



Durham Lane Primary School

Head Teacher: Mrs J.A.C Ball

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25th November 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for all of your support during the busy last few weeks and in those to come in the run-up to the end of term! **Please make sure water bottles are thoroughly cleaned on a regular basis and stick to the 48 hour rule for any sickness and diarrhoea in children.**

Sporting Success

Our phenomenal sporting success continues! Just before half term, our boys' (plus one girl!) Y5/6 Tag Rugby Team took part in the Tees Valley Finals, having won both the Yarm/Eaglescliffe and Stockton competitions! They played incredibly well and came fifth overall. This is a huge achievement to do so well out of all the primary schools in Stockton, Billingham, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland, many of whom have 2 or 3 classes to choose from in each year group. Our team played against some very stiff competition and it was a real joy to watch such excellent play and sportsmanship from our children. Congratulations to them! Thanks to Mr. Beane and Mr. Sheahan for all their work. Particular thanks, too, to Mr. Jackson (a parent of a Y6) who helped coach and took time off work to attend the tournaments giving huge praise, encouragement and tactical advice!

Remembrance

Congratulations to Y6 for their very moving and respectful Remembrance Class Assembly on November 11th. The whole school gathered in the hall and marked the 11 o'clock two minute silence; there wasn't a sound from anyone, even our very youngest pupils.

Following on from the choir's super performance at the Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance at Stockton Baptist Church in October, Mr. and Mrs. Simpson from the Yarm and Eaglescliffe branch came into an assembly to explain to the children how money raised from the appeal is used. They donated 'Poppy', the dog which we then raffled in aid of the appeal. We will be informed from the British Legion of what our total Poppy Appeal collection totalled in due course; thank you again for your support.

Children in Need

We had lots of fun selling and eating cakes (thank you for sending so many in!), dressing in onesies and pyjamas, drawing Pudsey Bear and sharing children's talents! Thanks to everyone's generosity, we raised an incredible £556.51 which has gone directly to Children in Need. We are always so impressed with our charity fundraising which we feel is an extremely important part of our wider curriculum at Durham Lane.

Next year, we will still participate in Children in Need activities on the day. However, Miss Barrett (who co-ordinates this in school) has suggested that we actually donate the money to a local charity, Little Sprouts, who run a 'Holiday Hunger' programme in Stockton and across Teesside, cooking with needy children to provide them with a hot meal that they would not otherwise get in school holidays.

Dr. Paul Williams M.P.

On Wednesday this week (27th November), I am meeting with Dr. Paul Williams M.P. to discuss the issue of poor school funding, particularly for schools in areas like ours. Before this, however, Dr. Williams will be on our playground from 8.40am as he would like the chance to meet with and speak to parents. Please feel free to approach him if you'd like a chat.

Dates

Please stick on your fridge or noticeboard at home! Bold dates are new since the last letter.

Wednesday 27th November	8.40am Dr. Paul Williams M.P on playground
Wednesday 4th December	3.30pm Christmas Fair – all donations willingly received! Flu immunisations in school
	6.30pm Choir singing outside Community Centre (Christmas Tree lighting – all welcome
Thursday 5th December	Choir at the Mayor's Carol Service (Stockton Parish Church am)
Tuesday 10th December	10am 'A Present for the Baby' Nursery and Reception Christmas performance for family
Thursday 12th December	'Children of the World' Christmas performance for Y1-Y6 5.30pm at the Oakwood Centre - All welcome to attend (including Nursery and Reception children and families)
Monday 16th December	Y3 Snappy Music at Thornaby Pavilion
Tuesday 17th December	Christmas Discos Y1 to Y6
Thursday 19th December	Christmas Lunch – letter to follow
Friday 20th December	Break up for Christmas
Monday 6th January 2020	School reopens
Friday 14th February	Break up for half term
Monday 24th February	School reopens
Wed 11th to Fri 13th March	Y6 residential to Dobroyd Castle
Friday 3rd April	Break Up for Easter
Monday 20th April	School reopens
Friday 22nd May	Break Up for Half Term
Monday 1st June	PDDay School closed to children
Tuesday 2nd June	School reopens
Friday 5th June	Class photos
Friday 17th July	Break Up for Summer
Monday 20th July	School closed to children PD Day for staff
Tuesday 1 st September	PDDay for staff
Wednesday 2 nd September	Children back to school for Academic Year 2020/2021

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. J.A.C. Ball
(Head Teacher)