



September 2018 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.

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

*Nova Mason Neve Zain
Max Adeline Keiron Lily Aletta
Amelie Lily May Lewis Avi
Scarlett Erin Frankie*

Wingate Food Bank

A big thank you to those people who are leaving donations for the Food Bank. Our collection box is regularly full of donations. The donation box is located in the school reception area.

Reminder we also hold food vouchers in school, if required. Please call into school for more details.



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.

THIS NEWSLETTER IS AVAILABLE IN LARGE PRINT FORMAT-

PLEASE CONTACT SCHOOL OFFICE IF NEEDED



Just a friendly reminder . . .

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.

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

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.

Absence:

If your child is going to be absent, please inform school before 9.30am so that we know that they are safe.

Haircuts:

Governors agreed that as per our school policy 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.

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, after school clubs & wrap around money should be sent into school on a Monday. Parent Pay online is also available, if you require a password please contact school office.

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.

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.

Morning supervision:

Please remember that there is no supervision for children until **8.45am** each morning. To keep our children safe, the outside gates will be kept locked until 8:45. If your child arrives before that time and does not wish to join breakfast club, they need to come into school first

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.



Dogs:

No dogs on school premises please.

After School Provision

As you are aware, we are starting after school provision from 3:15 – 4:30 every night. The cost of this is £1.50 per night or £5.00 for the full week.



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.

Please bring your child to school on time



It is very important all our children arrive on time. Our school day starts @ 8.55am. Please support us in this to avoid any disruption in classes. Thank you.

Breakfast Club

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

Also we will be continuing to use CNS Sports stars for Tuesday and Thursday morning to encourage our children to become more active. Breakfast club will still cost £1.50 per day this year. Try to encourage your child to come along.

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 26th from 6 p.m.

Academy at Shotton Hall September 13th from 6 p.m.

Wellfield Comprehensive September 19th from 5 p.m

September 2018 Dates for dairy so far

Dates for your Diary (these are also on our website, which is often updated)

Please check your child's book bag every night.

10 th September	KS1 Multiskills Club and After School Club starts
11 th September	Netball club and after school club
12 th September	Guitar club, Cookery Club and after school club
13 th September	KS2 football club and after school club
14 th September	After school club
28 th September	Macmillan Coffee Morning from 9:15am
17 th October	Welcome Liturgy for new starters @ 2.30pm
18 th October	Some children at Cross Country Festival at EDC. Spectators welcome
19 th October	Harvest Mass in school 9:15am – all welcome!
	Break up for half term
29th October	Back to school
31 st October	Some Y5/6 at Tag Rugby Tournament
1 st November	Whole school at Mass for All Saints @ St Peter's & Paul's 10.30am Fancy Dress Disco
7 th November	Parents' Evening – please contact school to make an appointment
12 th November	Archie Dobson performance
16 th November	Class 1 Diwali Assembly
19 th November	Book Fayre arrives for the week.
30 th November	9:15am Advent Mass in school. All welcome! 1:30pm School Christmas Fayre
3rd December	Reception – Y5 flu nasal sprays
4 th December	Whole school photographs
6 th December	Some children at Key Steps Gymnastics Festival
12 th December	Music Concert – all welcome! (TBC)
13th December	School Christmas lunch for all children
17 th December	Class 2 & 3 Carol Service – all welcome!
18 th December	Class 1 Nativity – all welcome!
19th December	KS1 Christmas Party
20 th December	KS2 Christmas party
21st December	BREAK UP FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

Return to school on Tuesday 8th January

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