



September 2016 Newsletter

26.09.2016

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

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:

Sebastian, Jack, Reggie, Georgia & Kian

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/>

Internet Safety Reminder

We will continue to send out any information we receive in school about how to keep your children safe on the internet. In the meantime, please make sure you have parental control settings on devices that your children are using and check often to make sure they are safe. Ideally, children only use internet programmes when a parent or responsible adult is with them.

As part of this, we are having an internet safety day on Monday 3rd October. The children will be learning lots of things about internet safety and we are holding an assembly for parents to come to at the end of this. The assembly begins at 2pm – all welcome.

Internet Safety



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.

THIS NEWSLETTER IS AVAILABLE IN LARGE PRINT FORMAT-

PLEASE CONTACT SCHOOL OFFICE IF NEEDED

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 8th – 12th 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.



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.

Farewell

Sadly, Mrs Roe is leaving us on the 5th October due to unforeseen circumstances. We would like to thank her for her hard work while she has been here and wish her every happiness in the future.

We are delighted that Mrs. Hudson will be joining us as our new school secretary

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

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

- 29th September - MacMillan charity day – children in non uniform – 50p
2.15pm – coffee afternoon in school hall
- 3rd October - 2pm – internet safety assembly
- 7th October - 2.45pm – Class 1 Welcome Liturgy – all welcome!
- 13th October - Class 2 & 3 educational visit to synagogue
- 19th October - Class 2 educational visit to Broom House Farm
- 20th October - Some children at cross country competition
- 21st October - 9.15am – Harvest Mass in school hall – all welcome!
- 21st October - BREAK UP FOR HALF TERM HOLIDAY
- 31st October - Return to school
- 1st November - Whole school at ‘All Saints Day’ mass at church in Thornley
- 2nd November - Some of Class 3 at Tag Rugby Festival
- 16th November - Whole school visit to Vue Cinema, Hartlepool to see Inside Out
- 17th November - Parents’ Evening – please make an appointment
- 18th November - Years 1, 2 & 3 flu vaccinations
- 1st December - 9.15am – Advent mass in school – all welcome!
- 2nd December - 2pm – Christmas Fayre
- 14th December - 2pm – Class 1 Nativity Play – all welcome!
- 19th December - Class 1 Christmas Party
- 20th December - 9.15am – Class 2 & 3 Carol Service – all welcome!
- Class 2 & 3 Christmas Party
- 21st December - **BREAK UP FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY**

Return to school on 9th January

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