

## Newsletter

10th February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a busy few weeks we have had here at Durham Lane. We had a rocky start to the beginning of the year, with a significant amount of positive Covid cases in school, from both our staff and children. I would personally like to thank everyone for playing their part in keeping everyone safe.



### Face Masks and Covid-19 Voluntary Measures

On 11/11/21, when additional voluntary measures were first introduced locally, infection rates were as follows in Stockton-on-Tees:

- 603 per 100,000 for 5-9 year olds
- 790 per 100,000 for 10-14 year olds

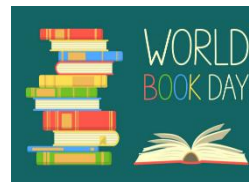
On 14/01/21, local rates were:

- 2,507 per 100,000 for 5-9 year olds
- 2,647 per 100,000 for 10-14 year olds

Due to the cases still being high, I will be continuing to implement the additional voluntary measures. I am therefore asking parents to wear face masks on the playground when dropping and collecting children. Staff will also continue to wear face masks when in communal areas of the school. I will review this again after February half term.

### World Book Day/ Book Swap

The School Council really wanted to do something to mark this day and so have decided to ask all children and teachers, who want to participate, to come into school on Friday March 4th, dressed as their favourite book character!



As well as this, the children will be taking part in a 'book swap'. This will involve the children in each bringing a book into school on or before Thursday March 3rd. The book swap will take place in classrooms on Thursday March 3rd (World Book Day) and will be a great opportunity for the children to get a 'new book' without having to spend any money!



### Early Years outdoor area

We have been extremely fortunate to have secured a large amount of funding to develop our Early Years' outdoor space. **We were wondering if any of our parents know of anyone who may be able to help rebuild our Nursery gate?** If you do, could you please contact the school office. Works will commence during February half term.



### January 2022 – Parental Survey

- 100% of our parents stated that their child was happy at Durham Lane.
- 100% of our parents agreed that their child felt safe.
- 99% of our parents stated that the school makes them aware of what their child will learn during the year.
- 99% of our parents stated that when they have raised concerns with the school, they have been dealt with swiftly and properly.
- 100% of parents, agreed that their child is doing well at Durham Lane Primary.
- 100% of parents, stated that their child can take part in clubs and activities at Durham Lane Primary.
- 100% of parents stated that Durham Lane supports their child with their wider personal development.
- 100% of parents would recommend this school another parent.

### Additional comments

Some parents have raised some questions with regards to whether homework could be a mixture of paper based and Seesaw. I can confirm that class teachers will be using a mixture in the future. I really appreciate your feedback.

### Key dates

- 18<sup>th</sup> February break up for half term
- 28<sup>th</sup> February return to school
- 8<sup>th</sup> April break up for Easter holidays
- PD day 6<sup>th</sup> June and 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022
- 30<sup>th</sup> March and 4<sup>th</sup> April Parents' Evenings – (more details will be shared soon)
- 18<sup>th</sup> June Summer Fayre

## Relax Kids/Children's Mental Health Week

Here at Durham Lane, we believe that it is extremely important to discuss mental health, feelings and emotions. The children have spent part of the week taking part in Children's Mental Health week. This year's theme was 'Growing Together'.

I am also extremely pleased to announce we have employed Mrs Thompson from 'Relax kids'. She will be working in school every Tuesday afternoon and will also be offering an afterschool club too.



*Hello, my name is Karen Thomson and I run Relax Kids with Karen. I was a primary school teacher for over 15 years and have also worked in Early Years settings, at a training centre for teenagers and in adult learning.*

*My passion is wellbeing. I want to help young people learn how to regulate their emotions and find calm in today's challenging world. I am very excited to begin sessions at Durham Lane Primary School.*

'I use this unique 7-step system from Relax Kids that is very effective. It takes children from fun and games through breathing, massaging and stretching to reach calm visualisations. This helps them to recognise and control their emotions. We use affirmations to build self-confidence and the program will follow a theme to fit your child's current school topic. I am really looking forward to meeting the children. If you have any questions, please contact me; I am here to help.'



## Beat the Street

Over the next few weeks, children will be given a card to use when accessing the beat the street game. You'll need to create an account and connect your card. Sign up today! More information will be shared soon!

[beatthestreet.me/stockton-on-tees](http://beatthestreet.me/stockton-on-tees) [Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council](http://Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council)

## After school clubs after February Half term

Monday – Cookery Y3 –Y6  
Tuesday – Relax Kids Y1-Y6  
Wednesday – Dance Y2-Y6  
Art Recp- Y2  
Thursday – Multi sport Mr Sheahan Y4-Y6  
Friday – Newspaper Y3-Y6

## Website/Facebook



We have spent a lot of time updating our website. There is whole host of information on the site such as:

- Year group information
- Curriculum
- Policies
- Letters home
- Our vision, value and ethos

If you haven't had chance to have a look at our new website, please go to: [www.durhamlane.org.uk](http://www.durhamlane.org.uk)



Also, we like to regularly share what is going on in school so we share this by updating our community Facebook page. This page is used to inform you of all the daily exciting learning activities that are happening during the school day.

You can find us by searching on Facebook. Durham Lane Primary Community Facebook page.



**Thank you**  
Kind regards,  
H Gregory

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