

May newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the summer term! In typical British style we've had sun, wind, rain, sleet, hailstones and snow – that was Tuesday!

The summer term always gives us lots of opportunity for additional outdoor activities and I'm sure as the weather does improve your children will tell you about these opportunities to enrich the curriculum.

In the midst of this term we also will see our Year 1, 2 and 6 pupils all undertaking National tests. Their teachers have helped the pupils prepare for these tests and this will continue right up to the test days. Please could you continue to ensure that pupils complete any additional homework tasks in preparation for the tests, as well as helping them arrive promptly on the day of each test. You will find below details about days for these tests and any special arrangements. If you have any questions please contact your child's class teacher or myself as soon as possible.

Kind regards,

Mr S Jones

Head teacher

Fantastic Football results

Well done to our School Football Teams. The 'A' Team have once again won the Sedgfield Sports Partnership Premier League title (that makes it 3 years out of the last 4).

The 'A' and 'B' Teams have this week also participated in the Sedgfield SSP League cup competition and both teams reached the final. In a closely battled match the 'A' team just won the final 2 -1.

These results are a fantastic achievement for all of our players who showed brilliant team work and individual skills.

The girls begin their League competition shortly and are hoping to match the performance of the boy's teams.

Playground works completed!

Over the Easter holidays work has been completed to remedy the flooding problem of the school playground. This has resulted in a significant elevation of the playground to ensure water runs into drains.

We will shortly be speaking to the children about choosing new markings for games & activities on the yard.

Parking reminder

Please could I remind all parents/carers that when dropping off and picking up your child/ren to take note of access requirements to local residents drives and homes.

Once again we have recently had a situation when a car was parked over the entrance to a resident's drive which meant they were unable to access their drive.

Taylor Shaw Special Diets

If a child having school lunch requires a Special diet due to allergies, intolerance a letter from the child's consultant or dietician is required. A letter from their GP is no longer sufficient. This applies to all 'new' requests.

Great Air Ambulance

A great big thank you goes out to everyone who contributed cakes and biscuits for our fund raising day at the end of last term.

We raised £420.20 for the work of the Great Air Ambulance. Many thanks.

The charity which we are supporting for the summer term is 'Stray Aid' here in Coxhoe. Details about how we will raise money for this worthy cause will be sent in the near future.

New Mobile App

Thank you to everyone who has already signed up for the new mobile APP (available from the APP store at no cost).

This is already being used to circulate alerts, class messages, key information, dates, recent news etc. It is very easy to install and use.

As mentioned in our original letter about the APP it cannot unfortunately currently be installed by windows phones. We will inform you if and when this situation changes. Our APP provider shared information with us that this applies to only 2% of the mobile phones in use.

We will of course continue to put all of the information sent via the APP onto the school website. Hardcopies of newsletters will also be available from the office and placed into the playground noticeboard.

Start and finish times for the school day

Many thanks for everyone's help in ensuring pupils are in school for 8:45 am which is our new start of the day. Also for accommodating the new finish time of 3:30 pm for KS2 (Classes 6 -10).

To assist parents who are collecting EYFS and KS1 pupils at 3:15 pm staff will ensure their older siblings are in the front of the line for their respective classes.

As previously discussed we will continue to monitor the changes to the school day and may make further adjustments if this was necessary for the beginning of the new academic year in September.

Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers

We are saving the Active Kids vouchers to enable us to purchase equipment for school. A box for the vouchers is located in the school office.

Please ask friends and family to pass them onto you if they do not require them for their own children's school.

School Car Park

Just a reminder that use of and access to parking in the school car park is restricted to staff and disabled drivers/pupils.

Please see Mr Jones if you think that you may need to use the car park for access to school. Also note the speed limit is 5 pmh.

Year 6 KS2 SAT's week

Pupils in Year 6 will undertake their end of KS2 National tests from Monday 8th – Thursday 11th May.

We are arranging for pupils to have breakfast in school from 8:15 – 8:30 am. This will be followed by 'Brain Gym' and 'Brain wakening activities.' Please ensure all pupils arrive either for breakfast or by 8:30 am. Access via the main gate for Y6 only. Other pupils may come onto the playground but not to their class until 8:35 am.

Year 2 (KS1 SAT's) and Y1 Phonics tests

Year 2 pupils will undertake tests during the week beginning 15th May. Please ensure pupils are in school as normal for 8:45 am.

Year 1 pupils will begin their Phonics screening tests on Monday 12th June. Again arrive for 8:45 am promptly.

Year 6 Residential: 15th-17th May

A meeting for parents/carers and pupils attending the Weardale House Residential centre will be held at 3:30 pm on Wednesday 3rd May. This will give details of requirements and be led by staff from the centre.

Staff accompanying pupils this year will be Mrs Caygill, Mr Ord, Mr Patterson and Miss Hawes. Mrs Skaife & Mrs O'Sullivan, who will return from Maternity Leave this term, shall teach Class 9 (including Y6 from class 10 not attending Residential) and Class 6.

Other events during May & June

- Year 5 pupils – Mini-Police Interviews: May 3rd
- Class 6 assembly: 10:15 am May 4th
- Teddy Bear's Picnic for new Reception intake – May 17th
- Class 7 assembly: 10:15 am May 18th
- Multi-Cultural week – wb 22nd May (KS1: India; KS2: Far East (Japan, Indonesia etc))
- Primary Athletics (24 Y6 pupils): May 23rd
- Class 6 & 7 visit to Botanical Gardens: May 24th
- Girl's Football Cup: 24th May
- Art day 5: May 25th
- Castle Team's Challenge Morning: 26th May
- Half term holiday: Mon 29th – Monday 5th June (inclusive):
School Re-opens for pupils Tuesday 6th June