



October 2017 Newsletter

9th October 2017

Dates to remember:

Parents Meetings:

Monday 16th 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 17th October	2:45 pm Year 1 and Year 4
Wednesday 18th October	2:45 pm Year 3 and Year 5

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Come and find out how exercise and keeping active can help keep our brains developing whatever our age. If you would like to discuss specific concerns following this session please feel free to make an appointment with the teacher. The children's books will be available for you to look at with your child following the class presentation. Foundation Stage Profile Files will be available during the stay and play sessions in the Nursery.

Half Term begins on Friday 20th October at 3.00pm and we return to school on Tuesday 31st October. Monday 30th is a training day for the staff.

Influenza Vaccinations Thursday 2nd November for FS2, Year 1, 2, 3 and 4. Letters and consent forms have been issued to all involved.

Friendship Week (Anti Bullying Week) Week beginning 13th November.

Scholastic Book Fare from Friday 24th of November Please come along and look at our great range of books. School receives commission on all sales and this provides us with new books for school.

School Photographs These will take place on Thursday 30th November for children in school.

Christmas

Upcoming

- * Break up for Half Term 20.10.17
 - * Return 31.10.17
 - * Children in Need 17.11.17
 - * Break up for Christmas 22.12.17
- Monday 18th December - Christmas Performance 1.30 and Christmas songs for 2 year olds
- Tuesday 19th December - Christmas Performance 9.30 and 1.30
- Wednesday 20th December - Christmas Dinner (FS2 to Y6)
- Wednesday 20th December - Nursery morning Party
- Thursday 21st December— In school Pantomime and Parties including Nursery Afternoon
- Friday 22nd December—Christingle in the Church in the afternoon
- Break up for Christmas returning on Monday 8th January

Helping School:

Disability Living Allowance:

Please could you let us know via the office if your child is in receipt of DLA as we need to include this information in our school data and in doing so the school can claim a small amount of money as a one off payment to help make any adjustments or purchase any resources that may help your child in school. Thank you.

Change of phone numbers and contacts:

Please help us communicate with you efficiently by informing us of any change in contact phone numbers, addresses or other family circumstances.

Naming school clothes:

We understand how frustrating it is when a child comes home without their full uniform which they arrived in. Please help them by putting names in ALL clothes. We currently have a couple of boxes full of coats, tops and jumpers that we have exhausted trying to find who they belong to. We will put them out during parents meeting week incase anyone can claim them.

Health and Safety

Sickness bug:

It is that time of year when all the nasty bugs are flying around. We are aware that they can be picked up from anywhere but once in school they can spread rapidly. We are reminding the children of the importance of washing their hands and using tissues when they sneeze and cough. We have special spray to clean surfaces and door handles which kills germs. If your child is vomiting they need stay off school for up to 48 hours following the last bout of sickness.

Head bumps:

If your child has a bump to their head or a facial injury that may leave a bump or graze we will contact you and let you know. If further first aid is required from a medical professional we will say but in most instances we are happy to look after your child in school. Children with head bumps will have a sticker to let all staff know incase any symptoms occur. All children receiving any first aid will come home with a first aid slip to inform you. Please ensure we have current contact numbers in case of an emergency.

Energy Drinks—Did you know?

They are high in sugar, caffeine, ginseng and guarana (which are simulants). They can contain caffeine equivalent to 2 cups of coffee and as much sugar as 6 donuts.

Children should have no more than 5% of sugars (equivalent to 5 –6 sugar cubes 19g-24g). 1 can = 15 sugar cubes.

Links have been found between children's consumption of energy drinks and health complaints of headaches, stomach aches, tooth decay and sleeping problems.

Energy drink = hyperactivity, poor attention and poor academic performance.

Health and Safety—continued

NSPCC - Protecting our children

In the last few weeks all the children took part in an assembly delivered by the NSPCC to help them stay safe and provide them with the tools and voice to tell if they need to. Talk to your child and find out what they learnt.

School Priorities 2017 - 2018

I thought you may like to know what some of the school priorities are this year. These are decided following the analysis of academic outcomes in school, parent questionnaires, local issues and national priorities.

- **Reading**—retrieval of correct information. So we have introduced a reading skills session daily like the SPAG and Mathematics. We have also bought into and are now using Accelerated Reader.
- **Phonics**—this is improving year on year but is below the national figure. We have changed the way we deliver phonics throughout school.
- **Writing**—we need to support our more able pupils to use all their skills and knowledge to produce more complex writing.
- **Maths**—some of our children and in particular our girls are not achieving higher skills (greater depth) as they are lacking confidence. We need to give them more ambitious targets.
- **Health and wellbeing**—we need to provide more opportunities for children to engage in physical activities.
- **Persistent Absentees** and attendance—despite all our best efforts this continues to be an area of challenge. We need to continue to work with all families to understand the impact of absence and lateness on their child's education as well as the impact on the class teacher trying to support the child to catch up.

We appreciate everything you do to support us in continually trying to improve our school especially with the learning logs and attending activities in school.

Support from The Centre

It has come to my attention that a fantastic facility we have attached to our school is perceived by some as negative. This causes me great concern as I cannot imagine why an opportunity to support our children with social, emotional or friendship worries could be anything other than a positive.

They offer 3 day programmes in the following areas:

Nurturing, Self esteem, Friendship, Anger, Emotions and General Behaviour concerns.



Staff and parents can request a referral to The Centre. They also work in class on friendships and have trained our Anti Bullying Ambassadors.

They will also work with students whose behaviour is a greater cause for concern through a restorative approach and allowing the child to take responsibility for their actions. This is, however, a very small part of their work.

I hope you will all be reassured and spread the word that this is a highly valued resource for our school as well as the other Primary Schools in Bishop Auckland.

Attendance

September's attendance:

FS 2	92.9%	
Yr 1	97.9%	
Yr 2	96.3%	
Yr 3	95.1%	
Yr 4	96.2%	
Yr 5	96.5%	
Yr 6	97.5%	

Top Table Winners:

08.09.17 Year 1 and Y2—100%
15.09.17 Year 1, Year 5 & Year 6—100%
22.09.17 Year 6—97.3%
29.09.17 Year 4—99.6%

Congratulations to Year 1 and Year 6

Gong to Foundation 2 - keep trying to improve

Thank you to all families who have helped us make a positive start to our attendance. If you require any help with your child's attendance or problems with morning routines please contact Rachael our PSA who will try to help.

Government attendance Target is set at 95%. Anyone with 90% or under is considered a persistent absentee and will need to provide medical evidence for any absences and may be subject to further action from The Attendance And Inclusion Team.

Maeve Mackenzie

Head Teacher