017

Dates to remember for the Summer Term:

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Primary School
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Half Term: This is the week 29th May to the 2nd June

Professional Development day: Monday 5th June—closed to children

Children return to school on **Tuesday 6th June**

Health Bus:

The school Nurse has organised for a Health Bus to be at school the morning of 7th June. Children will have the opportunity to have health sessions in there but it will also be available for any parents and carers who would like to drop in for support or advice.

Father's Day Meal:

This will take place for any male carers of children on Friday 16th June. We will send out an invitation next week with all children of school age who stay for dinner.

Year 6 news:

Congratulations to all Year 6 children for their fantastic attitude to their SAT's—you are a credit to your families. End of school Photographs will be on the 21st June for the class.

Year 6 Panto / Leavers Assembly—10.15am Friday 21st July, all welcome.

Year 5 Curriculum Week:

This is taking place the week beginning 26th June where the children get the opportunity to experience lessons and activities in 3 of our local Secondary Schools to enhance their learning experiences.

Advanced warning!! End of Term Dates:

Sports Days week beginning 10th July

Parents Meetings:: week beginning 10th July

Y6 Transition

Transition :

Y6— 12th, 13th, 14th July

School Transition to new classes Friday 14th July

New Starters into school | (FS2) - The meeting for parents takes place after Star of the Week Assembly on Friday 14th July at 9.40. Any parents who are still unsure if their child has a place here please contact the School Office.

Proms on the Yard—19th July at 2.00pm. Weather permitting on the school playground. If it is wet we will be in the hall.

Teddy Bears Picnic— this will follow the Assembly on Friday 21st July for all children having a dinner in school.

Inside this issue:

Attendance	2
Staffing and Gov- ernor news	2
Reminders	2
Reminders	3
Assessments	3
Fundraising	3
Class news	4
Day for Change	4

Key Dates:

- * Break up for Half Term
26.05.17 Return
06.06.17
- * Health bus 07.06.17
- * Father's day meal
16.06.17

Attendance

Thank you to all our children and families who have really put the effort in to improve their child's attendance or lateness. It is slowly improving and there has been a vast improvement in lateness which is really helping classes have a calm start to the day. Rachael is now back as our PSA and works Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday if anyone wants any help or support in this or any other areas.

March and April's combined Attendance:

FS 2	95.2%	Top Table Winners:	
Yr 1	94.5%	03.03.17	Y3 & 4 97%
Yr 2	95.3%	10.03.17	Y3 99.2%
Yr 3	95.3%	17.03.17	Y4 100%
Yr 4	98.9% 	24.03.17	Y 4 100%
Yr 5	95.5%	29.03.17	Y4 99%
Yr 6	95.2%	07.03.17	Y4 97.6%
		28.04.17	Y4 97.6%

Congratulations to Year 4 an amazing achievement!

Please help us try and achieve a school attendance of 96% this year. We hover around 95% and need to try to get it at the expected % as directed by the DfE. It is one of the indicators Ofsted use to judge a school.

Staffing News

We are delighted to have Rachael return from Maternity Leave and she is very happy to see any families and offer a listening ear, support, advice or help sign post you to other agencies and professionals. She is in school Monday, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

The School Crossing Patrol position is currently being advertised on the County Website if anyone is interested in applying for this post.

Our new Parent Governor, following the ballot is Nicola Smith. Congratulations to Nicola and thank you to all who voted for either candidate.

Gentle reminders

Clothing—now the weather is trying to be warm and sunny the children will be removing jumpers and cardigans. Can we ask that all uniform contains the child's name to save any upset if they go home with the wrong child.

Sunny Days!— All children in Early Years should have a completed consent form to allow the application of sun cream through the day. We recommend for all children on days we know to be sunny that the **once a day** cream is applied before school. Older children in school can bring sun cream and administer it themselves if handed to the teacher to look after. Hats on for everyone and we encourage water bottles for children in school though we have water available for the children at all times.

P.E. Kits—now we are able to go outside can all children have suitable P.E. kits and trainers so they can safely join in all lessons without having to wear old kits we have in school.

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.

Citizens of the week— we continue to welcome any nominations from family members or members of the community for those children who have demonstrated being a good Citizen and supporting others within the wider Community. This maybe by helping others, promoting and acknowledging the rights of other children or caring for the environment. We welcome your nominations.

Pick up times: Please can families adhere to the correct collection times for their children wherever possible and contact school in advance if these need to change in an emergency.

Assessments in school

Year 6 have now completed their SATs tests and the papers have been sent off for marking. The results should be back in school ready for their school reports which will go out to all families the Friday before the parents meetings.

Year 2 children are tested but it is done in a very informal way as part of their normal lessons and activities with Mrs Elmes. This is to support us with our own Teacher Assessments.

Year 1 children have a very short phonics test to complete the week beginning 12th June and the outcomes are reported to the LA and DfE. Any children in Y2 who did not pass this test last year are expected to complete it again this year.

All other classes in school will follow our current assessment procedures to help us identify children's achievements at the end of the year.

Foundation Stage have end of FS outcomes that have to be reported to the LA and DfE but this is information gained from direct work in class and NOT from any tests and is kept in their profile files. All children aged 2—5 have Profile Files and are available for families to view at any time.

School Fundraising

We have now got a lovely bike shelter that was fitted last week by a local building firm. The money to transport and install it came from your fundraising contributions.

We have also bought new parent notice boards that will be installed over the half term holiday.

Thank you for all that you do to support school and enable us to keep improving.

Class News

Foundation 1:

We have been planting seeds and exploring the garden as it grows. We are digging and watering and looking after our plants.

Foundation 2:

We have been to Bowes Museum and followed this up with art work in class. We have also explored the delights of Venice and made our own tasty Pizzas. We are soon to be going on a trip to the local Fire Station and also have a visit from the Community Police as we are looking at people who help us and their jobs in the community.

Year 1:

We will be visiting Preston Park Museum to take part in the Toys from the Past Workshop. At the moment we have a teaching student helping us with our learning called Clair Sammut.

Year 3:

What a lucky class we are, we went to see Gangster Granny at Sunderland Empire as part of our Literacy work. We have also had a visit to the Oriental Museum to learn even more about Ancient Greece.

Year 4:

We are taking part in an art project run by King James around the subject of the Secret Garden. All school entries will be part of an exhibition later in the term. We are also looking forward to finding out more about Castles on our visit to Raby Castle.

Year 5:

We will be travelling to the Rainforest shortly but won't need our passport as it is at the Winter Gardens in Sunderland!

Year 6:

We are all so proud of Year 6 for their effort and smiles during SATs—now its time to enjoy the rest of your year. We will be having a fun trip to Seven Stories in Newcastle and also will be looking for sponsors to complete the 5 mile Race for Life.

Rights Respecting School—day for Change 24th May

As a school we are actively promoting and teaching Unicef Conventions on Rights of The Child. It is central to all we do at school and we encourage the children to promote and support this within the local community. We also offer opportunities for children to find out about the challenges children have across the Globe. This year Unicef are fundraising on their day for change to provide life-saving food and care for malnourished children.

On 24th May we will be challenging classes to see who can create the longest line of coins to help fund raise. Any spare change should be brought into school on between Monday and Wednesday to support this cause. Thank you.

We break up for half term on 26th May at 3pm and children return on Tuesday 6th June

Maeve Mackenzie

Head Teacher