



Spring Newsletter (3)



Happy New Year and a warm welcome back to everyone; particularly those children who have just started their school life in Nursery. I am sure they will thoroughly enjoy their time with us. All children have settled in particularly well so thank you for preparing them so thoroughly!

I would also like to thank you for all your support at the end of last term. It does seem to be a long time ago now but we had a really wonderful end to the term with such great nativities, carols around the tree and parties.

The weather can be quite extreme at this time of the year and we do hope that we never have to close the school. However, the week after I wrote that last year, we had the first of the really heavy snow and had no option but to close! Please be aware however, that we will not let you know when the school is open so no news is always good news! If there was ever any reason which meant we could not open school in a morning, you would receive a text and we would also tweet and put a notice on the home page of our website. I hope that helps to clarify the procedure for you.

As usual, there are some important diary dates at the end of this newsletter, but of course, dates are continually being added to the diary, so please look out for any additional weekly letters that come out during the course of the term. There are also some minor changes to some dates and times so please note that dates on latest newsletters do supersede previous ones. Also, please remember that all our letters are also posted on our website, emailed to you and if you have the app for eSchools, they will also be sent directly to your device.

As usual, if there is anything at all that you want to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

Jane Davis

Staff News



Mr Simon McLoughlin will be in school two days each week during this half term completing statutory special needs paperwork. He will return to full time work after the half-term break when he will be back in the classroom! I am sure he is making the most of his time at home!



I am delighted to inform you that both Leanne Bainbridge (teaching assistant) and Emma Smithson (cleaner) are expecting babies due in the early summer. I am sure you will see 'the bumps' growing over the next few weeks and months. We are certainly enjoying our very own E.P. School Baby Boom at the moment!

Contact details



Once again, we would just like to remind you about updating the School Office with your contact details. It is so important that all your emergency contact details are kept up to date, especially any new mobile numbers for both parents and additional contacts. Also, if you move house, it is essential that you inform the office. Thank you.



Holiday Club



There will be no holiday club during February half term this year – Mr Graham is actually taking the whole week off – good for him! However, the Holiday Club will take place during the first week of the Easter holidays – from Monday 8th April through to Friday 12th April. I thought some advance notice might help you all to be able to forward plan a little.





Friends of the School



The next meeting of the Friends of the School takes place on Thursday 24th January at 6pm in the Black Bull. It is a very sociable gathering when the next few events will be planned and organised as well as new ideas and suggestions discussed. Please come along and share your ideas – they would love to hear them!

The first of the money raised last year has been spent and some very excited children took delivery of some board games for indoor playtimes this week. Some classes could not even wait for the rain to come – they started playing with them immediately! Thank you so much! These small things make such a difference to the life of the school.



Science Ambassadors



Eight of our Year 4 pupils will be receiving training at Parkside Academy over the next few weeks to become Science Ambassadors. This is an exciting opportunity for our school and for those children involved. Our ambassadors will be taking a key role in Science across school by not only being good role models to pupils, but also being able to support in the delivery of sessions, leading activities, events and working alongside ambassadors and teachers from other schools across the region and with Birchwood, our partner school in the Midlands.



Christingle Service at Durham Cathedral



Our Year 4 and Year 5 children will be attending a very special service at Durham Cathedral on Wednesday 30th January to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Christingle. This is going to be quite a high profile event with over 1,000 children attending as well as 5 Lord Mayors, the press and possibly a camera crew. I am sure the children will thoroughly enjoy this experience and represent our school admirably.

We have been asked to raise some money for the wonderful work that the Childrens' Society does and present it during the service. So on Friday 25th January, these year groups will be holding one of our very popular bakeathons! It is a while since we have had a bakeathon and for this, the children in Years 4 & 5 will be baking and we ask each child in school to bring a donation of 50p so that they can choose a cake/biscuit or treat from their stalls! I am sure the whole school will enjoy taking part in raising this money!



School Disco



On Thursday 7th February we will be holding another school disco. The children will enjoy a mixture of dancing and games as well as enjoying a drink and hot dog. Reception & Key Stage 1 (Years 1&2) disco will be held immediately after school from 3.20pm until 4.30pm followed by our Key Stage 2 disco from 4.45 pm until 6.00 pm. Tickets will be on sale from Monday 28th January at a cost of £2 each. If children could please bring their money into school in a named envelope and hand it to their class teacher, then the Office will make sure they receive their ticket the same day.

Reception and Key Stage 1 children can bring their disco clothes to school and staff will help them change at the end of the day. KS2 children can stay at After School Club and go straight to the disco from there. Again, if they bring a change of clothes, they can change during After School Club. However, please remember that After School needs to be booked and paid for in advance. Netball, Digital Leaders and Textiles Club will still take place too.



Ford Castle



Our Year 6 children are looking forward to their three days at Ford Castle in Northumberland during the first week of next half term (Wednesday 27th February to Friday 1st March). They will be given more information in the next couple of weeks including their kit list, consent form and activities. Due to having parents evenings in the last week of this half term, we are not holding a meeting for this trip but if you have any specific questions or concerns about the visit, please just ask the Year 6 teachers or myself. This is always such a special trip for our oldest children as it is lovely for them all to spend some quality time together as a year group. Please remember that the final payment of £40 is due by Monday 4th February. Thank you.

Digital Leaders



Our Digital Leaders are enjoying a range of wonderful experiences this term. Today, 11 of our digital leaders are presenting at the LearnED Roadshow at Newcastle Racecourse. This will be a great experience for them all and we were very honoured that the DfE asked us!



On Friday 25th January four Digital Leaders (Rachel and Annie from Year 6, Henry from Year 4 and Leo from Year 3) will be representing our School and County at the BETT show in London, leading presentations and teaching teachers from all over the Country. I think, whilst being excited, they are also slightly apprehensive as it is such an experience and challenge! They will also be rewarded with a host of other wonderful experiences during their time in London too such as a visit to the Rainforest Café, London Eye and watching Aladdin. We will be joined by the Digital Leaders from our partner school in Birchwood, Tamworth which I am sure the children will enjoy!



Persistent Absentees



Any child whose attendance drops to 90% or under need to be monitored very carefully and these children are now recorded as persistent absentees. It is really important that you are aware of your child's attendance as only a few days off school can make a big difference to the overall percentage.

90% attendance = ½ day missed **every week!**

90% attendance = 1 day missed **every other week!**

90% attendance = **4 whole weeks of lessons missed!**

90% attendance over 5 years of school = ½ a school year missed!



School Choir



Our school choir continue to have a very busy term ahead! Our very committed group of children are currently busy rehearsing to compete in Ryton Music Festival in both the hymn singing and unison song class which takes place on Friday 8th March. Their enthusiasm is really quite catching – I am sure you will be hearing all their songs at home shortly! More information regarding the festival will be shared as soon as we have received them.



France Residential



We are about to start organising our collective passport form for this visit. Your child will be bringing a form home which **MUST** be completed carefully and accurately as we don't want any issues with the passport office! As well as this completed form, we also need **TWO** current passport photographs for your child. Please make sure they have been taken within the last two months as again, in the past, we have had photographs returned as they are not current enough. Please remember that the next deposit of £100 is due by 1st February, another £100 by 1st March with the final payment of £75 by 3rd May 2019. There will be a meeting held in June where final information will be shared.



Year 3 & 4 Overnight Visit to Birdoswald Roman Fort



Further information will be shared at the parents' meeting on Monday 21st January at 6pm in the main hall. We have three overnight visits planned but the dates each class will be going cannot be finalised until we have definite numbers in. Monday 25th, Tuesday 26th and Wednesday 27th March have all been booked for overnight visits. The children will stay in the accommodation at Birdoswald Roman Fort and enjoy a march/walk along the Roman Wall, meet a Roman soldier and hear about life in Roman times, have a tour of the fort and also enjoy a storytelling session at one of the half castles. This will be a wonderful experience for them all and one which was a great success two years ago!



Ski Trip to the French Alps



This trip is approaching very quickly and 30 very excited children and adults will shortly be heading to the French Alps and the slopes in Les Menuires. The hoodies will be ordered shortly (once we have agreed upon a colour!) and please do not forget that the final payment is due by the end of January. I am currently in contact with the hotel sorting out the rooms and apres-ski activities. The snow is falling thick and fast at the moment so there should be some excellent conditions by the time we go! I will be emailing all parents of children who are going shortly with forms that need to be completed as well as sharing some further information.



Parents' Evenings



Our parents evenings for this term take place on Tuesday 12th February and Wednesday 13th February between 3.45pm and 6pm. The booking system will open on eSchools on Monday 28th January.

Please note however, Nursery parents will take place after half term and these will take place on Wednesday 27th February, Thursday 28th February and Friday 1st March.



Booking Parents' Evenings Appointments



Booking for Parents' Evenings will open via your eSchools account on the school website from **12 noon on Monday 28th January** and will close on **Thursday 7th February at 4.00 pm**.

This can be done through the app. Please note that you must use your parent account to do this, as a number of people have previously attempted to book through their child's login which will not work. If you need a reminder of your username and password, please contact the school office. For those of you who are unable to book an appointment via the eSchools platform, you can make a booking by emailing the school office at school.office@lanchesterep.net. If you want to book an appointment after the 7th February, you will need to do this via the school office.



Sports News



We have a number of events still taking place over this half term. Our girls' football team will be competing in the girls' 5-a-side football league on a Wednesday night straight after school at Greenland Primary School. We have also entered a Kwik Cricket competition which starts on Monday 28th January at the Louisa Centre, Stanley. The children who are taking part will be informed in good time!



Statutory Tests – Years 1, 2 & 6



It is really important that all children in these key year groups are in school during the weeks the tests must take place. If they are absent at these crucial times, they cannot take their tests any other time. This can have a detrimental impact on our school data. So I urge all parents to please keep a careful note of these dates so that nothing interferes with them!

- Year 1 children** – their KS1 Phonics Screening takes place during the week beginning Monday 10th June 2019.
- Year 2 children** – their KS1 Statutory Tests will take place during the month of May. These children will not even know they are taking tests as we keep them very low key for such young children. However, it is essential that they are in school during May so that they take them at the same time as their peers.
- Year 6 children** – their KS2 Statutory Tests take place during the week beginning Monday 13th May and again, it is essential that they are all in school during this week.

We really do appreciate you supporting us at these crucial times in school. Thank you. A meeting will be held next half term for parents of our Year 6 children so that we can talk you through the tests and expectations.

Erasmus Projects



Just after half term, Mrs Startup, Miss Martin and Mrs Davis will be braving the winter weather in Finland when we visit our partner school in Kuopio. During our time there, we will be writing a series of lesson plans that can be used across Europe to help when teaching the early developmental stages of writing.

In the middle of March, four boys from Year 5 will head off to Unna in Germany with Mr Bailey and Mr Stephenson to enjoy a week in our partner school there, finding out more about the country's culture and enjoying some lessons around reading, traditional tales and the country's famous authors.

In April, four girls from Year 5, along with Miss Butler and Mrs Sant will head off to Cordoba in Spain where they will also enjoy some lessons around writing as well as exploring the country's culture and traditions. These are wonderful opportunities for our children – we only wish we could take more...



World Book Day and Reading Week



I thought you might appreciate some advance notice of our Reading Week which is the week beginning Monday 4th March. During this week, we have a number of different events planned including a dressing up day when we ask children to come to school dressed as their favourite book character. We try to vary our activities and as we did not do this last year, thought they would enjoy it again this year! However, I thought you might appreciate some advance notice of this so you can be prepared for it.

School Holidays - Academic Year 2018-2019

Holiday	Closing Date	Date re-open for teaching purposes
February Half Term	Friday 15 th February 2019	Monday 25 th February 2019
Easter Holiday	Friday 5 th April 2019	Tuesday 23 rd April 2019
May Day	Friday 3 rd May 2019	Tuesday 7 th May 2019
Summer Half Term	Thursday 23 rd May 2019	Monday 3 rd June 2019
Summer Holiday	Friday 19 th July 2019	Wednesday 4 th September 2019

School Holidays - Academic Year 2019 - 2020

Holiday	Closing Date	Date re-open for teaching purposes
Summer Holiday	Friday 19 th July 2019	Wednesday 4 th September 2019
October Half Term	Thursday 24 th October 2019	Monday 4 th November 2019
Christmas Holiday	Thursday 19 th December 2019	Monday 6 th January 2020
February Half Term	Friday 14 th February 2020	Monday 24 th February 2020
Easter Holiday	Friday 3 rd April 2020	Monday 20 th April 2020
May Day	Friday 1 st May 2020	Tuesday 5 th May 2020
Summer Half Term	Thursday 21 st May 2020	Monday 1 st June 220
Summer Holiday	Friday 20 th July 2020	To Be Confirmed

Important Dates for 2018 - 2019

KS1 Statutory Assessment Tests - May 2019

KS2 Statutory Assessment Tests - Week Beginning Monday 13th May 2019

Year 1 & Year 2 Phonics Screening Test - Week Beginning Monday 10th June 2019

DIARY DATES

Monday 21 st January	6pm	Yr 3&4 Parents' Meeting for Birdoswald Overnight Trip
Monday 21 st January	Afternoon	Year 2 at All Saints Church for R.E.
Wednesday 23 rd January	All Day	Ceilidh in School for KS2 children
Wednesday 23 rd January	Afternoon	Year 1 at All Saints Church for R.E.
Thursday 24 th January	All Day	Science Ambassadors Training at Parkside
Friday 25 th January	Afternoon	Bakeathon organised by Year 4&5
Friday 25 th – Sunday 27 th January	All Weekend	Digital Leaders at Bett Show, London
Monday 28 th January	3.30pm	Kwik Cricket Tournament at The Louisa Centre
Wednesday 30 th January	Afternoon	Year 4&5 at Durham Cathedral Christingle Service
Tuesday 5 th February	All Day	Chinese New Year Workshops
Wednesday 6 th February	All Day	Polish Dragon Day Workshops
Thursday 7 th February	3.20 – 4.30pm	Disco for Reception, Years 1 & 2
Thursday 7 th February	4.45 – 6pm	Disco for Years 3 - 6
Monday 11 th February	All Day	Year 2 at Durham Cathedral
Tuesday 12 th February	3.45 – 6pm	Parents' Evening
Tuesday 12 th February	3.30 – 5pm	School Nurse Drop In Session
Wednesday 13 th February	3.45 – 6pm	Parents' Evening
Friday 15 th February	All Day	Year 1 at Durham Cathedral
Friday 15 th February	5.30pm	School Closes for Half Term
February Half Term Holiday		
Week Beg. Monday 25 th February	All Week	Erasmus+ Visit to Finland
Wednesday 27 th February – 1 st March	All Day	Year 6 at Ford Castle Residential
Week Beg. Monday 4 th March	All Week	Reading Week & Book Fair in School
Thursday 7 th March	Afternoon	Visit from French Theatre
Friday 8 th March	Afternoon	Choir at Ryton Music Festival
Friday 8 th March	Afternoon	Coffee Afternoon and Book Fair
Saturday 9 th March – 16 th March	All Week	Year 4, 5 & 6 Skiing Residential to Les Menuires, France
Week Beg. Monday 18 th March	All Week	Year 5 Erasmus+ Trip to Unna, Germany
Monday 25 th March	Overnight	Year 3&4 Overnight Visit to Birdoswald Roman Fort
Tuesday 26 th March	Overnight	Year 3&4 Overnight Visit to Birdoswald Roman Fort
Wednesday 27 th March	Overnight	Year 3&4 Overnight Visit to Birdoswald Roman Fort
Friday 29 th March	8.30-9.30am	School Nurse Drop In Session
Friday 29 th March	Afternoon	Mothers' Day Afternoon Tea
Week Beg. Monday 1 st	All Week	Year 5 Erasmus+ Trip to Spain
Thursday 4 th April	2pm	Easter Service
Friday 5 th April	Morning	Easter Egg Decorating Competition
Friday 5 th April	2.30pm	Coffee Afternoon
Friday 5 th April	5.30pm	School Closes for Easter Break
Monday 8th – Friday 12th April	All Day	Mr Graham's Holiday Club in School
Easter Holiday		
Tuesday 23 rd April	7.30 am	School Re-Opens
Tuesday 23 rd April	9.15 am	Welcome Back Coffee Morning
Wednesday 8 th May	All Day	Year 5 at Consett Academy
Week Beg. Monday 13 th May	All Week	Statutory Tests for Year 6
Monday 20 th May	All Day	Miss Jackson's Class at Hamsterley Forest
Week Beg. Monday 20 th May	All Week	Fun and Fitness Week
Wednesday 22 nd May	2.30 – 3.30pm	School Nurse Drop in Session
Friday 24th May	All Day	Mr Graham's Holiday Club
Summer Half Term Holiday		

