



## Howden le Wear Primary School Weekly Newsletter

Friday 8 September 2017

Vol: 8 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 Tuesday 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 great holiday diaries some children kept and the recount writing in children's books this week about their holiday experiences, also reflect this.

We have had a busy summer holiday in school too, as we prepared for the new year. Mr Sparks, our Caretaker, has been hard at work: painting, cleaning and repairing things across the school site whilst Teachers and Teaching Assistants have been busy preparing their classrooms for some fantastic learning opportunities this term. Can I take this opportunity to welcome Miss Rachel Nattrass and Miss Rebecca Barton to our school teaching staff. Miss Nattrass will be teaching our Year 3 class; whilst Miss Barton will be teaching in Year 1. I know staff, parents and children will make both our new teachers feel very welcome.

At the start of the new academic year, we feel it is important that parents have the opportunity to visit school and meet their child's class teacher to find out a little about what will be happening over the term. This also ensures parents are familiar with the school staff who will be working with their child throughout the year. To help support this, each class will be hosting a 'Meet the Teacher' event over the next few weeks. The timetable for this is:

**Monday 11 September at 3.05pm - Mrs Salkeld's Year 4/5 class**

**Thursday 14 September at 3.05pm - Miss Nattrass' Year 3 class**

**Monday 18 September at 3.05pm - Mrs Gray's Year 2 class**

**Tuesday 19 September at 3.05pm - Miss Barton's Year 1 class**

**Tuesday 26 September at 2.15pm - Mrs Craig's Reception class**

*(Please note the above Reception meeting starts before the end of the school day so parents can see children at work in the setting)*

**Thursday 28 September at 3.05pm - Mrs Clark's Year 6 class**

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 £2.00 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 to enjoy each 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 and once again we are able to offer these free of charge to all children who wish to take part - you will have received a letter regarding this earlier in the week. Thank you to all those who have returned their completed forms. Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis and all after school activities begin next week.

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>**

Thank you for your continued support.  
Please scan your smartphone device over the QR code to the right to be taken straight to our school website!



Mr C Baines,  
Headteacher



## 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 Time Form, should there be exceptional circumstances they would like the school to consider. As a general rule, no holidays will be granted during term time and will be recorded in the register as an unauthorised absence. Thank you for ensuring your child has good attendance in school.

### **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. There is also a Local Authority proposal recently issued, to introduce a 'no waiting at any time' restriction on the school side of the road on School Street. Further information about how this develops will be provided in due course. Thank you for parking considerately for our children.

### **School Uniform/ Pupil Appearance:**

It was lovely to see everyone looking so smart and ready for work in their uniforms on Tuesday 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, colouring and shavings which often cause comment from other children. We do not encourage children to have haircuts that could serve as a distraction to other children and would appreciate it 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. Also, we have recently seen a trend in oversized, multi-coloured bows in girls' hair. Small bows which are in the school colours of yellow or blue are of course allowed; however we would appreciate it if the larger bows we have seen of late are not worn in school.

### **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 14 May 2017 to Friday 18 May 2018**. 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 national tests cannot be taken at any other time.

### **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.

**Dinner Money Reminder** - Dinner money for this academic year is £2.00 per day or £10.00 per week. Could you please ensure dinner money is sent into school on Monday each week to your child's class teacher with the child's name and amount clearly written on the envelope.

# Thank You For Your Continued Support.

## Morning Routines In School

Could I kindly remind parents 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 classroom and the Year 1/2 entrance. We would however, like to continue to encourage parents to say goodbye to children from Year 1 upwards at the main school gate and would appreciate it if parents can work with us towards this goal in the coming weeks. School officially starts at 8.55am and at this time the side entrance gate will be closed. Children arriving after this time will have to enter school through the main entrance. We are very keen to promote good attendance and punctuality at school and ensure all children are on site for the start of the school day. As a reminder, if your child is absent, please inform us at the earliest opportunity. If children need to attend appointments or be taken out of school during the school day, please come to the main entrance to collect your child. Thank you for your support with this.

## Do We Have Your Correct Contact Details??

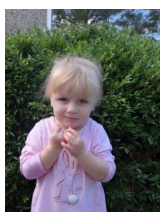
Having the correct contact details on file in school is really important in the event that we need to contact you quickly. If you have recently moved house, changed phone numbers etc and not informed us, we would be grateful if you could drop into school to let us know your new details. We plan to send a 'test text' from the Teachers 2 Parents service on Friday afternoon. If you do not receive this, your number is not up to date on our system. Please come into school to update your details.



## Children's Achievements In School

Every Friday, teachers choose a child from their class to be recognised for something special they have achieved that week. This week's chosen children are:

### Mrs Wheatley's Nursery



Mrs Wheatley in Nursery would like to congratulate **Summer Scott** for enjoying her first week in full time Nursery and making lots of new friends. Great work Summer!

### Mrs Craig's Reception Class



Mrs Craig has this week nominated **Lexi-Nicole Graham** for settling in brilliantly to her new class. Lexi-Nicole has made friends really quickly and had a great week in school. Well done Lexi-Nicole!

### Miss Barton's Year 1 Class



Miss Barton would like to say a huge well done to **William Grafton** for his brilliant listening skills in class and for being very polite to children and staff. Keep up the hard work William!

### Mrs Gray's Year 2 Class



Mrs Gray would like a special mention this week for **Darcy Smith** and **Ruby Shield** for making a really great start in school this week, settling in well and making friends. Well done Darcy and Ruby!

### Miss Nattrass' Year 3 Class



Miss Nattrass is delighted this week with **Jenson Richardson** for concentrating really hard in all lessons and trying his best with all tasks. Great work Jenson!

### Mrs Salkeld's Year 4/5 Class



Mrs Salkeld is really pleased with **Huw Halliley** for his amazing effort and great score on his reading assessment this week. Well done Huw!

### Mrs Clark's Year 6 Class



Mrs Clark would like a special mention this week for **Grace Genner** for a mature attitude to learning and working really hard all week. Great work Grace!



**Well done to all our children this week for their fabulous effort and hard work in school.**

