

St Helen Auckland Community Primary

Newsletter

'Where learning is a lifelong adventure'

Dates for your diary

Last Day of Term Friday 19th December - return Tuesday 6th January

Christmas performances(tickets available through parent pay- 2 per parent initially)

Nursery and Reception – Monday 15th December 9.30

KS1/KS2 Monday 15th December 1.30 pm

KS1/KS2 Tuesday 16th December 9.30/ 1.30

Christmas lunch 17th December

EYFS/ KS 1 party Thursday 18th December

KS2 party Friday 19th December

Photographs Tuesday 2nd December

New PE timetable for next half term- January- times to follow

Children can come to school dress in School PE kit or can bring it with them to get changed.

This must be school PE kit and children must have suitable footwear

School uniform- the children look so smart in their school uniform and I know it helps getting them ready on a morning. We want to see everyone in uniform so we ask that children wear either:-

White or red polo shirt

Red school jumper/cardigan

Black or grey trousers/skirt

Black/Dark shoes or trainers

For Health and Safety reasons children should not wear jewellery, false nails or footwear that is not suitable for children to run around outside.

Please ensure children's names are in all clothing for school .

Attendance Incentive Scheme

Our attendance continues to be an issue. We understand sometimes you may have problems getting children to school or getting here on time. Please speak to us and we can work on this together.

We aim for every class to achieve over 96% attendance each term. To support this, we're continuing our attendance reward system to encourage regular school attendance.

We kindly ask for your support in ensuring your child attends school every day unless they are unwell or have a medical appointment.

Thank you for helping us promote good attendance and a positive learning environment!

Class attendance for November was as follows: -

Reception –89.9%

Year 1 –90.2%

Year 2 –94.9%

Year 3 –94.9%

Year 4 –96.3%

Year 5 –94.4%

Year 6 –93.4%

Whole school 93.3%

As a school our whole attendance for November was under the Government guidelines of at least 96% attendance.

Any attendance figures are sent to the education dept and they can issue fines. After 10 unauthorised attendances in any 10 week period parents can be fined .

Congratulations to Year 3 and Year 5!

Both classes have earned a special treat afternoon thanks to their fantastic attendance each week. Because of their brilliant attendance they have collected the letters to spell the word ATTENDANCE—well done to everyone for your commitment!

Year 3 have voted to have a PJ's movie and pizza

Year 5 have voted to have a PJ's movie and sweet treats.

Wrap around care

We recently sent out a questionnaire regarding wrap-around care and received a strong level of interest. We are currently in discussions with an external agency to explore options. We will keep you updated as progress is made.

Breakfast club starts at 8am. If you would like your child to attend please just ring the office and they will be added to the list.

Applying for a Reception School Place

Many parents of Nursery aged children will be visiting schools, ready to start their Primary School Journey next year. If your child was born between 1st September 2021 and the 31st August 2022, you will need to apply for a primary school place.

Applications for Reception places close on 15th January 2026. Please note that even if your child attends our Nursery, you must still apply to the Local Authority for a place in Reception. In the past we have had families miss out on places because they haven't applied, thinking that they will automatically continue into Reception.

To apply, please visit Primary school places - Durham County Council

[Apply now for a primary school place - deadline 15 January 2026 - Durham County Council](#)

The offer of a school place will be made on Thursday 16 April 2026.

We have an open night on Monday 1st December 3.30- 4.30 if you would like to come along to meet the staff.

Safeguarding

Keeping children safe from harm is our number one priority. We will always act upon any concerns individuals have, or any disclosures from children. However, if you have any concerns outside of school, or if you have a concern about a child or young person's welfare, it is essential that you call First Contact on: 03000 267979.

As always, if there is anything at all you would like to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact me.

If you have any concerns about a child's safety please contact:

Designated Safeguarding lead - Mrs Elmes.

Deputy Safeguarding leads - Mrs Brown and Miss Parker

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**Nothing is
impossible, the
word itself says
'I'm possible'!**

AUDREY HEPBURN