

# St. Mary's Primary, Wingate September 2014 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.

I'd like to congratulate Mrs. Hullock (formerly Miss Stephenson) on her marriage during the summer holidays.

## **Welcome**

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

*Natalie and Alma Y6, Callum Y4, Joshua and Chloe Y3, Demi Y2, Olivia and William Y1, Eve, Charlotte, Jakub, Ethan, James, Isabella, Lucy and Noah Reception*

## **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.

## **MacMillan Coffee Afternoon – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September**

We hope you are able to join us for coffee at 2pm, so that we can raise funds for this important charity.

We will also let the children come to school in non uniform if they bring in 50p towards the MacMillan charity.

There will be a book sale at the event of books that we no longer use in our library – funds raised from this will support the purchase of new books & equipment in the library.

## **Parents' Evening**

So that you have the opportunity to talk about your child's progress so far & their targets for the year, we are holding our Autumn Term Parents' evening on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November from 3.15pm.

If there is something you need to talk to the teacher about that would take longer than the minutes allotted, then please try to arrange a meeting on an alternative day.

Please contact school to arrange an appointment for parents' evening.

## **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.

### **PE Kit**

Thank you to everyone who has purchased the new PE kit. We are still waiting for the some orders and for the hoodies. PE kit can be ordered any time from Mrs Jordan.

### **Holidays:**

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

*The law now no longer mentions any reference to 'family holidays', or entitlement to 10 days leave of absence.*

*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.**

**SATS week is from 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

### ***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.

### ***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.

### ***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. One of our volunteers is unable to help us any more, so we would really appreciate it if you could volunteer.

### **Fairtrade Tuckshop**

This is now no longer taking place. New Government guidelines state that no school tuckshop may sell sweets or chocolate. We will therefore be just continuing to sell fruit each break time.

### **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 has been quite challenging, thank you.

### **Living Streets Campaign**

This is a campaign to encourage children to walk to or from school once per week. The children will be told about this in an assembly on Friday. The campaign will then start next week.

There will be a chart in each classroom, and if a child has walked to or from school at least once per week each month, they will receive a badge at the end of the month. The aim is that they collect all of the badges for the year.

If it is impossible for you to walk from home to school, then you are encouraged to park further away from the car park and walk a further distance – just once per week. Then your child can get their 'tick' on the chart.

We do hope you support this campaign. It is important to show our children the health benefits of walking, the environmental benefits, and how much more sociable it is to 'walk & talk'!

## Dates for your Diary so far

- 26<sup>th</sup> September - MacMillan Coffee Afternoon & Non Uniform Day
- 2<sup>nd</sup> October - 2.00pm - Open afternoon for parents who may be choosing a school for their child in September 2015. Please encourage your friends to visit.
- 8<sup>th</sup> October - 2.45pm - Class 1 Welcome Liturgy for our new starters in the school hall - all welcome
- 8<sup>th</sup> October - 4pm - Open evening for parents who may be choosing a school for their child in September 2015. Please encourage your friends to visit
- 15<sup>th</sup> October - Lion King theatre trip - children will not return to school until approximately 5.30 p.m.
- 17<sup>th</sup> October - 9.15am - Harvest Mass in school hall - all welcome
- 24<sup>th</sup> October - CHILDREN OFF SCHOOL - STAFF TRAINING DAY  
BREAK UP FOR HALF TERM HOLIDAY
- 11<sup>th</sup> November - 2.15pm - KS2 World War 1 Drama Production - all Welcome
- 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> November - Year 6 residential retreat to Youth Village
- 18<sup>th</sup> November - Whole school Parents' Evening
- 28<sup>th</sup> November - 2pm - School Christmas Fair - all welcome
- 5<sup>th</sup> December - 9.15am - Advent Mass - all welcome
- 12<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas lunch
- 16<sup>th</sup> December - Class 1 Nativity Play at 2pm
- 17<sup>th</sup> December - Reception, Year 1 & 2 Christmas Party
- 18<sup>th</sup> December - Year 3, 4, 5 & 6 Christmas Party
- 19<sup>th</sup> December - BREAK UP FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

***Return to school on 5<sup>th</sup> January***