

Newsletter June 2022



Dear Parents and Carers,

As I write this newsletter, the 'cool for school' afterschool music club are singing 'This is me' from the Greatest Showman, the sun is shining and I am sitting quietly in my office, thinking again how lucky I am to be the Head Teacher of Durham Lane. It was so wonderful to see everyone come and join in with our very first 'Picnic on the Field' yesterday and it was such a tremendous success, the first thing I did this morning was to book it again for next year! So save the date - Saturday 17th June 2023.



Summer Fayre

Again, thank you to everyone who supported our Summer Fayre; the event itself was not about fund raising for school, it was more about bringing the school back together as a community. However, I am pleased to announce we made £240.00.

I know this seems not to be a lot of money raised however, the inflatables alone cost £1395. We hoped to break even and we did (with a little extra) so thank you again to everyone who joined in with the fun!



Key dates

- 27th June - Healthy Schools week
- 28th June - Play Factory – Reception, Year 1 and Year 2
- 29th June – Year 6 Go climb
- 30th June - Play Factory – Nursery
- 1st July – Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5 Go climb
- 1st July – Year 1 and Year 2 trip to the locomotion museum
- 7th July - Early Years' sports day 9.15am (reserve day if weather is poor 13th July 9.15am)
- 4th July - Yr1- Yr6 Sports day 1.30pm - 3.15pm (reserve day if the weather is poor 15th July 1.30pm- 3.15pm)
- 6th July – transition morning children from Reception to – Year 5 to meet their new teachers
- 18th July – Year 6 leavers pizza and movie night
- 20th July – 10am Year 6 leavers assembly
- 20th July – Break up for the Summer Holiday
- 21st July – PD day
- 1st September and 2nd September – PD days
- 5th September – all children to return to school

Matt Vickers visit

We received a very unexpected email this month from Matt Vickers, our local MP who has chosen Durham Lane Primary to be his school of the month!



He had heard about the tremendous charity work the children had been doing in raising money for Macmillan and the Butterwick Hospice and he wanted to say a big thank you and well done. He will be presenting a certificate to the children this Thursday in assembly.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Cupcake Competition

As you will remember, the children were invited to design their own ultimate cupcake and be in with a chance to have their design brought to life! We are pleased to announce that Ethan in Reception won the 1st Prize, winning design cupcakes brought to life by Wynyard Cake Company.

Well done, Ethan!



Nursery new starters

A meeting will be held on Monday 11th July for the parents of our new nursery children starting in the Autumn term. This will be an informal session giving parents the opportunity to meet Mrs Guest, have a tour of the Nursery classroom and outdoor area, find out about Nursery and agree start dates for the new children. If you have any younger children that are not currently on our waiting list, please contact the office to make sure they are added.

Thank you Miss Parker

You may have noticed Miss Parker, a PGCE teaching student, welcoming the children into Nursery on a morning. She will shortly complete her teaching practice at Durham Lane and has been a lovely addition to the Early Years team. Always patient and caring, she has worked very hard to help the Nursery children in many different ways. We are delighted that she will be starting her first teaching job in a Middlesbrough school in September.



Staffing for the next academic year

As we approach the end of term, I would like to share with you some changes to our staff team.

Mrs Evans has successfully accepted a position as Assistant Head Teacher at a school in Darlington. I would like to personally thank Mrs Evans, for all her hard work over the last 14 years as a Key Stage One leader, classroom teacher and as our SENDco. She is an exceptional teacher who has made a real difference to many of our children and families because of her caring and nurturing manner; we wish her all the best for the future.

Mrs Jessop, will also sadly be leaving us at the end of the summer term. Mrs Jessop is an outstanding teacher who has been an intrinsic member of our staff team, with a real passion for supporting children and families with their mental health and well-being. Mrs Jessop will be taking up a post continuing work with children and families in a similar capacity. Again, we wish her all the best and I would like to thank her personally for all her hard work over the last 13 years.

We have successfully recruited two very experienced teachers: Mrs Eastwood, who has been teaching for 21 years and Mrs Neave who has been teaching for 14 years. Mrs Neave will be taking up the position of Key Stage One Team Leader and Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator and Mrs Eastwood will be supporting her in this role, as well as teaching in Key Stage Two.

Please see below our staffing list for each individual year group for September 2022. All children from Reception to Year 6 will be meeting their new teachers on the morning of Wednesday 6th July.

Nursery – Mrs Guest

Reception – Mrs Khan

Year 1 – Miss Hugill

Year 2 – Mrs Neave

Year 3 – Miss Drew

Year 4 – Mrs Wheatley

Year 5 – Mrs Eastwood

Year 6 – Miss Barrett/Mrs Williams

Pre-loved school uniform

I have been approached by a good friend of mine, Mrs Blane, who is planning on returning to Kenya with the charity, Global Care, who support a school called Spurgeons Academy in Kibera Kenya. Mrs Blane has previously visited Spurgeons Academy back in 2013 and is returning this year to help with painting classrooms and take donations over. The charity have asked if we had any old school uniform we could donate to the school. If you have any old green uniform, we will be collecting it up until November 2022.



Thank you

Kind regards,
H Gregory

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