



September 2017 Newsletter

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 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. With that in mind, can I remind you that if you have any concerns about your child, please contact school to speak to a member of staff.



Welcome

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

Archie, William, EL-Khaliq, Travis, Ellis and Connie.

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 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.

Internet Safety



A Few Reminders!

Please check children's book bags regularly for school letters, reading books and homework. Thank you.

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.

PE Kit

Please remember that we have a PE uniform of plain white t-shirt with black or navy shorts. When the children are dressed the same it looks very smart when we attend different festivals and tournaments.

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 14th – 18th 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 is to be paid in advance on a Monday morning.



Absence:

It is important that 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:

Prescribed medication—an adult must bring the medicine to school & collect it, and must fill in a medication form at the office.

Under the direction of Durham County Council and Public Health England, we have been advised we can keep our own supply of the following medication to administer in school: Calpol, Paracetamol, Piriton, Nettle, Bee, Wasp sting Cream & Inhaler—Salbutamol Reliever. You must complete a written consent form to allow us to do so, if you have not done so already. If we think your child may need any of the above we will ring you first.



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. Only children attending breakfast club will be admitted before 8.45am.

Home Time:

We like to make sure that our children are safely going to the person picking them up. To help us in this, we need to ask you to come onto the playground to collect your child. It is difficult for staff to recognise adults if they are standing behind trees or the fence. Thank 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.

Dogs:

No dogs on school premises please.



Breakfast Club

Parents! Grans! Friends! Can you spare some time to help out with our popular breakfast club from 8.00 to 8.45am? Some of our volunteers are unable to continue this year so we are looking for new faces.

Also we will be using CNS Sports stars for Tuesday and Thursday morning for a few weeks to encourage our children to become more active. This is a trial to see how the children enjoy it. Breakfast club will still cost **only £1.50 per day**. Try to encourage your child to come along.

Staffing

We are pleased to welcome Mrs Jones who will be working with Mrs Hullock in class 1. I am sure you will make her feel very welcome.

Race For Life

A huge well done to the children for taking part and the families for all the fund raising. You raised a huge amount of £604.50 towards Cancer Research.

Open Evenings for Year 5/6 pupils: For some of our children, this will be their last year with us. Many of you will be thinking about where to send your child next. For your information, open evenings for all year 5 and year 6 children for our main local school are listed below.

St. Bede's Peterlee	September 20 th from 6 p.m.
Academy at Shotton Hall	September 14 th from 6 p.m.
Wellfield Comprehensive	September 20 th 5-8 p.m.

Finally

Can I take this moment to thank all of you who sent good wishes following the death of my mum at the end of last year. Your support meant a lot to me. Mrs Walton x



*Dates for
the Diary:*

- 26th September - 2.45pm - Class 1 Welcome Liturgy - all welcome!
- 18th October - Parents' Evening - please contact school to make an appointment
- 20th October - BREAK UP FOR HALF TERM HOLIDAY
- 30th October - Return to school
- 1st December - 9.15am - Advent mass in school - all welcome!
- 24th November - Christmas Fayre
- 1st December - Reception - Y4 flu nasal sprays
- 13th December - Music Concert - all welcome!
- 18th December - Class 2 & 3 Carol Service - all welcome!
- 20th December - Class 1 Nativity - all welcome!
- 21st December - Christmas Party
- 22nd December - BREAK UP FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

Return to school on Tuesday 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.