



Newsletter January 2015

May I take this opportunity to welcome you back to school and wish a very happy New Year to all our pupils and parents. There are a couple of changes to staffing that I wish to make parents aware of:

- Mrs McCluskey has been granted a secondment to join the Teachers for the Deaf Service until the end of June 2015. Mrs McCluskey has been at this school for 16 years but will be returning in July. This is a fantastic opportunity for her to broaden her professional development. Mrs McCluskey will be replaced during this time by Mr Hill who the children met on Tuesday. He is an enthusiastic young man with a passion for Physical Education. He will spend this week and next team-teaching with Mrs McCluskey to ensure a smooth transition with no disruption to the education of the children in Class 3. It is expected Mrs McCluskey's last day will be 16th January 2015.
- We welcome onto our team Mr Hopper in his role as a Teaching Assistant Apprentice based in Class 4.
- We are sorry to say that Mr Hawman is off to pastures new. He will be leaving us at Easter after working at the school for 7 years. I am sure you will join me in wishing him every success for the future and would like to take this opportunity to thank him for all the hard work he has done during his time here. The Governors met on Tuesday to arrange an advert to go out for a replacement Deputy Head. I will keep you up to date on developments in this area.
- To minimise disruption for our Year 6 pupils who will be taking their KS2 SAT's this year, I have taken the decision to move Ms Mawson, who will also become the Senior Teacher and KS2 Lead, into Class 1 for the remainder of this academic year. Mr Hawman will move into Class 2 for his remaining time at our school.

CLASSROOM ORGANISATION IN JANUARY

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------|
| Class 1 | - Ms Mawson | (19) |
| Class 2 | - Mr Hawman | (19) |
| Class 3 | - Mr Hill | (21) |
| Class 4 | - Miss Dobson | (23) |
| Class 5 (Reception) | - Mrs Turner/Mrs Bradford | (15) |
| (Nursery) | " " | (11) |
| | Total on roll | 97 |

CONTACT DETAILS



We are currently struggling to contact a number of parents in the case of a child being sick, not arriving at school in the morning or not being collected from school at the end of the day (3.15pm) as we have not been provided with up-to-date contact details. The school requires 3 emergency contact numbers. If your child is poorly they will need to go home or in the case of an accident may require specialist treatment in hospital. As a result we would need to seek advice from our Education Welfare Officer and/or First Response (Social Services) to determine our next course of action. If you are unsure that the numbers we hold are current please call in at the School Office to check.

Please remember, these procedures are entirely for the safety and wellbeing of your children.

Primary Admissions 2015/2016

Can I remind any parents with children due to start school in September 2015, that the closing date for applications is **15 January 2015**. Please apply through the website www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions.

CAR PARKING

Please note that the car park is for **STAFF PARKING ONLY**. This is to ensure the safety of all our pupils in both school and nursery. We have a small visitors' parking area for those visitors coming into school but we have no parent parking facilities.

Bad Weather/School Closure

It is at this time of year when we could suffer more severe weather conditions. We will of course try at all times to remain open for the purpose of teaching. We will keep you



updated of any problems by texting you as soon as a decision has been made and through notification on the Durham County website.

DINNER MONEY

Could all parents please adhere to the following:

Please note that all dinner monies must be paid on a **Monday** for the week ahead. As we are unable to change large notes, please ensure the procedure is followed – **ALL** dinner money should be placed in an envelope with the child's name on and **handed in to the class teacher**. If you wish to pay by cheque, please make it payable to "Durham County Council".

Holiday Discount Scheme

The Local Authority has negotiated a holiday discount scheme with Hays Travel to enable parents to receive a discount on any holidays booked with the company as long as the holiday takes place during school holiday periods. This leaflet will be made available to you from our website from next week.

Lisa Jackson
Headteacher

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS 2014/2015

| Holiday | Closing Date | Date Re-open for Teaching Purposes |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Summer 2014 (6 weeks 2 days) | Friday 18 July 2014 | Wednesday 3 September 2014 |
| Autumn Half-Term 2014 (1 week) | Friday 24 October 2014 | Monday 3 November 2014 |
| Christmas 2014 (2 weeks 1 day) | Friday 19 December 2014 | Tuesday 6 January 2015 |
| Spring Half-Term 2015 (1 week) | Friday 13 February 2015 | Monday 23 February 2015 |
| Easter 2015 (2 weeks) | Friday 27 March 2015 | Monday 13 April 2015 |
| May Day 2015 (2 days) | Thursday 30 April 2015 | Tuesday 5 May 2015 |
| Summer Half-Term 2015 (1 week) | Friday 22 May 2015 | Monday 1 June 2015 |
| Summer 2015 | Friday 17 July 2015 | Thursday 3 September 2015 |

Important Note: the following dates have been agreed as INSET days for school staff:

Monday 1 September 2014

Tuesday 2 September 2014

Monday 5 January 2015

Friday 1 May 2015