



Dates for your Diary

Spring Term 2019

2nd Sep School reopens

Attendance

Well done to our **Year 5** class who are this week's winners of our High Attendance Trophy. Our class attendance figures for this week are:

Nursery	96.19%	Rec	93.36%
Y1	95.24%	Y2	98.57%
Y3	96.95%	Y4	98.57%
Y5	100%		

A total of 644 sessions, which equates to 322 days have been lost so far this academic year due to unauthorised holiday.

Summer Break

Tuesday 23rd of July is the last day of term for this academic year.

School Meals

Any changes to lunch arrangements should be made in writing and received by the school office before the end of term. Starting September 2019 school meals will remain the same price of £2.05 per day, i.e. £10.25 per week and payments are collected **in advance** on the first day of the school week. If payment is not received within the week then you may be asked to provide your child with a packed lunch. Anyone wishing to pay for the full half term 2nd September 2019 to 25th October 2019 needs to pay £82 (minus any credit or plus any debit). If your account has a credit or debit then you will receive a text stating your credit or debit at the end of this half term. Cheques, if used, should be made payable to Durham Diocesan MAT. If paying in cash please try and send in the correct amount so that change does not have to be returned to pupils. Dinner money envelopes are available from the school office and main entrance area, if required, and should be used for dinner money only.

ParentPay – Cashless Payment System for Schools

In view of the demand from parents to make school payments online we have decided to join ParentPay which is a cashless system currently used in many schools. This system will allow parents to pay and consent for trips, book childcare and meal sessions and much more. This will mean there will no longer be the need for children to bring cash into school. It also allows for parents who do not have a bank account to be able to make payments at a local Pay Point. We are really keen on getting started with this and are hoping to go live in October. More details will follow in September

School Games Event

On Tuesday, this week pupils from Y1 to Y5 took part in a Primary School Games Event which was held at Brierton Sports Centre. The pupils competed against 4 other schools in the town. Each of the children participated in a variety of games. The Yellow Team was placed first, Red Team 3rd and Blue Team 4th place. All of the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves and they all showed excellent sportsmanship.

Reading Books

Can you please ensure your child returns their reading book to school on Monday so that they can be rehoused in the school library.

Lost Property

We still have a growing mountain of lost property which cannot be returned to the owners as items are unnamed. If your child has lost anything please call into the school office to have a look. All items of lost property not claimed on or before we break up for the summer holidays will be disposed of.

Absences

Our term time holiday absence has risen substantially this year. It has been brought to our attention (in some cases by social media) that some parents are reporting their children as unwell when they are actually going on holiday or for long weekend breaks away. When conflicting information is received the school will contact the parent and the Attendance team for clarification. This may result in a visit from the School's Attendance Officer who may ask for medical proof of your child's illness (e.g. Drs appointment). Please note a Penalty Notice can be issued, for example where a parent has chosen to take their child on holiday during term time without informing the Chair of the Academy Council, in line with our policy procedures. Can I remind all parents of our school policy for reporting absences. **School should be contacted before 10am on the day** of a child's absence and a detailed reason should be provided. "Not well" or "poorly" is insufficient information as the illness maybe infectious, notifiable or have medical implications for other pupils and staff. On your child's return to school they will **also need a letter** detailing the dates and reason for absence. We will send a reminder if a letter is not received, however if we still **do not receive this within 7 days the absence will be recorded as unauthorised.** Once the absence is recorded it cannot be amended unless in exceptional circumstances. If your child has an appointment we require a copy of the appointment card or letter in order to record the appropriate mark. If this is not produced then it will be recorded as an unauthorised absence in the register.

Can I also remind parents that we do not have holiday request forms and that any requests should be made in writing, addressed to the Chair of the Academy Council. The letter should give full details and reasons for holidays in term time. **Holiday requests/leave of absence should be made at least 4 weeks in advance** in order to process. All holidays are recorded as unauthorised absence. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Medication

Medication usually held in school, eg inhalers will be returned to pupils on their last day of this academic year. They will also be given new forms which must be completed and returned with their medication on their first day back to school. If your child is diagnosed during the summer break with any condition which may require administration of any medication in school, then please report to the main office on the first day back to complete the paperwork. **Medication must not be sent into school in your child's book bag.**

Minor Injuries / Broken Bones

If your child has an injury which requires strapping, bandage, cast or just resting and therefore unable to do normal activities throughout the school day then it is necessary for us to carry out a risk assessment of your child's injury prior to them entering the school. In such circumstances please bring your child to the main office entrance where your child's injury will be assessed by a member of staff and the appropriate paperwork completed to enable your child's safety during the school day. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

School Uniform

Our school dress/uniform is as follows:

Summer Uniform

- Red sweatshirt/cardigan
- White polo shirt
- Grey tailored shorts/culottes
- Red gingham dresses

Winter uniform

- Red sweatshirt /cardigan
- White polo shirt
- Grey trousers/skirt /pinafore – Minimum length for skirts is knee length and not shorter. (Shorts are not to be worn underneath skirts or pinafores, tights can be worn)

Footwear – Winter/Summer

- Black school shoes
- Black sandals (Summer)
- Black, plain, leather boots (Winter only)
- Plain Black trainers
- No suede shoes/boots
- No boots with coloured designs
- No UGG type boots
- No chunky/Dr Marten type boots/shoes
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Please note all school footwear including shoes, boots and trainers must not have any coloured or shaded patterns, logos, stripes or sparkles on them.

Socks

Socks are to be plain white grey or black (no lace or frills)

Tights are to be grey, black or red

Please remember to bring your child's PE kit on the first day back to school.

Indoor PE kit (to be kept in a drawstring bag - available to purchase from the school office)

- Black shorts
- White T-shirt
- Black plimsolls

Outdoor PE Kit (to be kept in a drawstring bag - available to purchase from the school office)

- Plain black jogging bottoms
- Plain black sweatshirt (**not hoodie**)
- Plain black or white trainers

Please no Lycra leggings or branded sportswear (eg Adidas stripes)

Please make sure all clothing is clearly marked with your child's name

Can I also inform you that school operates a **no** jewellery policy:

- No earrings/No watches/No rings/No necklaces.
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Children should **not wear**:

- Nail varnish/transfer/make up/spray or false tan for school.

If you are considering getting your Child's ears pierced please do so at the start of the 6 weeks holidays so they can be removed at the start of the new school term.

Hair: For ALL pupils

If hair is worn long (below shoulder length), it must be tied up or back, for hygiene reasons.

Outrageous and inappropriate hairstyles are not appropriate for school, for example:

- head shaven at one side,
- shaved parting and longer hair on top and over to one side- skin fade
- mohawks
- tramlines
- rats tails
- spikes
- shapes
- colours, bleach and hairstyles created by gel/wax

School Logo Item Purchases

Can we please ask anyone purchasing new book bags PE Bags, water bottles, hats etc, that they are **purchased before we break up for the summer holidays** as these items will not be available to purchase the first week back in September. Book and gym bags cost £3 each, water bottles £1.25, all hats £4 each and swimming caps are £1.50.

Happy Holidays

This is the last newsletter of the academic year. Thank you for your continued support and we wish you all a happy holiday.