

Newsletter October 2015

Dear Parents/Carers

We are almost at the end of the first half of the autumn term during this academic year and we hope that our new pupils and families have settled in well. Every half term, the school releases a newsletter to give information on our school procedures and let you know about all our upcoming activities. **Please keep it handy for your own reference.**

CLASSROOM ORGANISATION IN OCTOBER

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------|
| Class 1 | - Miss Mawson | (20) |
| Class 2 | - Mr Hill | (22) |
| Class 3 | - Mrs McCluskey | (21) |
| Class 4 | - Miss Dobson | (21) |
| Class 5 (Reception) | - Mrs Turner/Mrs Bradford | (8) |
| (Nursery) | " " | (10) |
| | Total on roll | 92 |

ABSENCE PROCEDURES



Durham County Policy states that all schools must account for the whereabouts of any child who has not arrived at the school. If your child is going to be absent due to sickness or other circumstances, you **must inform the school by telephone before 9.30am on the first day of absence**. If we have received no telephone call from you by 9.30am, we will ring you for a reason to ensure that, for reasons of health and safety, the whereabouts of your child is firmly established. Should we fail to make contact by phone, we will send a text to explain that this absence will be passed to the EWO for investigation if we cannot get a reason.

Please remember, these procedures are entirely for the safety and wellbeing of your children, so it is your responsibility to ensure that the school holds an up-to-date telephone number and that you can be contacted.

DATA COLLECTION SHEETS

If you have not returned a data collection sheet, please ensure that you do so. It is very important that we update this information every year.

School Dinners

School meals are now £2.00 per day. Dinner money **must** be paid on a Monday in advance, placed in a named envelope and handed in to the class teacher and can we say thank you to the parents who continually follow procedure. Please avoid bringing large notes to the School Office first thing on a Monday morning as we only hold limited amounts of change.

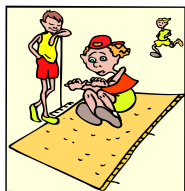
If you wish to change from packed lunch to dinners or vice versa, we will require half a term's notice. If you arrange a medical appointment for the morning, can you please ensure you inform the **School Office before 10.00 am** if you still require a lunch for your child. All dinners are ordered at this time, so if we are unaware your child will be returning to school, there will be no dinner ordered.

Nursery Meals

Nursery meals are £2.00 and your child's weekly lunches must be ordered and paid for on your child's **first** day of attendance. School meals are available to children attending nursery for a full day. Please note that you can provide your child with a packed lunch as long as it adheres to our Packed Lunch Policy.

UNIFORM & PE

We expect that all pupils wear the correct items of school uniform. As ever, jogging bottoms are not allowed. Also, only sensible black shoes should be worn – no high heels for girls, and if trainers are worn, these should also be black with dark laces. Please note that plimsolls or flossies are not acceptable. Make-up and nail varnish are not allowed. Long hair should be tied back at all times.



We also have a PE uniform of navy blue shorts and gold T-shirt with logo which can be ordered from the School Office. Older children may need plimsolls or trainers, socks and blue tracksuit bottoms for outdoor PE. Clothes must be brought in on a Monday and taken home on a Friday to wash. Pupils with verrucas must inform the school in writing. This does not stop them doing PE but they must wear indoor sandshoes. Names should be written in all items of uniform and PE clothes.

Don't forget that the school recycles items of school uniform. Instead of throwing away your child's uniform when they have grown out of them, and if they are still in good condition, bring them into school for recycling.

Can I just say a big thank you to all parents and carers for sending their children to school so smartly dressed in their school uniform.

JEWELLERY



As of last September, this is restricted to watches only and earrings are no longer allowed. Staff have a duty of care and, as you can appreciate, accidents can occur at any time of the school day, not just in PE lessons and we need to ensure your child's safety at all times during the school day. This policy has been fully approved by Governors. If your child is wearing jewellery other than a watch, they will be asked to remove them.

CELEBRATIONS ASSEMBLY

Our end of half term Celebrations Assembly will be **2.30 pm on Friday 23 October** and all are welcome to attend. Please find attached two strips of raffle tickets at 50p per strip. If you wish to purchase them, please return them to school with your name on the back of each ticket with the money.



Also, parents who arrive to collect their children on a Friday – but do not come for assembly – must **wait outside** at the appropriate exit for their child to be released from school by their teacher. As well as the health and safety implications, the noise from a gathering of parents/siblings carries into the Hall and disturbs the assembly.

When assembly is over, could all parents please wait **outside** for their children to be dismissed.

50's Club

If you are a member of our 50's Club, please note that your subs are due if you want to be in next Friday's draw. Please see Lisa Croft.

Primary and Secondary Admissions 2016/2017

Please read the following notice from County Hall:

Starting School?

Do you have a child who will be 5 on or between 1 September 2016 and 31 August 2017? If so, you need to complete an application for a school place so that your child can start school in September 2016.

From 12 September 2015 you can apply online at www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions. You will also be able to access a copy of the guide for parents "Primary School Admissions in County Durham 2016/17" which will contain essential information that will help you in making your application.

If you cannot access the Council's website please contact the School Admissions and Transport Team, using the details overleaf, and you will be sent a copy of the guide for parents and an application form.

Please note that the deadline for applications is midnight on 15 January 2016.

The School Admissions and Transport Team
Telephone 03000 265 896

The deadline date for *secondary* admissions is **31 October 2015** and you need to use the unique ID number on your preference letter to make an online application if you have not already done so.

Halloween Discos



We will be having a special **Halloween Day** on Friday 23 October. There will be separate Halloween parties in the hall for KS2 (Classes 3, 2 and 1) and KS1/EYFS (Classes 4 and 5) children. Children may come dressed in Halloween outfits for £1. Children will be having a Halloween party lunch for their school meal and packed lunch children may order one for £2.00 up until Wednesday.

Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Collection

We will be sending off for the Shoebox leaflets which should arrive soon. If parents wish to participate in this charity event, please watch out for the leaflets.

FUTURE EVENTS

- | | | |
|------------------|---|---|
| 19 - 23 October | - | All Clubs except Netball Club and Booster sessions are on as usual |
| 23 October | - | Halloween Parties and Party Lunch |
| | - | 2.30 pm Celebrations Assembly |
| | - | <i>Break for Half Term</i> |
| 2 November | - | school returns |
| 4 November | - | "7 stories" trip for Y2 and Y3 children |
| 9 November | - | Parents' Evening from 2pm (children to be collected at 2pm) |
| 11 November | - | Y1/Y2 Flu Vaccination in school (parental permission required) |
| mid/end November | - | Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Collection |

Further information on events over December and Christmas will follow at a later date.

Lisa Jackson
Headteacher



SCHOOL HOLIDAYS 2015/2016

| Holiday | Closing Date | Date Re-open for Teaching Purposes |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Summer 2015 (6 weeks 3 days) | Friday 17 July 2015 | Thursday 3 September 2015 |
| Autumn Half-Term 2015 (1 week) | Friday 23 October 2015 | Monday 2 November 2015 |
| Christmas 2015 (2 weeks 1 day) | Friday 18 December 2015 | Tuesday 5 January 2016 |
| Spring Half-Term 2016 (1 week) | Friday 12 February 2016 | Monday 22 February 2016 |
| Easter 2016 (2 weeks 2 days) | Wednesday 23 March 2016 | Monday 11 April 2016 |
| May Day 2016 (2 days) | Thursday 28 April 2016 | Tuesday 3 May 2016 |
| Summer Half-Term 2016 (1 week) | Friday 27 May 2016 | Monday 6 June 2016 |
| Summer 2016 (6 weeks 3 days) | Wednesday 20 July 2016 | Tuesday 6 September 2016 |

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

Tuesday 1 September 2015

Thursday 24 March 2016

Wednesday 2 September 2015

Friday 29 April 2016

Monday 4 January 2016