



Howden le Wear Primary School Weekly Newsletter

Friday 4 September 2015

Vol: 6 Issue: 1

Headteacher's Notices

Welcome back to the new academic year after the long summer break. I trust you all had an enjoyable holiday and it was lovely to see our children return to school on Thursday looking smart, happy and ready for the term ahead. All of the children I have spoken to have had a story to tell about the many wonderful and exciting experiences they have taken part in during the summer break. The wonderful holiday diaries some children kept and the recount writing in children's books this week about their holiday experiences also reflects this.

We have had a busy summer holiday in school too as we prepared for the new term. There has been no significant building work taking place this summer; but Mr Sparks, our Caretaker, has been hard at work painting, cleaning and repairing things across the school site. Teachers and Teaching Assistants have also been busy preparing their classrooms for some fantastic learning opportunities this term. Can I take this opportunity to welcome Mr Jonathan Clarke to our school teaching staff. Mr Clarke will be teaching our Year 3 class this year and I know staff, parents and children will make him feel very welcome.

With the start of the new term, can I remind parents/ carers that Breakfast Club operates every weekday morning from 8am until school opens to children at 8.55am. Breakfast Club costs only £1.50 per session and children have a range of structured activities to take part in on a weekly rotation along with a great choice of food on a morning. Nursery children are more than welcome to attend and there is no need to book children into Breakfast Club; simply turn up to the sessions that you require. Our After School Club is also available every day from 3.05pm to 4.30pm for those requiring after school care for their children. Please see Mrs Campbell in the school office if you are interested in accessing this provision.

Like last year, we have a range of after school activities planned for children to take part in and once again we are able to offer these FREE OF CHARGE to all children who wish to take part. Next week sees the start of Homework Club, Key Stage 2 Football, and Tag Rugby to name but a few. Attached to today's newsletter is a form for you to complete and return to school if your child would like to take part in any of our after school clubs. Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Could I kindly remind parents / carers that the school gates open at 8.45am and unfortunately no one is allowed on site before this time as we cannot guarantee the supervision and safety of your children. From 8.45am, children can access school via the playgrounds and parents can escort their younger children to the Nursery, Reception and Year 1/2 classrooms. We would however, like to continue to encourage all our children to come into school independently from the main school gate and would appreciate if parents can work with us towards this goal in the coming weeks. At 8.55am the side entrance gate will be closed and children arriving after this time will have to enter school through the main entrance. We are very keen to promote good attendance at school and ensure all children are on site for the start of the school day. I am sure you will support us in this.

Finally, attached today is a change of contact details sheet. Please complete this if you have recently moved house, changed phone numbers etc and not informed us. Particularly with regard to phone numbers, it is absolutely crucial that we have working telephone numbers on file in school so that we can phone or text you in the event that your child is poorly or we need to let you know of something urgently. Thank you for your support with this.

All of the school staff look forward to working with you and your children over the next academic year and if you have any concerns or issues you wish to raise, please do not hesitate to get in touch

Thank you for your continued support.
Mr C Baines,
Headteacher

For the most up to date information about what is going on in our school including dates for your diaries, parental information and school performance information, please visit our website at:

<http://www.howden-le-wear.durham.sch.uk>

Please scan your smartphone device over the QR code to the right to be taken straight to our school website!





Notices and Reminders

Absence During Term Time Requests:

As you will be aware, Government regulations removed the right for a child to be absent from school for holidays during term time. We would like to remind parents of this but also that they may submit a Request For Absence During Term Form should there be exceptional circumstances they would like the school to consider.

School Website:

Our school website is continually being updated offering parents and those interested in the work of the school up to date information on everything happening in school. All our weekly newsletters are uploaded to the website along with useful information about school term and holiday dates, upcoming events in school, termly curriculum information and lots more. Please visit our website at

<http://www.howden-le-wear.durham.sch.uk>

Parking:

May we again politely request that parents park with consideration and with safety in mind when they drop off and collect their children each day. School Street gets very busy at these times and we encourage parents / pupils who live in the village to consider walking to school or if having to travel by car, finding a parking space in nearby streets or on Hargill Road. We have been informed that checks are likely to be carried out and people may receive warnings or fines for parking inappropriately. Your co-operation with this would be greatly appreciated.

School Uniform/ Pupil Appearance:

It was lovely to see everyone looking so smart and ready for work in their uniforms on Thursday morning. If you wish to order any uniform throughout this academic year, order forms are available from the school office or can be downloaded from our website. A polite reminder regarding haircuts - occasionally we have children who attend school sporting haircuts which include patterns, swirls and shavings which often cause comment from many children. We do not encourage children to have haircuts that could serve as a distraction to other children and would appreciate if parents could bear this in mind when getting children's hair cut throughout the academic year. With regard to jewellery, only a wrist watch is allowed to be worn by children. Other jewellery such as earrings, bracelets etc are not permitted and should be removed at home.

Safeguarding:

We would like to remind visitors of our policy that they turn off and do not access their phones whilst they are in the school building. May we also remind parents that they should enter the building through the main school entrance and not through the Key Stage 1 or 2 doors which only children and staff should use. This will ensure that no unauthorised person may enter the building and will keep everyone safe. Children unfortunately are not able to open the main entrance door for anyone. If a child sees you waiting at the main entrance and no adult is in the office, they will inform an adult. They are not being rude, simply following what they have been asked to do.

Year 6 SATs:

The Year 6 SATs will be held from Monday 9 May 2016 to Friday 13 May 2016. It is very important that all Year 6 children have an excellent attendance prior to the tests and are present in school for the whole period as these tests are national tests and cannot be taken at any other time. The school will not authorise any request for absence for Year 6 children from Monday 11 April 2016 when we return after the Easter holidays regardless of the circumstances until after testing has been completed.

Parent Helpers:

If anyone has an hour or two spare on a morning or afternoon we would be grateful of any offers of classroom help. Please speak to your child's class teacher if you are interested. As you will be aware, all new helpers must undergo an enhanced DBS Records check which we hope will not put anyone off!

Money:

Please send any money to school in a sealed envelope with your child's name, class and reason for the money written on the outside. This helps overcome any confusion which might arise. Also, always ensure you hand money to Mrs Campbell or Mr Reed in the school office as money simply left at the hatch of the school office cannot guarantee to be accounted for.

Thank You For Your Continued Support.

Dates for your Diaries - Autumn 2015

We already have lots of dates in the diary for this half term, so here are some of the main events to look forward to with your children:

Thursday 24 September / Friday 25 September - Celebration for European Day of Languages in school

Tuesday 20 October - Harvest Festival Service in the village Chapel. All parents and family members are invited.

Wednesday 2 December to Friday 4 December - Year 4,5,6 residential visit to Robinwood Activity Centre, Alston Cumbria. ***If anyone pupils from Year 4,5,6 want to join us we still have places available!***

Thursday 10 December - Christmas Performances in school at 1.45pm and 6pm.

Friday 11 December - 'The Snow Bear' performance in school for Early years and Key Stage 1 children and parents.

Tuesday 15 December - **Whole school** Gala Theatre Pantomime visit. More information to follow.

School Term Dates 2015/16

Please make a note of this year's closing and re-opening dates for school.

Autumn Half Term Holiday - Friday 23 October to Monday 2 November.

Christmas Holiday - Friday 18 December to Monday 4 January 2016

February Half Term - Friday 12 February to Monday 22 February 2016

Easter Holiday - Thursday 24 March to Monday 11 April 2016

Summer Half Term - Wednesday 25 May to Monday 6 June 2015

Summer Holidays 2015 begin on Wednesday 20 July 2016

Dinner Money Reminder

Dinner money for this academic year is £1.95 per day; £9.75 per week. Could you please ensure dinner money is sent into school on Monday each week with the child's name and amount clearly written on the envelope.

Thank you.

Extended May Half Term Holiday 2016

In our drive to reduce pupil absence from school during term time, we have once again built into the annual timetable three staff training days which have been added to the beginning of the May Half Term holiday 2016. This means children will break up at 3.05pm on Tuesday 24 May and return on Monday 6 June, giving pupils and families 12 days off school. This would be an ideal opportunity for families to go away for an extended break; to take advantage of cheaper holiday / flight prices and avoid absence from school during term time.

Children's Achievements In School

As we have only been back in school for two days, we will start our pupil celebrations next week in school.

All pupils have made an excellent start to the academic year, so well done to everyone!

