



APRIL 2016 NEWSLETTER

28.04.2016

All children and young people have a right to a primary education...Young people should be encouraged to reach the highest level of education they are capable of. (Article 28, United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child)

Welcome to our April newsletter. Please make a note of the diary dates, as there are a lot of them this term!! There will be more to come soon too!

I would like to formally welcome Mrs. Roe to our school – our new school secretary. She is fitting in really well already & we're delighted she is with us.

Congratulations to our Year 6 pupils for working so hard for their SATs tests. We are keeping them all in our prayers.



Wingate Forum

A new community group, Wingate Forum has now been established. It's aims are to support activities for the young people in our area out of school hours. It has launched a Facebook page with details of most of the activities available. Please see: www.facebook.com/wingateforum.

Parent Shelters

We received a grant from the 'walk to school' charity, Living Streets, to build the parent waiting shelter. I know from your feedback that you are pleased with this. I'd like to thank Living Streets for this grant.

Class 3 Student Teacher

In Class 3, Miss Brown, is on her final teaching placement and will be teaching some of the timetable in this class.

We welcome her and wish her luck.

New Website

Our school website has changed and is now on a new 'platform'. This is kept as up to date as possible, particularly with school dates. Please give us any feedback as to how we could improve this for you, or if there is any information that you would like on there that is not currently on it.



New Tests for Year 2 and Year 6

As you are aware, Year 2 & Year 6 pupils will be sitting new tests based on the more difficult national curriculum this term. Attached to this letter is the Government leaflet that explains these tests. You will be aware from the national press that Year 2 will not be sitting a Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling test due to the test being published on the Govt. website by error.

THIS NEWSLETTER IS AVAILABLE IN LARGE PRINT FORMAT-

PLEASE CONTACT SCHOOL OFFICE IF NEEDED

School Dinners

Dinner Money Rise from September 2016

Just to inform you that the cost of a school dinner from September will rise to £2 per day. Please send dinner money in on a Monday morning, in an envelope clearly marked with their name, thank you! Children in Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 will continue to receive their dinner for free.

Packed lunches for Trips

Unfortunately, packed lunches for trips will not automatically be made for all children on school dinners. If you wish your child to have a school packed lunch, then you will need to order this in advance, otherwise, please send your child to school with one.

Packed Lunch Policy

Please see our school website for the packed lunch policy – some children are beginning to bring chocolate or sweets into school & this is not permitted. Thank you.

School Chaplain Reminder

We do have a school chaplain who comes into school on a Wednesday morning once a fortnight.

She sets up a quiet prayer room each Wednesday morning in the small library in the hall with our Mini Vinnies children. Children, staff and parents are very welcome to go into this for a couple of minutes of quiet prayer. There is also a book of prayers in there for you to write the name of anyone you would like us to pray for in school.

The Mini Vinnies children do make prayer cards for people in the prayer book who need praying for, and other activities.

Summer Sun!

Just in case a summer does arrive, can I please remind you to protect your child from the sun? On sunny days all children should have sun cream put onto them before they come to school and should have a sun hat with them, with their name clearly marked inside the hat.

Unfortunately, school staff are unable to put sun cream onto the children. However, you can send cream in with your child for them to put on themselves.



Uniform

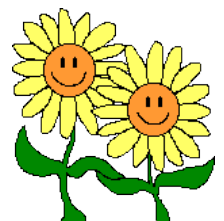
Can I please remind you that school uniform must be worn at all times – this includes school trousers – tracksuit/jogging bottoms are not permitted as a substitute. Black school shoes are part of this.

Nail varnish is not permitted.

Could all uniform have your child's name in it, please.

*PLEASE SEE ATTACHED SHEET
FOR OUR DIARY DATES,*

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Dates for the Diary (so far!) these are also on our school website - www.st-marys-pri.durham.sch.uk

- 2nd May** - **Bank Holiday Monday – school closed.**
- 9th- 12th May - SATS Week
- 20th May - Some children at Boccia tournament
- 25th- 27th May - Year 6 residential trip to the Lake District
- 27th May** - **BREAK UP FOR HALF TERM HOLIDAY**
- 6th June - Back to school
- 10th June - School Photographs
- 14th June - Year5/6 Athletics Tournament
- 15th June - Year 6 St. Bede’s transition visit
- 20th June - Year 6 Shotton Hall Academy transition visit
- 22nd June - Year 6 St. Bede’s transition visit
- 23rd June - Year 3/4 Athletics Tournament
- 24th June** - **SCHOOL CLOSED**
- Year 6 Shotton Hall Academy transition visit
- 28th June - Year 5 visit to St. Bede’s
- 4th & 5^h July - Wellfield Year 6 pupils’ induction days
- 5th July - Sports Day – time to be confirmed
- 8th July - Y6 Catholic Schools cluster mass at St. Bede’s
- 15th July - Reports go out to parents
- 20th July - **BREAK UP FOR SUMMER HOLIDAYS**

TUESDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER – SCHOOL RETURNS