



October 2016 Newsletter

21.10.2016

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

We are already nearly at the end of our first half term. All of the children have settled in well and are working well together. Please don't forget that you can always come & speak to us if there is anything concerning you. You do have the opportunity to talk about your child's progress with their class teacher on Thursday 17th November. Please book an appointment at the office.



Macmillan Coffee Afternoon

Thank you for coming out in such big numbers to this worthwhile fundraising event. We raised an amazing £141.88

Website

Our school has a website. Our school policies are on there, and *we will keep updating the events & dates.* The school holiday dates are also on there. The web address is:

<http://www.st-marys-pri.durham.sch.uk/>

We will also keep our newsletters on there too.

Internet Safety Advice

We were disappointed by the low turnout at our internet safety assemblies. We know you are busy, but those people who attended all said that they found new, useful information out. We are attaching the information that was given out at the meeting to this Newsletter so that you are aware of the kinds of things discussed.

Your children will also be bringing home a 'Digital Parenting' magazine this week which has lots of useful ideas in.



Winter Weather

As we approach the winter we'd like to remind you to please make sure your child has a warm coat, hat & gloves with them. Also, if it is snowing they should have wellies on and their school shoes in a bag to wear in school. We like to take them out to play in the snow if possible & they do need that change of footwear. ***Slippers are not appropriate footwear in school as many of them are too clumsy to move around the school***

THIS NEWSLETTER IS AVAILABLE IN LARGE PRINT FORMAT-

PLEASE CONTACT SCHOOL OFFICE IF NEEDED

Attendance

Also coming soon is our annual letter about the importance of good attendance at school for your child. It also details your responsibilities regarding this, as well as potential consequences for poor attendance.

We have noticed several children arriving at school late recently. This also has consequences for our children's start to their day. Please ensure they arrive at school promptly for 8.55am.

We all want to help our children be as successful as possible and good attendance is part of this.

Money in school

Please remember to put any money sent into school in an **envelope** clearly marked with your child's name and what the money is for. Dinner money should be sent into school on a Monday.



Absence

If your child is going to be absent, please inform school **before 9.30am** so that we know that they are safe.

Flu Vaccinations

You will have seen in the press that all children up to Y3 will be vaccinated against flu in the coming weeks with a nasal spray. These vaccinations are taking place in school. You will soon be receiving letters from the school nurses about this. The date for them to take place in our school is: **Friday 18th November.**



Haircuts

We've noticed some boys' haircuts are becoming nearly shaved. Just a reminder that our policy is short haircuts with no shavings and patterns in, please.

Black School Shoes

Our school uniform policy sent out before the holidays did state that black school shoes should be worn. Some children are in black school trainers with bright colours on them. We don't mind them wearing trainers, but they should be 'all black', with no colours on them.

Packed Lunch Policy

Our packed lunch policy is in place. No crisps (except baked crisps) and **no** chocolate or sweets will be allowed. There should be no chocolate yoghurts or anything else containing chocolate. A piece of cake or 2 biscuits is allowed. There are lots of alternatives to crisps such as bread sticks, crackers etc.
A copy of the policy is on the website, or held in the school office, or if you need to speak to us about this, please don't hesitate to contact school.

Medication

No medication is allowed in school unless it has been prescribed by a doctor and must be taken 4 times per day or more. If this is the case, an adult must bring the medicine to school & collect it, and must fill in a medication form at the office.



Morning supervision

Please remember that there is no supervision for children until 8.45am each morning.
Until then, parents are responsible for the supervision of their children.
We cannot admit children into school until 8.45am from which time we are able to supervise them.

Home Time

We like to make sure that our children are safely going to the person picking them up. To help us in this, please wait until their teacher sees you and lets them come to you and it would be a big help if you come down onto the playground rather than at the fence on the path. It is difficult to see if you are there otherwise. Thank you.



Dogs

No dogs on school premises please.



Birthdays

The staff are happy to hand out cake for children's birthdays but could you please send in individual small cakes or biscuits as sharing out big cakes can be quite challenging, thank you.

Breakfast Club

Thank you to those of you who have kindly volunteered to help at breakfast club. If you do find you have a spare half hour, we would love to hear from you.

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

Please note, our holidays are different to many other schools around us – so please make sure you have the correct dates in your diary.

Dates for your Diary (these are also on our website, which is often updated)

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| 19th October | Class 2 visit to Broomhouse Farm |
| 20th October | Some children at cross country festival |
| 21st October | 9.15am - Harvest Mass in school - all welcome |
| HALF TERM HOLIDAY | |
| 31st October | Children return to school |
| 1st November | Children go to All Saints Day mass at Thornley RC Church |
| 2nd November | Some children at Tag Rugby festival |
| 7th November | Reception children have hearing tests |
| 16th November | Whole school visit to the cinema |
| 17th November | Parents' Evening - please book an appointment at the school office |
| 18th November | Flu vaccinations taking place |
| 1st December | 2pm - Advent Mass - all welcome |
| 2nd December | 2pm - Christmas Fayre |
| 14th December | 2pm - Class 1 Nativity Play |
| 15th December | Children have their Christmas Dinner |
| 19th December | Class 1 Christmas Party |
| 20th December | 9.15am - Class 2 & 3 Carol Service |
| | Class 2 & 3 Christmas Party |
| 21st December | CHILDREN BREAK UP FOR THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY |

Please note that our Christmas holidays are different to some other schools

RETURN TO SCHOOL ON MONDAY 9th JANUARY