

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been wonderful to see our children back this week ready to learn. We have lots going on in school and hope to see you at some or all of the exciting events we have planned this half term.

In addition to this newsletter please take the time to check our website where you can read about all of our news in the class sections. You are also able to find out what your child is learning about each term.

Finally, I would like to thank you so much for the fantastic support for the Key Project food bank. We will continue to collect items for this very worthwhile cause - it means a great deal to people who really depend on this.

Warmest wishes.

Mrs Dunne

School Admissions:

If your child is due to start school next academic year- September 2023. Applications are now open and the closing date for applications is 4:30 pm on Monday 16th January 2023. Applications should be made via the Local Authority's website: <https://www.southtyneside.gov.uk/article/1494/Apply-for-a-primary-infant-or-junior-school-place>

Cost of Living Crisis

We are aware that the rising energy prices and cost of living crisis is causing financial pressure for so many people at present. We aim to be mindful of this, particularly as we head towards Christmas. Please be reminded that, should we carry out any fundraising activities or non-uniform days, contributions are always entirely voluntary.

Traditionally parents have been very generous and like to buy staff presents at certain points in the school year for example Christmas. While this is a very thoughtful thing to do, staff would like you to know that this is not an expectation. In the current climate of rising costs of living, please do not feel pressured into buying staff gifts. Tokens of thanks do not need to cost a lot of money - a homemade card is just as special.

Poppy Appeal

We are once again supporting the work of the Royal British Legion by selling poppies to mark Remembrance Day. If you would like to support this worthy cause, then please send in a small donation.

Volunteers

If you have any time to spare and would like to help out in school, then please let us know. We are grateful for any help we can get, whether this be in the classroom or help in our garden area.

SAPA

Thank you to everyone who came along to our coffee afternoon last month. It was great to see so many of our new parents. We have another coffee afternoon booked for Wednesday 30th November at 2:30pm - please do come along if you can. We will be hosting our usual Christmas Fair and raffle on Friday 16th December and would appreciate any donations for this. More information to follow.

Attendance

In my last newsletter, I outlined our attendance expectations. If we become concerned about your child's attendance, we will inform you of our concerns. Initially concerns about attendance are raised via a letter. This is also the case for persistent incidents of lateness. Although parents and carers have the legal responsibility for ensuring their child's good attendance, the Headteacher and Governors at our school work together with other professionals and agencies to ensure that all pupils are encouraged and supported to develop good attendance habits.

A gentle reminder that we cannot authorise term time requests for leave of absence unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Diary Dates:

Please note that sometimes dates may be subject to change.

31.10.22	SCHOOL CLOSED FOR STAFF TRAINING	
1.11.22	Children return to school	
14.11.22	Flu vaccinations for Rec – Y6	
14.11.22 – 18.11.22	Anti-Bullying Week Children In Need	
17.11.22	Y6 Mass at St. Gregory's Church	Parents welcome
18.11.22	KS2 Liturgical Prayer	Parents welcome
28.11.22 – 1.12.22	Y5 Bikeability	
28.11.22 – 2.12.22	Y6 to Thurston	
5.12.22	Y4 Bikeability	
5.12.22	Reception Class visit to West Boldon Lodge	
8.12.22		
8.12.22	Y5 Mass at St. Gregory's Church	Parents welcome
12.12.22 and 14.12.22 at 2:15pm	Rec and KS1 Nativity	Parents welcome – ticket information to follow
15.12.22	Christmas dinner and jumper day	
16.12.22	SAPA Christmas Fair	Parents welcome

19.12.22	Reception and Key Stage 1 Christmas Party	
20.12.22	Year3 and Year 4 Christmas Party	
21.12.22	Christmas Carol Concert	
22.12.22	Year 5 and Year 6 Christmas Party	
23.12.22	End of Autumn Term	
9.1.23	School Re-opens for Spring Term	
19.1.23	Y4 Mass at St. Gregory's Church	Parents welcome

Assessment Dates	
May 2023	KS1 SATs Test Period
8 th -12 th May 2023	KS2 SATs week
5 th -23 rd June 2023	Y4 Multiplication Tables Check
12 th -16 th June 2023	Y1 Phonics Screening Week