



Letters and information sent home are uploaded to our website at least half-termly, visit us at [www.hesleden.durham.sch.uk](http://www.hesleden.durham.sch.uk); Up-to-date news and pictures are shared through our Twitter account, including teaching and learning activities and useful links, follow us at [www.twitter.com/hesledenprimary](https://www.twitter.com/hesledenprimary)



Twitter.com



School website

**Welcome back! The weather has been very kind over the Easter break and we hope that you have all had an opportunity to relax and enjoy your time away from school. Some of you shared some of your Easter activities with us via our Twitter feed – we love to see what you are up to so please continue to do so. We try to retweet posts in line with our school policy.**

## This half-term

This half term is relatively short, only 5 weeks. We also have two short weeks – next week Monday (2<sup>nd</sup> May) is the May Day bank holiday, so school will be closed; and the final Friday of this half term (27<sup>th</sup> May) is a staff training day and school will be closed to children. Other dates to note this half-term include:

- Tues 3<sup>rd</sup> May; 3pm – Information session with PCSO Goodwin for Year 6 parents
- w/c 9<sup>th</sup> May – Year 6 SATs week; May is also Year 2 assessment month (see later in the newsletter)
- Wed 18<sup>th</sup> May – Children will attend assemblies led by HM Coastguard about water safety
- Thur 26<sup>th</sup> May; noon – Family picnic & entertainment to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee (details will follow)



## Rights Respecting Schools Award – Gold Reaccreditation

On 23<sup>rd</sup> March, staff, children and governors all took part in a virtual visit by Kathy Allan, our regional UNICEF advisor. Kathy used the accreditation framework to decide whether children's rights were embedded into the everyday practice of what we do – she found that they were. The children were a credit to themselves and we were very proud of the contributions everyone made both leading up to the day and during the visit.

Our work towards this award included the Clarks Shoe-Share collection, our foodbank and pre-loved clothing rails, C4's project with ATOMS and their film night, and our curriculum and other charity work linked to our partners in Zambia.

## Reminders / Updates

**Breakfast & After-school club users** – Please note that parents wishing to use before and after-school care organised by Mrs Garside MUST pre-book places by a Friday for the following week. The number of children using the clubs is increasing and Mrs Garside must be able to ensure that appropriate adult supervision is in place. Messages can be passed on through Mrs Medcalf – 01429 836376 or by emailing [hesleden@durhamlearning.net](mailto:hesleden@durhamlearning.net) or directly with Mrs Garside on the school number, or 07500894425, or by email to [hazeldenecare@hotmail.com](mailto:hazeldenecare@hotmail.com).

**School meals** – we are delighted with the number of children who are currently enjoying our school meals. Taylor Shaw have decided to extend the current menus, rather than change them for the summer term. While some children have a school meal on some days (Wednesday roasts and fishy Fridays are the favourites) and bring packed lunch on others, the weekly pattern must be the same every week. For example, if a school meal is chosen for a Monday, Wednesday and Friday of week 1, it must be the same for weeks 2 and 3 of the cycle; children cannot swap days each week. Mrs Medcalf is happy to speak to any parents who need further information.

**Pre-loved clothing** – Mrs Medcalf has now created size-labelled hanging and boxed clothes for your convenience of browsing. Since we are now entering the final term, we will be spending more time outdoors, hopefully in warmer weather. We have a good stock of t-shirts and bottoms to save you the trip to the shops, and the unnecessary expense of buying new items so late in the school year. Please pop in and have a look, or give us a call if you want to check if specific items are in stock – there is no cost, and recycling and reusing uniform supports our eco-schools and UNICEF work.

**Foodbank** - we continue to stock basics such as cereals, pasta, sauces and toiletries in our small foodbank area in the entrance porch. Donations are always welcomed, and we hope that the foodbank will be used by anyone who needs it, who needs a cupboard top-up or who can't get to the shops for any reason. Again, no cost, but supports our UNICEF work in school and the wider community.

**Y6 Induction** – Parents of Year 6 children should now have received communication from your chosen secondary schools. Most of the dates will be in the second half of this term, but there may be some early parents' information sessions to get the ball rolling. If we receive any information, we will be sure to send it on via email.

**Reception intake – September** – Parents of children due to start Reception in September should have received an offer of a place to your allocated school on 19<sup>th</sup> April. If you are happy with the offer, you don't need to do anything. If you are not happy with the offer, you can contact [schooladmissions@durham.gov.uk](mailto:schooladmissions@durham.gov.uk).

### School run

**Reminder: all children should be in school by 8.55am.** This is when registers are taken and morning challenges / interventions have already started. A reminder of our staggered start times are:

Family surname initial / Time		Family surname initial / Time		Family surname initial / Time	
A – C	8.40-8.45am	D – L	8.45-8.50am	M – Z	8.50-8.55am

### End of Year Assessments

This summer will see a return to statutory testing, the last time being in 2019. All tests are due to resume and the dates/test periods are:

- End of KS2 (Y6) – w/c 9<sup>th</sup> May
- End of KS1 (Y2) – May
- Phonics Check (Y1 + Y2 who did not achieve the standard in Dec) – w/c 6<sup>th</sup> June
- Multiplication tables check (Y4) – w/c 6<sup>th</sup> June (up to 3 weeks)
- Foundation Stage profile (Rec) – to be completed by mid-June

**Year 6** – the schedule of testing is set by the DfE:

Monday – Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling – 2 papers: questions; spelling  
Tuesday – Reading  
Wednesday – Maths – 2 papers: arithmetic; reasoning  
Thursday – Maths – 1 paper: reasoning

The expected standards, as set by the DfE, have not changed since the last time testing took place. It is, however, widely recognised by the education community, school leaders and teachers, that some children will not meet these standards this year due to the disruption to education since March 2020. The last full and uninterrupted school year for our Y6 was when they were in Y3! We will support the children to do their best, and we will keep the test period as informal as we can. Year 6 papers are sent away for marking, and the results are released on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July; Mr Smith will make a judgement on the standard of writing.

Mrs Garside will be organising a Y6 breakfast club for Mon 9<sup>th</sup>-Thur 12<sup>th</sup> May – details will follow.

**Year 2** – the tests can be taken throughout May and so will be administered towards the end of this half term. There are two English reading booklets and two maths booklets. These are treated as 'activity packs' and the children are usually unaware that they are being tested! Year 2 test papers are marked in school and support Miss Swaile's final end of year judgement on children's attainment.

**Attendance** is especially crucial for children in these years groups this term. By being in school every day, we can ensure there is every opportunity to provide support and intervention where we feel it is most needed. Different children will need different types of support, but will need to be in school when it takes place.

## Updated guidance for Covid-19

Symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are very similar to symptoms of other illnesses, such as colds and flu.

These now include:

a high temperature or shivering	a new, continuous cough	a loss/change to your sense of smell/taste
shortness of breath	feeling tired or exhausted	an aching body
a headache	a blocked or runny nose	loss of appetite
a sore throat	feeling sick or being sick	diarrhoea

If you have any of these symptoms and you have a high temperature, or you do not feel well enough to do your normal activities, try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people. You can go back to your normal activities when you feel better or do not have a high temperature.

If a child or young person has symptoms OR a positive COVID-19 test result they should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days. After 3 days, **if they feel well and do not have a high temperature**, the risk of passing the infection on to others is much lower and they can return to normal activities.

Please continue to let us know about any illnesses or Covid issues. You can contact school on 01429 836376, you can also leave a message on the absence line (we will usually call you back). Out of school hours you can email [hesleden@durhamlearning.net](mailto:hesleden@durhamlearning.net) – this is checked regularly.

## School holidays – summer term and 2022-23

Holidays – Summer term	Closing Date	Re-open for Teaching Purposes
<b>Easter 2022</b>		Monday 25 April 2022
Summer half-term 2022	Thursday 26 May 2022	Monday 6 June 2022
Summer 2022	<b>Thursday 21 July 2022</b>	
<b>School will be closed for staff training on: 27 May 22</b>		

Holidays – 2022-23	Closing Date	Re-open for Teaching Purposes
Autumn term 2022		Tuesday 6 September 2022
Autumn half-term 2022	Friday 21 October 2022	Monday 31 October 2022
Christmas 2022	Tuesday 20 December 2022	Thursday 5 January 2023
Spring half-term 2023	Friday 17 February 2023	Monday 27 February 2023
Easter 2023	Friday 31 March 2023	Monday 17 April 2023
May Day 2023	Friday 28 April 2023	Tuesday 2 May 2023
Summer half-term 2023	Thursday 25 May 2023	Monday 5 June 2023
Summer 2023	Friday 21 July 2023	
<b>School will be closed for the following staff training days:</b>		
1. Mon 5 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2022      2. Mon 21 <sup>st</sup> Nov 2022      3. Wed 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2023      5. Fri 26 <sup>th</sup> May 2023		

We look forward to seeing you later in the term, but in the meantime, we thank you for the support you will give to your children during this busy half-term!

Mrs Dunn