



7th September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to a new school year. It has been lovely to see the children so settled. Well done especially to all of our new children in Reception and in other classes across the school. We are all looking forward to working with you this year. Just to remind you children at Church Street site can come in to school from 8:45 - 8:55. Children at Moor Lane (Junior site) will of course come in as usual from 8.40 – 8.50.

Curriculum maps will be sent out by the end of the week to give you information about what your child will be learning. Below is a list of events for the coming half term.

September

Friday 22nd – Genes for Jeans Day – Non Uniform fundraising day for this charity which researches in to genetic conditions.

Tuesday 26th – Moor Lane - Parent/Carer welcome meeting to discuss curriculum information/SATS/ Homework/ reading scheme and maths information

Thursday 28th – Church Street - Parent/Carer welcome meeting to discuss curriculum information/ Homework/ reading scheme and maths information

Friday 29th – Macmillan coffee mornings on both sites 9:00-10: 30 (parents/ carers can attend either event if they have children on both sites and staff will take children to the correct site afterwards)

October

Tuesday 24th–Harvest Trail and coffee morning on both sites 9:00 – 10:30 30 (parents/ carers can attend either event if they have children on both sites and staff will take children to the correct site afterwards)

Friday 27th– Halloween Day- Children can come in to school in Halloween costumes/Non Uniform if they wish.

Break up for half term. School re-opens Monday 6th November

There will be other special assemblies across the year which will also be put on Facebook and the website.

Personal Contact Details

Could you please complete the attached contact details form to ensure that we have correct contact information in case of an emergency for your child, especially if you have changed phone numbers since the last time you gave us details. We must have at least 2 contacts for every child. We also need contact details for adults with PR for your child, however we will not contact them without first informing you if there are any extenuating circumstances.

Photo Consent – Year 3

An updated photograph and video consent form is attached and needs to be completed for all Year 3 pupils.

Packed Lunches

Just a reminder that your child's packed lunch must not contain a drink. Fresh water is always provided for all children at lunchtime regardless of the type of lunch they have. We do have an approved packed lunch policy which details the types of food children can bring – this is available on the website or a copy can be obtained from the school office. Please make sure any **grapes or small berries are cut up**. Nuts **are not allowed** at all in school, including chocolate spread containing nuts due to allergies.

End of the day

All children from Reception to Year 3 will be handed over 1 by 1 to parents/carers. The Governors and I would like to stress that all children need to be kept safe (of course) and so only if you give permission for your child from Year 4 – Year 6 to walk home on their own will we let them go on their own. Please complete the attached form to consent to your child walking home from school alone from the Moor Lane site – this is for Years 4 and above.

Contacting School

The contact number for both sites Church Street (Infant) and Moor Lane (Junior School) is **01429 836843** – there are 4 options to choose from:

- 1 Reporting Pupil Absence
- 2 Teatime Club bookings and Pupil collection information
- 3 Church Street
- 4 Moor Lane

You can also text school on our mobile phone – this number is 07880 044653

Leave of Absence requests

Any holiday requests need to be made directly to school to me, Mr Mullen or Annie. Forms must be completed and returned to the school office prior to taking the holiday. It is a LA policy to fine for unauthorised holidays in certain circumstances and both parents/carers will be fined per child. It is School policy to not authorise in term time except in very exceptional circumstances.

Cash into School

We aim to operate a cashless system across both sites and use the Parent Pay system for payment of clubs and events within school. Activation letters for new Reception children will be sent out by the end of this week – for all other parents if you have misplaced this please call into the office to get a further copy.

If you do not do on-line banking, please call into the office and we can arrange a payment card for you. This will enable payment to be made in cash at local shops that offer the Pay Point service, (eg Local Co-ops).

School Lunch

The cost for a school lunch is £2.50/day (£12.50/week) for pupils attending the junior site. Please see attached Free School Meal form for you to complete if your circumstances have changed and you think you may be entitled to a Free School Meal.

All children at the Infant site will receive a Universal Infant Free School Meal, however, the school receive a premium for children who are eligible for a Free School Meal, please see letter attached, explaining why it is worthwhile for these forms to be completed.

Facebook

Many of you will know that there is a Facebook page for the school – if you have any problems accessing this please come into the school office and someone will help.

Accidents and Bumps in School

Most of the staff in our school are First Aiders and they deal with any bumps, cuts and grazes. In the case of head injuries, parents/carers will be informed by school via a telephone call and will receive written details of the incident so that they can monitor their child when they get home and seek further

medical advice if necessary. This is school policy and does not mean that the injury is very serious but we need you to be aware in case of any after effects- obviously we cannot see into your child's head! If it is inconvenient for you to answer the phone during the day and do not want to receive such calls please advise the school office. You will still receive bump notes - the phone call is so that you are aware prior to the end of the school day or in case another adult collects your child after school.

Water in school

Every child in our school has been given their own cup or water bottle to use within school. The cups have children's names on. The bottles and cups will stay in school and be washed and reused in school each day. Please rest assured that your child will have the opportunity to access fresh clean water at all times.

Breakfast club is available at the Infant and Junior School sites at the following times:

From 7.30am - at a cost of £2.00 per session

We offer a free Breakfast Club on both sites from 8.30am and all children are able to attend – there is no booking required for Breakfast Club. All children can have free bagels in school from 9am.

Can parents please ensure that if their children are leaving the house early to attend Breakfast Club that they come straight into school and do not hang around on Moor Lane or surrounding streets. This is for their safety and well-being and I am sure you will encourage them to come straight to school.

Teatime Club is available at the Infant and Junior School sites at the following times:

From 3pm - 4pm at a cost of £1.00

From 4pm - 5pm at an additional cost of £3.00

Therefore, the total cost from 3pm – 5.00pm will be £4.00

Unfortunately from Monday 6th November, the cost for Teatime Club from 3-4pm will increase to £2 per session.

All bookings for Teatime Club must be made the previous day. As your circumstances may change over a weekend bookings for Teatime Club on a Monday can be made by 9.30am on the Monday morning. Alternatively advise us of regular bookings and daily notification will not be necessary.

If your child will be attending Teatime Club on a regular basis, either daily/weekly, please complete the attached form.

Payment for Breakfast Club, Teatime Club and School Meals

Payment for Breakfast & Teatime club and school meals **must be paid in advance of attending**, at the beginning of the week. If we do not receive payment your child will not be allowed to attend. We will provide a school meal for your child on the first day of non-payment, but following that you will be contacted and advised to send a packed lunch in with your child until we receive payment for the week ahead.

If this arrangement will cause any difficulties, please do not hesitate to contact me or Annie Docherty, Pastoral Manager.

If there are any outstanding amounts owed from last term can you please ensure that these are brought up to date by the end of this week. We will be contacting parents next week to arrange meetings/ payments plans for any not brought up to date.

Health and Safety

Dogs are not allowed on school premises at all. We have children with severe allergies, as well as the risk of biting!

Please do not stand at the top of the steps at the end of the day when you collect your child. It is very difficult for staff to see you at such a distance. Please rest assured we will help and keep your child at the infant site if you need to collect from the Junior site first.

Children cannot wear earrings or jewellery in school. If your child must have their ears pierced, they will need to sit at the side of the yard during break times and not take part in PE/swimming lessons.

Obviously, smoking including use of vapes is not permitted on any Durham County Council site including our school.

When dropping your child at Church Street please do not use the main entrance unless they are attending Breakfast Club, they should use the pupil entrance when staff are on the yard.

PE Kits

PE days for each year group are :

Reception – Wednesday & Friday

Year 1 – Monday & Wednesday

Year 2 – Thursday & Friday

Year 3 – Monday & Thursday

Year 4 – Thursday and Friday

Year 5 – Monday swimming (Class 11), Wednesday/Friday

Year 6 – Tuesday and Wednesday

Please send your child's PE kit to school on a Monday and it will be returned on a Friday for washing. This is because other opportunities may arise for PE and we do not want the children to feel upset. Our PE Kit is, blue/black shorts or joggers and a white t-shirt. We do have some spares in school if children do not have the correct kit.

Children in Year 1 and KS2 do all need trainers or plimsolls as some of their PE is outside.

OPAL Play

As part of our new OPAL play provision, children will be allowed to play on grassed areas of the school ground so long as they have appropriate footwear. Please could you send spare wellies into school for your child to keep in school so that they can engage in play at break and lunch times. If you have any additional wellies that your child has grown out of these will be greatly accepted as spares. If you are sending wellies in please write your child's name inside.

Year 6 Transition Information

Please see attached letter about applying for Secondary School. Any information we receive from local schools will be put on our Facebook page, the school website and fliers will be put up in school giving information about Open Evenings, etc.

Regards

Marie-Louise Binks

Mrs Marie-Louise Binks
Head Teacher