



October 2017 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 have the opportunity to talk about your child's progress with their class teacher on **Wednesday 18th October**. Please book an appointment at the office.



Macmillan Coffee Afternoon—Tuesday 10th October

Thank you for coming out in such big numbers to this worthwhile fundraising event. We raised an amazing £134.

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

School reviews internet and e-safety each half term to ensure your children are safe and are reminded of the risks.

Can we remind you to visit the CEOP Think U Know website for more information on keeping your child safe online at home.



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

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, especially as the nights become darker. Thank you.

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 Y4 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 24th November.**



**Apostleship
of the Sea**
Supporting Seafarers Worldwide

Shoebox Appeal.

Our Mini Vinnies are hoping to work with St. Bede's to collect items to fit in a shoebox in order to support the Apostleship of the Sea. This organisation helps seafarers who come to our country on cargo ships. The life of a modern seafarer can be dangerous and lonely. They may spend up to a year at a time away from home, separated from their family and loved ones and often working in harsh conditions. More details about suitable items to follow.

Play Rangers

Play rangers work in the park on a Tuesday from 3:40—5:30 and Thursday from 3:30—5:30. All children are welcome but you must complete a registration form.

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. Please remember, school stocks some children's medicine. We will always contact you before giving this to your child unless you request this in advance.



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.



Year 5 walking home

Some of your year 5 children have begun walking home on a night after school. Please note, we only allow children to walk home with prior consent from their parents and only those children who live close to school. As the nights are becoming darker earlier and earlier, we would prefer if you could collect the children as normal. If you do want your child to walk home alone, please contact the school on each occasion to avoid confusion. We have been made aware of some children tearing up school letters on the way home and not crossing roads safely. Could you please speak to your children about this.

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. Please remember that this includes free sessions with CNS Sports Stars twice weekly at no additional cost.

School Dinners

We understand that there have been a few issues with the new menus for school lunches. Paula our cook has been working closely with the people who provide our meals to change them to include more of the things our children like. We hope you bear with us during this transition period.

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)

10th October	Macmillan Coffee Afternoon 2 p.m.
13th October	Some children at Science event at Wellfield
18th October	Parents' evening—please book an appointment at the school office
19th October	Some children at Cross Country Festival at East Durham College
20th October	9:15—Harvest Mass in the school hall—all welcome
HALF TERM HOLIDAY	
30th October	Children return to school
1st November	Children go to All Saints Day mass at church Some Class 3 children at Tag Rugby festival Fancy Dress Disco 5—6:30
8th November	Fun to Cook After School Club starts for some children
14th November	Class 2 and 3 trip to Shildon Railway Museum (detail to follow)
20th November	Book Fair arrives in school for the week.
24th November	Flu Nasal Sprays for Reception—Year 4 children Youth Friday Event for Year 3 & 4 children 2:30—Christmas Fayre—all welcome
29th November	9:15—Advent Mass in the school hall—all welcome
1st December	Adam Bushnel (Author) working in school
5th December	Whole school photographs
13th December	2 p.m. Music Concert
14th—15th December	Y6 residential to the Youth Village
15th December	Children Carol Singing at Divine House
18th December	2 p.m. Class 2 & 3 Carol Service
20th December	2 p.m. Class 1 Nativity
21st December	Whole School Christmas Party
22nd December	CHILDREN BREAK UP FOR THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

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

RETURN TO SCHOOL ON TUESDAY 9th JANUARY

Parish Links

A copy of the Parish Newsletter is available in Reception if you would like a copy.