

St. Mary's Primary, Wingate January 2015 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)

A very happy new year to you all. We hope that 2015 brings much success and happiness to you, your families and friends.

We look forward to continue working in partnership with you so that we can achieve great things for our children.

Winter Weather

Please make sure your children come to school with a change of shoes & warm outdoor gear like hats & gloves. They do like to play in the snow, but we can only take children out who are appropriately dressed.

A change of shoes is really important so that they are warm all day, & so that our school floors don't get too slippery.

Please listen to the local radio stations (Metro, Galaxy & Durham FM) on a snowy morning in case we have to close - this would only be in the most extreme circumstances, as we do like to stay open. Our school website will also immediately be updated if we close the school.

Parents of Year 6 children

This is obviously a very important term for your children when they are working hard to prepare for their SAT tests in May - week beginning 12th May. Please ensure they attend school regularly, get plenty of rest/sleep and have a quiet place at home to do their homework and revision.

The BBC 'Revisewise' website is a fun, interactive site to go on to with your child if you have a computer at home, to help them to revise.

Please do not put too much pressure on your child, just encourage them to work hard and do their homework.

School Website

Please be aware that all of the important school dates so far are on our website, *including next year's holidays*.

<http://www.st-marys-pri.durham.sch.uk/>

RRSA (UNICEF) Rights Respecting Schools Award

As you may be aware, we are a Unicef 'Rights Respecting' school. This means that we are committed to treating all of our children and teaching them about the human rights of all children as set out in the UNICEF Convention on the Rights of the Child. I know some of our Class 3 pupils spoke to parents about this at the Scarecrow event they organised in October.

We have regular 'family groups' in school on a Friday afternoon where all of our children are split into mixed age groups and do activities to help them understand the 45 rights that children have, and how we should respect those rights.

Instead of class and school rules, we have charters that show what rights our children have and how we should all behave to respect those rights.

We also have an 'RRSA Steering Group' of staff and pupils who lead our work on children's rights.

On Friday, 6th February, it is UNICEF Day for Change - children are able to come to school in non-uniform, and bring in £1 that will go to the UNICEF charity who do amazing work around the world to help children. At 2.45pm, parents are invited to an assembly led by some of our children all about respecting children's rights. All welcome!

Parents' Evenings

Our parents' evening this term is on Tuesday March 10th.

If there is something you need to talk to the teacher about that would take longer than the 5 minutes allotted, then please try to arrange a meeting on an alternative day.

Please contact school to arrange an appointment.

School Dinners

As you are aware, we are in the middle of the 3 weeks of the new menu. The children have had mixed reactions to the new food. Paula is working really hard with the catering company to change the menu so that all children will enjoy it while still conforming the new Government guidelines. We are fairly confident that the children will enjoy the next menu after these 1st 3 weeks are over. Thank you for your patience, and thanks to Paula for her hard work in trying to get the menus changed.

Children have the right to...nutritious food... (Article 24, United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child)

Reminder – Class 1 Open Sessions

Parents or grandparents are very welcome to come into Class 1 each Monday morning between 9am and 9.30am to play with your child, chat to the staff and see what your child is doing. All welcome!

St. Mary's achieves another award!

I am delighted to inform you that we have been successful in achieving the national 'Investing in Children' award. This recognises how well we listen to our children's views and support them in feeling confident and help us to make decisions about our school.

Many thanks to members of the Eco Team and School council who were interviewed for the award last term. Congratulations to all of our children, staff and whole school community!

Children have the right to say what they think should happen, when adults are making decisions that affect them, and to have their opinions taken into account. (Article 12, United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child)

Our School Governors

I understand that there has been a query about who are our school governors. All school governors are listed on our school website and are in our school brochure. If you do not have access to the internet, please get in touch with the school office & we'll be happy to inform you.

Dates for the Diary (so far!)

- 6th February - UNICEF Non Uniform day - 2.45pm - assembly for parents
- 13th February - Break up for HALF TERM HOLIDAY!
- 26th February - Year 2 go to a 'Hoopstarz' festival
- 3rd March - Year 3 & 4 go to a football festival
- 9th-13th March - School Book Fair - children's books available to buy in school all Week
- 10th March - Parents' Open Evening - ***please make an appointment for a time to speak to your child's class teacher.***
- 13th March - 'Red Nose' comic relief day - details to follow
- 27th March - Break up for EASTER HOLIDAY
- Monday 13th April - Back to school***

This newsletter is available in large print format, please contact school if this is required.