

St. Mary's Primary, Wingate September 2015 Newsletter

Welcome back to a new school year and to the first newsletter of the year. It is great to see everyone back looking so fit and healthy and we all look forward to another successful school year.

As always, we look forward to working in partnership with you as parents and guardians so that we can help your children be happy and achieve their full potential while in our care.

Welcome

I'd like to begin by welcoming all of our new starters who have joined us this year:

Philippe Y5, Lucie Y4, Faye Y3, Declan Y1

Reception: Harry, Marie, Luke, Scarlett, Harry, Charlie, Charlie

I'd also like to welcome Mrs. Appleton, our new teacher in Class 1 while Mrs. Hullock is on maternity leave, and to Mrs. Parkin, our new teaching assistant.

Lots to Celebrate at St. Mary's!!!

- 1. Mrs. Hullock has had a baby boy, Joshua. Both are very well.**
- 2. WE ACHIEVED THE RRSA LEVEL 2 AWARD – thank you to all of you who supported us in this. We are one of very few schools nationally who have achieved it and so are extremely proud!**
- 3. We have also achieved the SILVER SAINSBURY'S SPORTS MARK award in recognition of all of the sporting opportunities we provide for our children – well done everyone, with particular thanks to Mrs. Walton.**

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.

Video Games Safety Reminder

Attached to the newsletter is a reminder about video games ratings and the law that we sent out before the holidays. It is our duty of care to our children that we ensure that they are safe. If we feel concerned about any child playing inappropriate games for their age, we may need to take further action.

A Few Reminders!

Names in clothes:

As you will realise, it can be a great problem identifying which clothes belong to who when the children all wear uniform. PLEASE put names in your children's clothes, coats & on their book bags.

Holidays:

The Government have still tightened the rules concerning taking leave of absence in term time.

The head teacher is only allowed to grant any 'leave of absence' in "exceptional circumstances", and these can only be very exceptional circumstances.

PLEASE be aware of the law when planning holidays in the future.

Please note: NO absences will be authorised in May. This is an important assessment time, including Y6 SATs, and pupils must not miss work at this point. Year 2 pupils will also be required to be assessed during May.

SATS week is from 9th – 13th May.

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.

Jewellery:

Governors agreed that the school policy would be that NO jewellery is allowed to be worn in school for health & safety reasons. Children will be asked to remove any & it will be kept safe for a parent to collect. In the case of earrings, parents will be asked to come down to school to remove the earrings if a child is unable to do this themselves.

This is also the case for any make-up, nail varnish or heels.

Haircuts:

Governors agreed that the school policy would be only appropriate haircuts for school should be permitted. This means no patterns to be shaved into heads – this includes the 'v' shape that is shaved down the back of children's heads.

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.

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.

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.

Parent Questionnaires

We had very few returns of our questionnaires. The ones we did receive were positive. In response to a concern we are no longer sending out family letters, we will always send them to each child.

Dates for your Diary so far

- 5th October - Class 3 attend a cyber bullying workshop at St. Bede's, Peterlee during school time.
 - 7th October - School photographs - further information to follow
 - 15th October - Class 2 trip to Beamish
 - 23rd October - BREAK UP FOR HALF TERM HOLIDAY
 - 10th November - Parents' Evening - please ring office to book an appointment to discuss your child's progress with their teacher
 - 18th December - BREAK UP FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
- Return to school on 5th January***