



Welcome back to school! The summer break seems to have flown over. I hope that you were able to spend some relaxing times with your friends and family. *We're delighted to have you all back!*

I hope that this newsletter will provide you with some useful dates, information and reminders. You will notice that the newsletters we send home at the beginning of each half-term follow the same format – this is to help you easily find key dates, holidays, information etc. Additional letters and updates may be sent out during the term with class teachers, House groups and club leaders giving you information relevant to your child. You should receive this term's curriculum letters from teachers soon and these will also be posted on our website.

All of the information provided in whole school letters should also appear on our website which we try to update at least half-termly, visit us at www.hesleden.durham.sch.uk; Up-to-date news and pictures are shared through our Twitter account, follow us at www.twitter.com/hesledenprimary



Beginning of the day – It has been lovely to welcome our new Reception group at the Pupil entrance this week, so many have come into school independently. From Monday, they will all be expected to do this, so please encourage them. The door is opened at 8.45am and Mrs Fletcher (and usually Mrs Dunn) are available to supervise, welcome and take messages for teachers.

Family Fridays

To ensure home-school links are not missed, teachers will be continuing to invite parents to **'Family' Fridays** where parents will be able to come into your child's class at the beginning of the day. These visits will help you to see how your child learns, and how they are making progress and you will be able to talk informally to the staff. **The sessions will run from 9.00am-9.30am (9-10am in Class 1)**. Please put the following 'Fridays' in your diary:

Class 1 [half-termly]:

| | | |
|------|------------|------------|
| AUT: | 4 October | 6 December |
| SPR: | 7 February | 27 March |
| SUM: | 1 May | 3 July |

Rest of the school [termly]:

| | | |
|------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | <i>Classes 2 & 3</i> | <i>Classes 4 & 5</i> |
| AUT: | 11 October | 18 October |
| SPR: | 28 February | 13 March |
| SUM: | 19 June | 26 June |

Class Assemblies

We have set the dates for our Class led assemblies, reminder invitations will be sent to each Class's parents nearer the time but the dates for your diaries are as follows, and each assembly this year will begin at 9.10am.

| | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| C4: Wednesday 23 October | C3: Wednesday 12 February | C2: Wednesday 25 March |
| C1: Wednesday 20 May | C5: Friday 10 July | |

Parent Consultations:

These are currently planned for:

| | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| * Thursday 21 November | * Thursday 19 March | * Thursday 9 July |
|------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|

Happy Birthday to you...

September: Brooke, Ben D, Alice B, Anya, Daphne, Josh, Melissa, Mia, Eve Y, Jack L, Emily-Rose

October: McKenzie, Frankie, Sonny, Willow, Ivy, Bailey, Joshua B, Lilly L, Coby, Lucas, Aalani, Katy, Benjamin B, Kristy,

School update

Over the summer, one of the school chimneys was struck by lightning. This caused damage to many of the school systems including fire and security alarms, electricity, telephones and IT equipment. During the summer, staff have worked hard, with the support of the Local Authority and others, to get everything up and running smoothly for our return. *Almost everything* is now back in working order - all of our safeguarding and safety systems are in place, as well as most things in our classrooms - but please bear with us if it takes a while to get some other things back to normal!

Attendance and Punctuality

The government's target for attendance is 96%. If your child is absent, you must let us know – this is a safeguarding requirement. All schools in areas of Durham have agreed to follow a common policy on absence during term time. You can apply for permission for your child to be absent from school and this must be done at least 2 school weeks in advance of the proposed leave. **Authorisation is not guaranteed and is likely to be refused.** We work within the guidance of the Local Authority's Attendance Improvement Team and unauthorised absences of 5 days or more will be referred to them. Many things can affect attendance, but as an example:

- **2 weeks of holiday brings attendance down to 94.7%**
- **2 weeks of holiday + 1 week sick brings attendance down to 92.2%**
- **2 weeks of holiday + 2 weeks sick brings attendance down to 89.6%**

Children are considered 'persistent absentees' if their attendance is below 90%.

It is also very important that children arrive in school on time every day. Registration takes place between 8.45-8.55, during which time children complete a 'morning challenge' to start their day. After this time, each class begins its learning, or attends assembly. Some interventions run from 9am.

Hesleden School Association

The HSA meet every Friday morning between 9am and 10am. Come along and join them for a chat and refreshments. The HSA raise valuable funds for school activities and have helped to subsidise a number of events throughout the year. New members are always welcome.

Emergency Contacts

Most of our children's information sheets were updated during our July Parent Consultation event. If you did not attend, or have not yet returned your forms, please do so as soon as you can. If you make any changes to mobile numbers or email addresses, please let us know straight away so that we can update our emergency contact information.

School meals – Article 24; Right to nutritious food

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free school meal under a government initiative. For children in Key Stage 2 (Y3-6), the cost of a daily meal is £2.05 (£10.25 per week) – this should be paid by ParentPay.

School fund – we appreciate any donations which you can send to school. School fund pays for extra activities, including 'House' and activity time resources. Donations can still be made on ParentPay, but can also be made in cash.

Packed Lunch Guidance - *Packed lunches SHOULD NOT contain the following:*

Chocolate-coated products / sweets / confectionery – *high in sugar and fat*

Cereal bars, fruit bars – *high in sugar and sometimes fat*

Chocolate spread/jam as a filling for sandwiches – *high in sugar*

Chewing gum – *not allowed in school*

Sugared / toffee and salted popcorn – *high in sugar*

Crisps or packet savoury snacks high in salt and fat – *some varieties are high in salt and fat*

Salted nuts – *very high in salt & some children have nut allergies*

- **Water is provided for all children at lunchtime, so drinks do not need to be included in packed lunches**
 - **Children bringing chocolate bars or packets of sweets will not be allowed to eat these, they will be returned home in packed lunch bags.**

Health & Safety Policy

Reminders:

- **Jewellery** (ear-rings; bracelets etc.) is not allowed in school and restricts the activities the children are allowed to do. Children should remove this before school. Watches and fitbits also need to be removed for PE.
- All girls and boys with **long hair** should tie their hair up for school. This helps to prevent the spread of head lice, and is necessary for PE and playing on the outdoor equipment.
- **PE Kits** are needed in school straight away – if you need a reminder, please ask, or see your child's class letter, or the website. Children must do PE as part of the National Curriculum, and must change to do so as part of a healthy and hygienic routine. Please make sure PE kits (and items of uniform) are well labelled.

MEDICINES: Asthma and Health care plans should have been reviewed at the end of last term. If you did not do this, please come in and speak to Mrs Medcalf. This is to ensure that records for all children who require medicines (including inhalers) to be given in school are correct. If your child requires an inhaler/other medicines and you have not returned these to school, please do so as soon as possible so that we can have all of the paperwork completed and passed over to their teachers.

Funding award

We are delighted to be able to share that we have been awarded a Community Lottery Grant from the National Lottery. This will enable us to finally have our yard markings updated and refreshed!



We will also be installing a gazebo on the field for the children and other groups to enjoy.

Thanks to Mrs Johnson and other staff who pulled the bid together. Thanks also to the community groups who contributed to the application.

Other news

- Homework club, for C3-5 will begin on Thursday 12th September, 3-4pm. KS2 Children are welcome to attend, but are expected to complete the majority of their homework.
- Staff will be deciding on the rest of the after-school provision over the next week, and children will be invited as soon as this is sorted.
- Next week children will be electing representatives to our Pupil Voice groups: School Council; Eco-Schools; Healthy Schools; and Sports Ambassadors. If your child is interested in joining these groups, please encourage them to put themselves forward. [Article 12 – the right to have your opinion taken seriously]
- You will see below that Harvest Festival is 30th September. Once again, we are collecting for the Durham Foodbank, until October half-term, and will be grateful for any donations you are able to make.

HELP SUPPORT YOUR FOODBANK WITH FOOD AND FUNDS THIS HARVEST

DONATE FOOD

Help by donating an item or two from our shopping list to ensure we can provide food to help people in crisis.



DONATE MONEY

Help to cover the costs of storing and distributing food, as well as developing sustainable projects.



SHOPPING LIST TOP TEN ITEMS

Milk (UHT or powdered)
Fruit juice (long life)
Soup
Pasta sauces
Tinned sponge pudding
Tinned tomatoes
Tinned vegetables
Cereals
Tinned rice pudding
Jam

Don't forget...
You can help transform
more lives with a financial
donation too.

Autumn term dates for your diary

You will appreciate that we often get very busy in school and try to give as much notice of events as we can. The autumn events planned so far are listed below but others will come up and details will follow!

| | | |
|-----------|---|--|
| September | Thur 12 th | First Aid sessions for Children |
| | Mon 30 th | Harvest festival (children only) |
| October | Thur 3 rd | (pm) Class 5 – ‘Microbits’ workshop |
| | Thur 10 th | Sarah McAllister – Food workshops; whole school |
| | Tues 15 th | Flu immunisations for R-Y6 (remember to sign up!) |
| | Wed 23 rd | Class 4 Assembly, 9.10am |
| | Mon 25 th | Halloween themed day; fancy dress & sponsored activities |
| November | 6 th -8 th | Y5/6 residential to Moor House |
| | Fri 15 th | School CLOSED – Staff training |
| | Thur 1 st | Parent Consultations (1pm onwards) |
| December | Tues 3 rd | Village Christmas tree; 4pm |
| | Fri 6 th | Christmas Fair; 1.30pm |
| | W 11 th /Th 12 th | Christmas Performances (to be confirmed) |
| | Mon 16 th | Christmas Service at St Andrew’s, Blackhall |
| | Tues 17 th | Christmas Parties |
| | Wed 18 th | Christmas Lunch |
| | Thur 19 th | Adam Bushnell workshops |
| | Fri 20 th | Whole school cinema visit |

2019-20 School Holidays

| Holiday | Closing Date | Re-open for Teaching Purposes |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Summer 2019 | | Wednesday 4 September 2019 |
| Autumn half-term 2019 | Friday 25 October 2019 | Monday 4 November 2019 |
| Christmas 2019 | Friday 20 December 2019 | Monday 6 January 2020 |
| Spring half-term 2020 | Friday 14 February 2020 | Monday 24 February 2020 |
| Easter 2020 | Friday 3 April 2020 | Monday 20 April 2020 |
| Summer half-term 2020 | Thursday 21 May 2020 | Monday 1 June 2020 |
| Summer 2020 | Friday 17 July 2020 | |

School will be closed for the following staff training days:

| | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Tue 3 Sept 2019 | 2. Fri 15 Nov 2019 | 3. Fri 22 May 2020 | 4. Mon 20 July 2020 |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|

As we begin a new term, and year, we thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to welcoming you into school soon.

Mrs Dunn