



Dear Parents / Carers,

Summer term- It is hard to believe that we are in another summer term and heading towards the end of the school year – it has been quite a journey.

Hopefully now that progress is being made with vaccinations and the lifting of restrictions, we will be able to relax a little and get back to some of our 'usual' activities. We are not there yet, however, and it is unlikely that we will be hosting any 'audience' or visitor events before the end of this term.

We will continue to plan events for the children in school and we will share these via our Twitter feed.

Parent contact – thank you to all parents who spoke to teachers during their consultation phone calls before Easter. Teachers have reported that their conversations were very positive and they appreciated you giving your time to talk.

Our summer term parent consultations will, most likely, also be conducted by telephone but we will let you know more about this nearer the time. Written reports (adapted for the year) will be provided by July.

Thanks also to all parents who have completed our '**remote learning**' survey. This is open until Friday so please use the link sent by text to provide your response if you haven't already. The feedback already received has been overwhelmingly positive, but has also given us things to think about in case of a 'next time'.

Remembering Colin Bell – Some of our children produced lovely work as part of the Colin Bell project during lockdown. We will be displaying this as part of a local history/heroes/community project which will run until the end of the year when our school will celebrate its 90th anniversary. We will be asking the children to do some more preparation work later this term, and details will be provided soon.

We have received over £2000 in memory of Colin Bell from his friends, family and supporters and, while we can't thank them all personally, we appreciate every penny and will be using it to go towards a new trim trail, as promised!

Homework - We have decided that homework for this term will continue to be focussed on reading and maths, and will include both on and offline learning. We think that this will support learning to continue easily if they have to isolate, or in case of another closure. Briefly, for each class, homework will consist of:

Class 1	Reading book (book bag book), library book, reading activity Practice on Lexia, Numbots and Ten Town (info to be provided)
Class 2	Reading book (levelled or RWI), reading activity; paper copies of maths tasks Practice on Times Tables Rock Stars or Numbots (depending on Year group)
Class 3	Levelled reading book; Fiction Express chapters and activities; Practice on Lexia and Times Tables Rock Stars
Classes 4 & 5	Levelled reading book; Fiction Express chapters and activities Maths task uploaded to Teams Practice on Lexia and Times Tables Rock Stars

Teachers will track and monitor the progress their classes are making on the online learning platforms so that they can provide support where needed. There is an expectation that online learning will be completed.

After-school clubs – Starting next week, our after-school clubs this term will provide an opportunity for all children in Years 1-6 to attend targeted booster sessions in reading, writing and maths. All children are invited to stay and we would love to see full classrooms.

The sessions will be a combination of direct teaching, group focused tasks, online learning and other activities (both indoors and out) to either support catch-up or pre-learning. The sessions will be different in focus and structure each week so there will be enough variety to keep everyone engaged during an after-school session. Each class will be supported by 2-3 adults to ensure learning opportunities are maximised. The clubs will run as follows:

- Class 2 and Class 4 - Tuesdays; 3-4pm
- Class 3 and Class 5 - Wednesdays; 3-4pm

School visits – Government regulations now allow school visits to take place as long as we continue to follow health and safety advice and can ensure that our venues will be doing so too. We have decided that, because we have not been able to do many of our usual activities (sports days, festivals, visits etc.) for over a year, that we will subsidise an outing for every child this term. This is not something that we would normally be able to do (and we always appreciate the donations you make) but we can spend some carried-over funding for sport and outdoor learning this year because of the pandemic.

We have investigated our options and subject to final confirmation, our plans are:

Class 1 (Rec & N)	Tuesday 25 th May	Visit to Tweddle Farm
Classes 2 & 3	Wednesday 26 th May	Visit to Moor House Adventure Centre’s ‘Four adventurous activities’ day
Classes 4 & 5	Thursday 27 th May	

These visits will take place in the last week of this half term (school is closed for staff training on Friday 28th May). Information which will be sent nearer the time will include timings and clothing (most likely PE kit + coat/trainers etc., water bottle & snacks in a small bag). As stated above, there will be no cost to parents.

ParentPay / Contact information – Reminder – please keep your ParentPay account information up-to-date (mobile numbers / email addresses) and let us know about any changes you make. In these times of increased virtual correspondence it is important that we can get in touch with you and that information gets to the right place.

2020-21 School Holidays

Holiday	Closing Date	Re-open for Teaching Purposes
Summer half-term 2021	Thursday 27 May 2021	Monday 7 June 2021
Summer 2021	Tuesday 20 July 2021	Thursday 2 September 2021
School will be closed for the following staff training day: Fri 28 May 2021		

Mrs Dunn

Our letters and information sent home are uploaded to our website at least half-termly, visit us at: www.hesleden.durham.sch.uk;

Up-to-date news and pictures are shared through our Twitter account, including home learning opportunities and other useful links, follow us at www.twitter.com/hesledenprimary



School website



Twitter.com

Summer 2021 - Parent Governor Vacancy – 1 post

Parent governors play an important role as members of the governing body. This involves several main responsibilities:

- plan the school's future direction
- be accountable for the overall performance of the school
- ensure that the school makes appropriate provision for all its pupils
- ensure that the school actively promotes the pupils' spiritual, moral and cultural development
- have strategic oversight of the school's budget and staffing
- ensure financial probity

The term of office for parent governors as determined by the governing body is 4 years. The school has high expectations of the time and commitment required from its governors in order to effectively fulfil their roles.

All parents of children at the school are eligible to stand for election. This includes:

- parents of children attending nursery, either full-time or part-time
- any person who is not a natural parent but has parental responsibility, or who has care of the child (Education Act 1996, Section 576)

Parents who are employed at the school for more than 500 hours per year are NOT eligible to stand for election as Parent Governors.

If you are interested in becoming a Governor and would like to know more, please contact the school to speak to Mrs Dunn. Interested parents will need to complete a nomination form, also available from school by email. Nominees must be proposed by a parent of a pupil registered at the school. A parent may nominate his/her partner.

Where the number of nominations is equal to, or fewer than, the places available no ballot will be necessary and any remaining vacancies will be appointed by the Governing Body.

Any completed and duly signed nomination forms should be returned to the school by midday on Monday 26th April.

Should a ballot be required the school will send each parent a voting form. When the process has been finalised, the school will inform the parent body via its newsletter, website or other means and Education Durham Governance Services will write formally to the candidates with the outcome.

Successful candidates will be required to undertake an Enhanced Disclosing and Barring Service check prior to final appointment.