

Wylam First School

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Rocketing to Success!



Newsletter 1

10th September 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

A warm welcome back to a new year at Wylam First School. It has been lovely to get the school family back together again and we have had a great first week at school. An especially warm welcome is extended to all those children and families who are new to our school. We really value the relationship between home and school and will always have time to talk to you and answer any questions which you might have.

In the first newsletter of the year we always cover lots of information for new families and reminders for everyone else. Please read the information and feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

News

Thank You

Sincere thanks to everyone for all of the gifts and cards which you sent into school at the end of last term. Your words, generosity and thoughtfulness are very much appreciated.

Extra-Curricular Activities

I hope that children will continue to attend and make the most of the opportunities on offer through our extra-curricular programme of clubs and activities. Some of these are provided by our staff and are free of charge or have a small fee to help us to purchase the extra resources needed, and some are offered through outside providers and have a small fee. More information will soon follow about the range of activities that will be on offer across the year. When picking up after clubs, we ask that parents and carers come to the main entrance and wait for the club providers to open the door. In order to safeguard children in the building we do not allow parents to wait inside for clubs to finish, other than in exceptional circumstances. Thank you for your cooperation.

Parent Helpers

Lots of parents and friends of the school volunteer in many different ways. Teachers are almost always looking for additional adults to give the children the opportunity to practice their reading in school. We also welcome parents to come into school to talk about their work or interests and sometimes we need extra help on school visits. If you have an hour or two to spare and would like to get involved, then please see your child's class teacher and we will almost certainly find a way to use your spare time! Parents who help out on a regular basis will need to complete a DBS check - Mrs Lough will be able to advise you of how to go about the process. Thanks again to those parents who already help us, your contribution makes a big difference.

Free Percussion Workshop

There is a free workshop organised by the Mark Jon Bolderson Percussion Foundation taking place on Sunday 14th October, 11:00-13:30 at Hexham's Queens Hall. **To book a place, or for further details, please contact: mjbpercussionfoundation@gmail.com**

Reminders and Information



No Nuts Please

Please can we remind parents that packed lunches must not contain nuts. We have some children in school with severe nut allergies and this can be very dangerous for them. Thank you.



Fruit in School

The daily fruit for all children in Reception and KS1 will continue via the Fruit to School Scheme. Children in KS2 are encouraged to bring a piece of fruit or a small container of chopped fruit or veg each day. Please do not send anything other than fruit or veg. Thank you for your cooperation.

Allergy Information

Please can you make sure that you keep us up to date with any changes to allergies that your child has. If you have any information to add, or your child's allergy has changed, then please speak to Mrs Lough in the school office so that she can update our records and ensure that Mrs Sanders has the right information in the kitchen.

Curriculum Information

Your class newsletter from your child's class teacher has detailed information about the curriculum for this half term for English, Maths and all other subjects. We hope that this helps you to talk to your child about learning in school and gives you an insight and understanding about what the expectations are in your child's year group. Please ask your child's class teacher if you need any clarification. This year you will find some extra homework challenges on your class newsletter. The challenges will be linked to the topic that your child is studying. The challenges are optional but children will earn school 360 points if they return them to school at

some point over the half term and their work will be added to their classroom display. We look forward to seeing what they produce.

School Clubs Programme

Below shows the table of activities that we have organised so far:

<u>Autumn Term 1 2018</u>	
Choir	Y2 + Monday 2:45pm-3:15pm
Karate	Y1 + Tuesday 3:15pm - 4:15pm
Football	Y3 + Y4 Wednesday 3:15pm - 4:15pm
BLT	Y1+ Thursday 12:30pm - 12:55pm
Street Dance	Year 3 + 4 Thursday 3:15pm - 4:15pm

School Uniform

It has been so lovely to see the children return to school looking very smart and ready for the new term. The full school uniform is listed on our school website. Please make sure that all items of clothing are clearly labelled, including shoes.

Any lost property that we are unable to return will be placed in the lost property boxes in Y1. Please make sure that your child is wearing appropriate shoes for school. Trainers, crocs, sling backs, heels, baseball boots etc are not suitable, although the black trainer-type school shoes are suitable.

Nursery and Reception children need to have wellies in school permanently so that they can make the most of the outdoors in all weathers.

All children need to have a coat in school every day. We take the children outside for playtimes and learning opportunities in all weather, except heavy rain or any dangerous conditions.

Earrings and Jewellery

For health and safety reasons earrings and jewellery should not be worn in school, apart from a watch. Children cannot participate in PE lessons when wearing earrings.

School Attendance

If your child is unwell and unable to attend school, please inform us as soon as possible. We expect children to be in school every day, unless they are unwell. Children can attend school if they have a cold or other minor illness. However, when children have a sickness and/or diarrhoea virus, they should be kept away from school for 48 hours after the last episode of vomiting or diarrhoea. This is because the virus could still be spread to others in this time frame and other children, particularly those with chronic health conditions, could be at risk. If you are unsure of whether to keep your child off school due to illness, please contact us and we will advise. When leaving messages about absence, please be specific about your child's illness so that we can assess whether we need to inform the parents and carers of vulnerable children. Thank you for your support.

It is very important that children arrive on time in order to make a good start to their learning. Children should not be left unsupervised on the school premises before 8.55am for safeguarding reasons.

We monitor the attendance and punctuality of all children in school and we work closely with our safeguarding and attendance officer to make sure that all children have the best possible attendance.

Holidays in Term Time

As you will be aware, we are not able to authorise absences to cover holidays in term time, but we can grant leave for exceptional circumstances. We will consider all requests but we are unlikely to authorise the leave unless it is rare and unavoidable. Our holidays in term time policy can be found on our school website.

Nursery Yard

You will have seen by now the changes that have been made to the nursery yard. Mr Harrison, along with some volunteers (including Mr Gibbon), worked tirelessly over the holidays to get it ready for the children returning to school. A huge thank you to Mr Brunton and Mr Ayton for giving up some of their time to help out, to the PTA and to all parents who have supported the PTA, for the donation of £2000 that has made it possible.

Phonics workshop

Mr Daly will be holding a parents phonics workshops for Reception and Y1 parents on Thursday 27th September. This session is to explain how we teach phonics and to offer some help and advice on how you can support your child at home.

Singapore Maths Strategy Parent Workshop

This year the school has moved to delivering the White Rose Maths curriculum which is based on the Singapore strategy. Mrs Long will be holding a parents workshop on 5th October to explain how this strategy works and how you can support your child at home.



Travel to School

The area around our school can be very congested at dropping off and picking up times. When parents and carers drive and park dangerously, they are presenting a real danger to children and adults around the site. As you know we had a number of complaints from residents last year regarding inconsiderate parking. If you need to use your car then please park in the Memorial car park then walk up to the school grounds. Can we also remind parents that vehicles are not allowed in the school grounds between 8:45-9:05am and 3pm-3:30pm for the safety of parents and children coming to and from school. Once in the school grounds can we also ask that children dismount from their bikes and scooters. Thank you for your support with this.

PTA

Look out for updates sent by ParentMail from our PTA. You can also check their FaceBook page: <https://www.facebook.com/WylamfirstschoolPTFA/>

Future Events and Dates

School Calendar - Autumn Term	
20 th September	Music lessons begin
27 th September	Mr Daly's Parents Phonics Workshop
28 th September	McMillan Coffee Morning
5 th October	White Rose/Singapore Maths parents workshop
9 th October	Parents evening
11 th October	Parents Evening
22 nd October	Harvest Festival
24 th October	EYFS Coffee morning + performance
26 th October	Break up for Half term
22 nd November	Y4 Drama Project
11 th December	EYFS Christmas performance AM KS2 Christmas Performance PM
12 th December	KS1 Christmas performance AM KS2 Christmas Performance 6pm
13 th December	EYFS Christmas performance AM KS1 Christmas Performance PM
14 th December	EYFS trip to Northern Stage
21 st December	Y4 Charlie's Corner
21 st December	Church Service
21 st December	Break up for Christmas Holidays

Please continue to check the school website for further updates of special events and activities.

Kind regards,

S Gibbon
Headteacher