



September 7th 2018 Issue 1

Welcome Back!

Welcome back everyone! We are delighted to welcome our new Nursery and Reception children and well as several children who have transferred from other schools. We also welcome some new staff: Mrs Leonard who will teach Year 5, Miss Scott who will teach Year 4 and Miss Bean who will teach different classes right across the school. We also welcome Miss Earl who is a Teaching Assistant Apprentice and Mrs Simpson who joins our lunchtime supervisory team.

I hope that you all managed to spend some nice family time together over the summer break. All of the children have settled in very well and I am always so impressed with their ability to adapt to change!

The Teesdale Mercury are in school next week to take a picture of the new reception class as always so look out for that the following week.

Extension Update

As you will have noticed, a huge amount work has taken place over the holidays. The four new classrooms are superb teaching spaces, well-lit and full of modern resources. The cloakrooms in the corridor are much better and wider with radiators underneath to help dry wet coats. They also allow better access around the building and are access controlled. The toilets have been enlarged and improved, and we now have an improved accessible toilet for children.

The other classrooms have been improved too with the same style furniture in the Year 2 classroom. The nursery and reception children have settled in well into their temporary home, as have the Year 1 children in the hall.

The hall lighting, flooring and heating have all been improved and the new part should be watertight within the next few days, with the whole hall finished before too long.

The field is currently having a lot of work done to improve the drainage. Monday and Tuesdays football clubs will continue to be held at the Cricket Club in good weather and in the hall if it is too bad.

Most of you have found the new school office in Dr Greenwell's old classroom! Please ask at the School Office if you have any questions.

Unfortunately we are having problems with the telephone lines at the moment which we are hoping will be rectified as soon as possible. Please contact school via email if necessary at: montalbo@durhamlearning.net

Breakfast Club, Chill Out Club

For the foreseeable future, Breakfast Club will be continuing in the hall. To access this, please come in through the School Office as has been the arrangement for this week.

Chill Out Club will now be in Miss Scott's room which is the first new classroom you see as you enter the playground from the main entrance. Children can be collected from the classroom door. This will allow sporting clubs to take place in the hall if the weather is inclement.

Collection Point for All Other Clubs

Children who attend all clubs apart from chill out will be collected from the new playground entrance/exit. Please could anyone who is collecting a child wait near the playground doors where their child will be handed over. Thank you.

Club costs

Due to additional costs such as the extra coaches we are employing to run after school clubs and resources used, the cost of after school clubs has increased by 50p to £2.50. The price charges for care have also been slightly increased.

School Dinners

Please note the price of school meals is now £2.05 per day, £10.25 per week cash or cheque payable to 'Durham County Council'.

Mrs Unwin's Clarinetists

Our slot with the School Music Service has moved to a Monday afternoon for this academic year. Any children who play the clarinet will need to bring their instrument with the first session being on Monday 10th September. Mrs Unwin will also be teaching Miss Scott's Year 4 children to play the recorder on a Monday afternoon. We have a class set of recorders so the children do not need to bring one.

Swimming

All of the Year 4 children will go swimming each Thursday afternoon throughout the year and will need their swimming kit and towel each Thursday. Some selected Year 5/6 children will also attend until they become more confident.

Open Afternoon and Informal Meet the Teacher Time

If you would like to have a look around our school to familiarise yourself with the changes then we would be pleased to take you around from 3:30pm on Thursday 20th September.

On the same day after school you are invited to meet your child's new teacher on an informal basis, to see how they have settled in and to ask any questions you may have. You do not need to make an appointment for this and might just want to pop in to introduce yourself before the Autumn Term Parents' Evening in November.

PE Days

Due to the ongoing work, we will continue to branch out to into the community and have been offered use of the Scout Hut where we can do PE. As a result we are going to have long PE sessions there to avoid travelling back and forth too often.

Monday – Miss Blackburn

Tuesday – Mrs Leonard

Wednesday – Dr Greenwell

Wednesday – Miss Lauder's class with Mr Connelly (Gym Coach) in school

Thursday – Miss Richardson

Mrs Patterson's and Mrs Bartoli's classes will do PE as part of their Early Years Curriculum and do not have set days.

High Force Trainee Teachers

As we are part of the High Force School Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT) we will have trainee teachers in school this year, working alongside our staff. The first trainee this year is Mr Bell who will be in school, working in different classes during this half term. It is important to me that we support the next generation of teachers and I wish Mr Bell luck in his placements.

Attendance for w.b. 4.9.18

Class	Present
Reception	87.5%
Year 1	86.2%
Year 2	80.6%
Year 3	84.3%
Year 4	85.1%
Year 5	87.5%
Year 6	82.4%
School Total	84.9%

Please ensure that your child arrives at school no later than 8.55a.m. in order to make a prompt start for lessons.

Dates for the diary

September 10th Recorder sessions Y4; clarinetists every Monday
September 11th Mrs Leonard's Class to the Bowes Museum all week
September 11th Dog Safety Assembly
September 20th Informal Meet the Teacher/Open Afternoon 3.30pm-5.30pm|
September 28th MacMillan Coffee afternoon (details to follow)

Mr Minikin, Head Teacher