

Good Afternoon

One week back to our very short half term and we have the benefit of a long weekend already. Don't forget Monday is a bank holiday so the children will return on Tuesday 3rd May.

Tests

I mentioned before Easter all the statutory testing that will be happening this term. Here is a reminder:

- Year 1 Phonic Screening **week beginning 6th June**
- Year 2 Statutory Assessment Tests (SATS) **during May**
- Year 4 Multiplications Check **to be completed in June (3-week period of time)**
- Year 6 Statutory Assessment Tests (SATS):
 - Monday 9th May - Grammar Punctuation and Spelling
 - Tuesday 19th May - Reading
 - Wednesday 11th - Maths papers 1&2
 - Thursday 12th - Maths Paper 3

It will be vital that absences are kept to significant illnesses and not time off for other reasons to give your child the best chance to show what they have learnt.

Electronic Scooters

I have attached some information we have been sent by Durham Constabulary for parents on safety using electronic scooters. Please take the time to read it if you have one in your household.

New beginnings

It has been a big week in school with the appointment of Mrs Elmes to take over as Headteacher in September. Well done to all the children for once again showcasing what a fantastic school we are. Everyone from the other candidates, to the Governors and Local Authority staff in attendance commented on the wonderful environment, polite and respectful children and friendly but purposeful learning atmosphere.

We have been looking at the new beginning of starting a new term and what we are aiming to achieve by the end of the year. We compared it to the saying 'April Showers brings forth May Flowers' - without the rain (or hard work) we can't have the flowers (achievements). The lovely Cherry Blossom at the front of school helped us see what a joy this can be.

We are going to focus the rest of the assemblies on the Core Aspect of British Values to promote good citizenship in school and the community. Don't forget we love to hear and celebrate when

children have demonstrated this at home and out in the community with our Citizen Award. I have attached a little poster we have in school to explain the 5 elements.

Outside Learning and Physical Activities

The Foundation Stage outside areas was completed in the Easter holidays and today the finishing touches are being finalised. The children have responded really well to having a more purposeful, nature friendly space to play and explore.

Grab a Grown Up

This is for Mrs Airey's class during the Summer Term. One adult can come and join their child with the session on a Thursday from 9-10am (this may be too long so it may be a bit shorter). The children will come into school for the register and if the weather is reasonable / good it will be on the main playground. The adult will be joining in so bringing younger children or pushchairs isn't suitable.

PE timetable for this Half Term:

Monday

Year 2 Kwick Cricket; Y3 Kwick Cricket

Tuesday

Year 5 Swimming; Y1 Striking and Fielding; Y2 Kwick Cricket

Wednesday

Blast for Y4; Y5; Y6

Y4 Kwick Cricket; Y6 Table Tennis

Thursday

Grab a Grown up FS2; y1 Striking and Fielding; Y3 Kwick Cricket

Friday

Y6 Table Tennis; Y4 Tri-Golf (festival preparation)

School Places

All children due to start school this September 22 will have been allocated their school place. If you know of anyone who hasn't realised they need to apply or who have moved into the area they can ring admission to sort out applying for a place. If you have been informed that your child has a place to start in our school we will be writing to you shortly to start the process and look at good ways to aid transition. Admissions number is: 03000265896

Nursery Places

You will have heard on the news and documentaries the great concern for the youngest of our children following all the restrictions and lockdowns. They are behind in social skills, communication and physical development in particular. The more opportunities they can have to compensate for what was lost in their early development the better. We have spaces in Nursery for children if you are considering sending your child or are aware of anyone thinking about this. Get in touch with school and one of the Early Years staff can talk to you and offer a look around if you need your mind put at rest or help to make up your mind if you are worried. It has been a difficult time and we are aware that some families are choosing not to send children to Early Years settings as they worry their child isn't ready. We are here to help.

Finally Enjoy that extra day together over the bank holiday weekend

M Mackenzie and all the staff

Attachments

[Durham Constabulary Escooter Leaflet.pdf](#)

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[British Values.pdf](#)

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