

Kirk Merrington Primary School Newsletter



Spring Term

January 2017

I would like to welcome you all back to school and wish you all a happy and healthy 2017!

The children have already been working hard and are enjoying their new topics. This is an important term for the children and one where they generally make the most progress. Please continue to support us at home with homework, particularly spellings and times tables.

We are currently working on our Maths calculation policy which will be shared with you soon.

We will now only be sending the newsletter at the start and end of each half term. Please see the website for other school information.

Awards

In order to motivate the children and reward them for their hard work we have three new initiatives.

We have introduced a **Star Writer** award. Each month one child from each year group will be chosen to win the award for hard work with all of their writing. They will be given a trophy to take home for the month and a certificate.

We are awarding **reading prizes** for children who read at home 3 x per week for 5 weeks.

Mathletics is an online system we have subscribed to where children can complete interactive Maths games and activities. There will be letters coming home next week with passwords on for children to access this at home.



We would like to wish a Happy Birthday this half term to -

Stephanie A, Holly M, Matilda S, Ben G, Elliot F, Zak R, Shaun S, Kendon BG, Rommily S, Poppy Y, Jake G, Isaac R, Charlotte KW, Oliver M, Elisa T, Blake S



Website

We are busy updating our school website with the aim of putting more useful information on there for parents to access. We are also going to be adding pictures of children on there to make it more personalised. Naturally we will only use pictures for the children with permission and we will not include their names. If there is anything in particular you would like us to include then please let us know.

PTA- Friends of Kirk Merrington

With the help of the School Council we are currently in the process of choosing designs for our playground markings.

E-cadets: Our e-safety cadets are starting their preparations for Safer Internet Day. They are undertaking training that they can deliver to other children in their class.

Shelter

On Thursday we had our new Playground Shelter delivered. The school was awarded a grant for this through Spennymoor APP with the support of Councillor **Pauline Crathorne and her Neighbourhood budget**. The shelter will provide a nice place for children to sit and chat with friends but also protection from the elements!



Dates for your diary:

12.1.17- KS2 Pantomime Visit
25.1.17- Year 1 History visitor in school
27.1.17- Y5/6 visit to the Oriental Museum
7.2.17- Safer Internet Day
14.2.17- Y3/4 visit to Vindolanda/ Roman Army Museum
17.2.17 Break up for half term
2.3.17 World Book Day
3.3.17 Book Fair
7.4.17 Break up for Easter
20.3.17 & 22.3.17 Parent Meetings
8.5.17 Year 6 Sats

Attendance

In order to maximise their learning then children need to be in school every day. This year we are awarding termly certificates and gift vouchers at the end of the year for 100% all year.

Please try to arrange medical appointments after school. If this is not possible then the afternoon is better after the children are registered. If children are not present at the time of registration in the morning or the afternoon then they are recorded as being late, absent or medical.

The schools current attendance remains at **96.8%** which is **line with the National target of 96%**. The attendance is monitored regularly and we are expected to notify you when your child's attendance falls below 90%. Attendance below 90% is considered to "Persistent Absence" and therefore triggers involvement from the Local Authority.

*Please note if you take your child out of school for a holiday for 7 school days without authorisation then you are likely to receive a **fine**. This is £60 per parent, per child. The fine is issued by the Local Authority and is paid to them. Please see the attendance policy for further clarification.*

We still require holiday forms to be completed so we know where the children are, even though holidays will be unauthorised unless there is sufficient evidence of exceptional circumstances.

Breakfast Club/ After School Club- Little Darlings

There are spaces in Breakfast Club should you require a regular place at the reduced price of £3.00 per day. After School also has places which can be used as required at £7.00 per session per child. Ad-hoc sessions can be arranged in agreement with Nicola Coulthard once children are registered.

Safeguarding

Please can you telephone the school when your child is absent as we need to make sure that the children are safe and where they should be. (01388 816230) Please let us know of any changes in mobile numbers or **contact details**. Can you please make sure that you do not park in the staff carpark unless you need to use the disabled space. *Can we also remind you that the equipment on the playground should not be used before and after school.*

Clubs for this half term:

	KS1	KS2
Monday		Magic Maths
Tuesday	Dodgeball	Homework (Year 3/4) Booster (Year 6)
Wednesday		Basketball Booster (Year 6)
Thursday	Science (Year 2)	Science (Year 3) Dance

School Meals

If your family circumstances have changed and you think your child may be eligible for a free school lunch then please speak to the office staff.