

Newsletter



'Attend, Enjoy, Try Your Best, Achieve and Succeed'

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Friday 18th March 2016

Foundation Stage

Mrs Allen takes up a headship in Northumberland on the 11th April, we wish her all the best for the future. We thank her for all her hard work over the last 4 years! Mrs Minchell and Mrs Cummins will continue to work in class until the summer holidays.

Packed Lunches

Lunch times can be very busy in school with having to feed 187 children in a short space of time. As you can imagine lunch time staff deal with children who struggle to cut their food, pour water for drinks, clear trays away, wipe up spills and generally look after your child while they are eating. When a child is on packed lunches it can be difficult to check what children are eating first as they are independent in eating their lunch. Please help us by reinforcing at home that sandwiches should be eaten first before any other food, as it has been noted some children are trying to eat other treats first.

Please ensure that your child has a healthy variety of food in their packed lunch and please remember fizzy drinks and sweets of any kind are not allowed in school. We are a healthy school!

Suggestions for a healthy packed lunch are:

- ✓ Sandwiches with meat, tuna or cheese, Fruit, Yoghurt, Water or fruit juice, Bread sticks / crackers

Year 6 Information

To help our Year 6 pupils prepare to become 'secondary school ready' we will **no longer be texting home** for any Year 6 pupil who has **forgotten an item** for school. This will be starting after the Easter holidays. This will enable your child to become more independent in remembering what they need for school in preparation for September. Please help us to help your child by making sure they have the right equipment in school, thank you.

Behaviour

After our parents meetings some parents expressed a wish to know more about appropriate bedtimes and routines, the following information may be of use to you.

Bed times

3 – 6 years	6:00pm – Your child will likely drop the afternoon nap. Once your child is no longer napping, he will need an extra hour of sleep at night, so adjust bedtime accordingly.
7 – 12 years	7:30pm – School age children are still experiencing enormous growth, are very active, and require a lot of sleep. Adequate sleep helps with school performance, behaviour, attention, memory, and more. <u>9:00pm</u>

Bedtime routines need to include quiet time where a child can unwind from the day. Using smartphones and tablets before going to sleep can affect how our body clock works. A bedtime routine should last no longer than 30 minutes.

Our body clocks tell us when to wake up in the morning and when we are getting sleepy at night. Smartphones, laptops and tablets all release blue light which can confuse the brain and can make us stay up later at night. So it is a good idea to allow your child plenty of time to unwind after playing on games.

A good way for a child to unwind is reading a book, colouring a picture or some other quiet activity.

An example of a bedtime routine could be:

- ✓ Supper which could include fruit or non sugary cereal (fizzy drinks especially with caffeine should not be given before bed time)
- ✓ Brush teeth / get washed
- ✓ Read a book (you could read to your child or they could read to you)
- ✓ Lights off (try to keep their bedtime the same time each night)
- ✓ Fall asleep in their own bed

Important Attendance Information

As you are aware the government has set new targets for children to be in school for 95% + of the school year. Previously no action was taken against families if their child had attendance of 90% but if a child's attendance fell below 85% then legal proceedings started to take place. HOWEVER this has changed from September and we have mentioned this in newsletters throughout the year. If a child's attendance now falls below 90% and it does not improve over time this is when legal proceedings begin.

Every child in school will receive a letter over the Easter holidays with their attendance % from September.

If your child needs to be absent from school due to ill health please make sure that you contact the school on the first day of absence either by phoning school or popping into the Silver Tree Centre to inform staff there.

Please note that if your child has attendance of 92% or lower, you must provide medical evidence of your child's absence or the absence will be unauthorised. If there is a period of unauthorised absences then legal proceedings will begin which can include anything from a £60 fine up to imprisonment. This is the new process that has been issued to us by the Education Welfare Department.

Unfortunately we are in the process of legal proceedings with some pupil's parents as their attendance is not meeting the government's threshold. This is our duty to carry out this process and we want to make sure your child is in school everyday to enable them to learn so they can reach their potential.

Money

As previously mentioned in the past, school is moving towards a cashless payment system. Mrs Grimes is working hard to have this ready for Monday 11th April. Please look out for more information over the next couple of weeks.

Cricket

There is a cricket camp during the Easter Holidays at the Hermitage Academy Chester-Le-Street. For more details please go to http://durhamcb.play-cricket.com/website/web_pages/193205

Events over the next week

Mon 21st March	Year 5 – 'Shakespeare in a Day' – parents invited to school for 2:30pm
Tues 22 nd March	Easter Service, St Luke's Church 10am, all parents welcome
Wed 23 rd March	Reception class visit to the Hancock Museum
Wed 23 rd March	Choir/Music concert in school, 5:15pm
Thurs 24 th March	Non uniform day - 50p donation
Thurs 24 th March	Egg hunt for the children throughout the day Eggbola 2:30pm – all parents welcome All decorated eggs by children to be in school today – please note we will not be decorating eggs in school this year, so if your child would like to enter the school egg competition please make sure they decorate an egg at home and that their egg is sent into school today!
Fri 25 th March	No school – Easter Holidays

Term dates until the end of the school year [2016/2017](#) are below.

Easter Holiday –	Break up Thursday 24th March	Return Monday 11th April 20
Bank Holiday -	Monday 2nd May	Return Tuesday 3rd May 2016
Summer Half Term - Break up	Thursday 26th May	Return Monday 6th June 2016
Summer Holiday -	Break up Tuesday 19th July 2016	Return Tuesday 6th September 2016
October Half Term - Break up	Friday 21st October 2016	Return Monday 31st October 2016
Christmas Holiday - Break up	Thursday 15th Dec 2016	Return Tuesday 3rd January 2017
February Half Term – Break up	Friday 17th February 2017	Return Monday 27th February 2017
Easter Holiday -	Break up Friday 7th April 2017	Return Monday 24th April 2017
Bank Holiday -	Monday 1st Ma y	Return Tuesday 2nd May 2017
Summer Half Term - Break up	Friday 26th May 2017	Return Monday 5th June 2017
Summer Holiday -	Break up Thursday 20th July 2017	