



# September 2017 Newsletter

6th September 2017

Welcome back to everyone. I hope it was a happy, enjoyable Summer Holiday and that the children are all rested and ready for the new academic year.

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## Dates to remember:

### Parents Meetings:

Monday 16th October	2.45 pm	Year FS2, Year 2 and Year 6
	11.00am	Nursery and 2's <b>stay and play</b>
	2.15pm	Nursery and 2's <b>stay and play</b>
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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You will get a chance to hear practical ways to support your child with their academic progress as well as getting the most out of their time at school. You will also be able to see how they have settled into their new class and talk to the staff. 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

These nasal spray vaccines have been planned for Thursday 2nd November for FS2, Year 1, 2, 3 and 4. Letters and consent forms to follow.

### Friendship Week (Anti Bullying Week)

This will take place the week beginning 13th November.

### School Photographs

These will take place on Thursday 30th 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

- \* Break up for Half Term  
20.10.17
- \* Return 31.10.17
- \* Break up for Christmas  
22.12.17

## Advanced warning!! Christmas Dates:

Monday 18th December—Christmas Performance 1.30

- Christmas songs for 2 year olds—

Tuesday 19th December—Christmas Performance 9.30 and 1.30

Wednesday 20th December—Christmas Dinner ( FS2—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

## Staffing News

We are really please to welcome Mrs McGeary back to our school. She will be teaching Year 5 and Year 6 with Miss Parker.

Miss Neil will be starting her maternity leave this term and we will be advertising the temporary position shortly. If anyone knows a fantastic candidate to step into her shoes please let them know.

I am aware that we still do not have a crossing patrol and the position was still being advertised in the holidays—it is on the Durham Website if anyone is interested. In the meantime please take great care using the crossings as it is very busy at times outside the building.

## 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 Rachael our 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.

**The overall attendance for school aged children last year was 94.7%.** This sits below the Government expectations of between 95 %and 96%. Once again this year we are going to have to work hard to improve this.

## APP for your phones

We will soon be able to offer you an APP for your phones that will allow you to access news, newsletters and information quickly from school. This may be of benefit for those of you that use your mobile phones frequently.

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## 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. Last year we contributed a significant number of boxes to the appeal demonstrating the empathy and generosity of you all.

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## Old Pound coins

The old round pound coins will cease to be legal tender from 15th October. Please make sure that you use up any old ones you have before this date as it will be complicated to accept them in school after this date.

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## Packed Lunches

The Local Authority has produced some new up to date guidance and a policy that we have adopted in line with the school food trust. Copies of guidance and the policy will be given to all children bringing in food from home to help you adhere to the conditions set out. Please be aware that there are some foods that will not be allowed in packed lunches.

We need 2 weeks notice to move children from a dinner to packed lunches or visa versa as the food will already have been ordered based on current numbers.

## Gentle reminders

- Please label all children's clothes and especially jumpers and cardigans
  - School starts at 8.50 prompt
  - No holidays in term time can be granted
  - Remind children not to ride bikes and scooters across the playground
  - Dogs, smoking, unkind language and behaviours are not allowed on the yard
  - We would love to hear about acts of kindness and citizenship from the children outside of school. They can be nominated for Citizen of the Week.
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## 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
- Lego therapy—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
- Emotion wellbeing support—this may benefit children who need more support with their self esteem and if they are feeling vulnerable
- The Educational Psychologist if you and school feel a more formal assessment may assist us in supporting your child's educational needs.
- Rachael is available to support parents/ carers Monday to Wednesday. I will always make every effort to see anyone straight away if at all possible. If not you can make an appointment at the office. We will always do our best to offer support and advice where we can or signpost you to other professionals if more appropriate.

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

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## P.E times

These are the current P.E. days for the classes but it is always advisable for kits to be brought in on Monday and returned for washing on a Friday as sessions can change:

Monday—Year 1 and Year 6

Tuesday—Year 2 , Year 3 and Foundation 2

Wednesday—Year 1, Year 5 and swimming for Year 4

Thursday—Year 5, Year 3 and Year 2

Friday—Foundation 2 and Year 4

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**Maeve Mackenzie**

**Head Teacher**