

# Newsletter October 2016

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	(14)
Class 2	- Mrs Blakey	(21)
Class 3	- Mrs McCluskey	(20)
Class 4	- Miss Dobson	(27)
Class 5 (Reception)	- Mrs Turner/Mrs Bradford	(10)
(Nursery)	" "	(11)
	Total on roll	<b>92</b>

## 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. **Any parent bringing a child in late must complete our new Late Register at the School Office.**

*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 remain at £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.

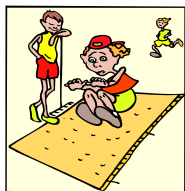
If you wish to change from packed lunch to dinners or vice versa, we will require half a term's notice. If you arrange a medical appointment for the morning, can you please ensure you inform the **School Office before 10.00 am** if you still require a lunch for your child. All dinners are ordered at 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 and girls' skirts should be knee length. 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 need plimsolls or trainers, socks and blue tracksuit bottoms for PE. 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. All PE kit must be brought in on a Monday and taken home on a Friday to wash.

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 September 2014, 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.

## Computer Access



For those children who do not have the use of a computer in the home, we have arranged for access to computers at the Community Centre. Times for these sessions are Monday evenings from 7 – 8pm or Saturday mornings between 10.30 am – 12.30 pm. Please ensure your child registers with Jenny Mountain if they attend.

## CELEBRATIONS ASSEMBLY

Our end of half term Celebrations Assembly will be **2.30 pm on Friday 21 October** and all are welcome to attend. 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.

## Secondary Applications

Please note that the closing date for Secondary School Applications is the **31<sup>st</sup> October 2016**. Parents can make their application for Secondary School online by visiting [www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions) if you have not already done so.

## Halloween Discos



We will be having a special **Halloween Day** on Monday 31 October (the first day back after half term). 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. Children will be having a Halloween party lunch for their school meal and packed lunch children may order one for £2.00 up until Tuesday next week.



## 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.



## School Pantomime



We have a theatre production company, "M&M Productions", coming into school to perform the pantomime "***Sleeping Beauty***" on **Monday 14 November**. If you wish for your child to view the pantomime, please send £5 in a named envelope and their teacher will allocate them a ticket. If you have more than one child, it would be £5 for the first child and then £3 for any siblings. These payments should be sent into school before **Friday 4 November** to book a place.

## CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Our Christmas Fayre this year will be held in the School Hall on **Thursday 1 December** at 1.15pm. We will be having a number of stalls including refreshments. If you have any such items you would like to donate, such as raffle prizes, tombola prizes, bric-a-brac, toys, handbags, scarves or jewellery, could you please bring them into school from now until the morning of Wednesday 30 November. Raffle tickets will be sent out on the next Christmas newsletter.



## FUTURE EVENTS

- |                  |   |   |
|------------------|---|---|
| 19 - 21 October  | - | <b>Y5/Y6 Residential at Robinwood Activity Centre</b>               |
| 21 October       | - | 2.30 pm Celebrations Assembly                                       |
|                  | - | <i>Break for Half Term</i>  |
| 31 October       | - | school returns<br>Halloween Parties and Party Lunch                 |
| 2 November       | - | Y3/Y4 Tag Rugby Festival<br>Y5 Multi-skills Day at Parkside Academy |
| 3 November       | - | Y5/Y6 Bikeability sessions begin for 4 weeks (letter to follow)     |
| 4 November       | - | Multi-cultural Day – Festival of Light Family Assembly at 2.30 pm   |
| 7 November       | - | Parents' Evening from 2 pm (children to be collected at 2 pm)       |
| 8 November       | - | Parents' Evening from 3.30 pm                                       |
| 14 November      | - | "Sleeping Beauty" Pantomime   |
| 18 November      | - | Children in Need Day<br>2.45 pm Whole School Anti-bullying Assembly |
| 28 November      | - | Y1/Y2/Y3 Flu Vaccination in school (parental permission required)   |
| mid/end November | - | Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Collection                                |
| 1 December       | - | 1.15 pm Christmas Fayre in the School Hall                          |

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

**Lisa Jackson**  
Headteacher



## SCHOOL HOLIDAYS 2016/2017

<b>Holiday</b>	<b>Closing Date</b>	<b>Date Re-open for Teaching Purposes</b>
Summer 2016 (6 weeks 3 days)	Wednesday 20 July 2016	Tuesday 6 September 2016
Autumn Half-Term 2016 (1 week)	Friday 21 October 2016	Monday 31 October 2016
Christmas 2016 (2 weeks 2 days)	Friday 16 December 2016	Wednesday 4 January 2017
Spring Half-Term 2017 (1 week)	Friday 17 February 2017	Monday 27 February 2017
Easter 2017 (2 weeks)	Friday 7 April 2017	Monday 24 April 2017
May Day 2017 (1 day)	Friday 28 April 2017	Tuesday 2 May 2017
Summer Half-Term 2017 (1 week 1 day)	Thursday 25 May 2017	Monday 5 June 2017
Summer 2017 (6 weeks 1 day)	Friday 21 July 2017	Tuesday 5 September 2017

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

**Monday 5 September 2016**

**Tuesday 3 January 2017**

**Friday 26 May 2017**



**HAPPY  
HALLOWEEN**