

Newsletter

8th September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Here we are again at the end of a wonderful first week at Durham Lane Primary School. The children have had a great week in school and I have had the pleasure of spending time with all of them; I have to say they are a true credit to you. What well-mannered and polite children you have!

Bikes/Scooters

I am more than happy for children to cycle to and from home. However, could I please request that all children wear a **helmet** and that children walk with their bikes until they are safe to cycle **outside of the school premises**. Also, due to safety concerns surrounding batteries, electronic scooters are **not** permitted on school grounds.

Packed Lunches

If children are bringing a packed lunch to school, we have several children in school who have severe nut allergies and request that parents do not include nuts or any nut-based products in packed lunches. Children must also bring their own drink (not fizzy) and a spoon for yoghurt or jelly. Staff based in the dining hall will monitor children on packed lunches and will encourage them to eat all items provided – please only add to a lunchbox the food you expect your child to eat.



Harvest Festival

On 26th September, we will be celebrating harvest. We kindly ask that (if you are able to) you send any donations of food listed below into school before Friday 22nd September. All of this will be donated to our local food bank to help those in need in the local area. Each year we are blown away by your generosity and, any donations sent this year, will be gratefully received once again.



Key dates

- 27th September Y3-Y6 cross country (children to be selected after trials)
- 11th October- tempest individual photographs
- 16th and 23rd October – Parent Consultation Evening
- 23rd October Y5 Bikeability
- 23rd October – 27th October then, after half term, 6th November October – 10th

November Swimming every afternoon for Y4 (more details to follow)

- 18th October Y1 and Y2 trip to Shildon Train Museum
- 25th October Monster and Mayhem Disco 4.15pm – 5.15pm for Rec, Y1 and Yr2
- Monster and Mayhem Disco 5.30pm – 6.30pm Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6 (more details to follow)
- Break up for October half term on Friday 27th October – return on Monday 6th November

Reading

At Durham Lane Primary, we strongly believe in the importance to our children of reading, from the minute they enter our Nursery until they leave us in Y6. In order to promote the love of reading as well as helping our children to learn and practise the skills needed to be fluent and keen readers, we have several events/initiatives planned for this coming year, as follows:

- Staff have set up new, stimulating book corners in each classroom;
- Our newly-stocked library will continue to welcome children from Nursery-Y6 who will be able to borrow fiction and non-fiction books;
- Our Y5/6 and Y3/4 'Book Buddies' book club will begin on lunchtimes;
- Bookmarks have been distributed to Y1-Y6 parents, explaining how to support children with their reading;
- Assemblies will take place where we will welcome Richard Drake from Drake's the Bookshop in Stockton, who will introduce children to new reading material and enthuse them in to becoming avid readers;



Staffing

There has been a few changes to staffing over the summer holidays. Sadly, we have had to say a fond farewell to Miss Ahmed, who has taken up a position supporting vulnerable children and families within the Family Action Service. We wish her well and good luck in her new career.

As we are part of Stockton Teaching Alliance, we would like to welcome Miss Bissell, who will be working alongside Mrs Neave in Year 2 and Mrs Sharratt who will be working in Year 3. Both trainee teachers will be working in school throughout this academic year.



Miss Bissell



Mrs Sharratt

We would also like to welcome Miss Hughes who will be working in Early Years.



Catering Team

We have a brand new catering team and so we would like to welcome:

Mrs Moore - Cook (centre) Miss Davies (right) and Mrs McGreevy (left).



Building Improvements

Over the summer holidays, we had extensive work completed to the cladding of our building. The majority of the cladding has now been replaced, which we are very pleased with. All the paving outside the front of the school has been relaid or replaced, we are hoping this will fix the uneven surface.

The old IT suite has been remodelled and refurnished. This room will now be known as the 'The Hub' and will be used as an additional classroom during the day and an additional 'Club Room', as the numbers of children staying after school has grown tremendously.



IT Updates

All teaching classrooms have been fitted with new high spec, state of the art interactive television screens, plus 30 brand new lap tops (thanks to SGP accountants who have gifted these to school). The children are now able to access their computing lessons in their own classrooms using either iPads or laptops.

Thankyou SGP accountants!!



Year 6 – roles and responsibilities

It has been lovely to welcome our new Y6 pupils back to school in their smart black uniforms. As the oldest children in school, they will be given a range of responsibilities, including being librarians, being Team Captains/Vice Captains



and helping the younger children at lunchtimes; we are sure they will carry out these responsibilities to the best of their ability and will be amazing role-models for our younger pupils.

Earrings

Children are able to wear earrings during the school day. However, they are not permitted to wear earrings during PE lessons. Children must either be able to remove themselves or not wear them on the day of their PE lesson. Unfortunately, due to health and safety reasons we are not permitted to remove them or put tape on them. We thank you for your understanding.

STEM Club

Calling all budding scientists, engineers, designers, chemists and architects. If you like making and designing models, solving problems and investigating, come and join Mrs Guest after school on a Tuesday for STEM Club! We have some exciting challenges planned such as the spaghetti and marshmallow challenge, rocket racing, making milk magic, a catapult challenge and making fireworks in a jar- to name but a few! We will think about why igloos are built in a dome shape, how engineers have been inspired by nature, how a rocket launches into space and what design of boat can hold the most cargo. Why not give it a go??? Starting 19th September for Y3 and Y4 children.



After school activity clubs until October Half Term Holiday

Tuesday:

- Relax Kids Y1-Y6 with Mrs Thomson (starts 12th September)
- STEM Club with Mrs Guest Y3 and Y4 (starts 19th September)

Wednesday

- Dance Y1-Y6 with Mrs Barnes (starts 13th September)

Thursday

- Multi-sports with Mr Sheahan Y1- Y3 (starts 14th September)
- Ground force team – Mrs Williams Y4 - Y6 (starts 14th September)

Ground force Club

We will work together and learn to care for our school's outside spaces and wildlife. Activities will include: pruning, collecting and composting leaves, planting spring bulbs and making winter bird-feeders.



Usual before and after school clubs can still be booked on our School Comms app.

Thank you

Kind regards,
H Gregory

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