

# Kirk Merrington Primary School Newsletter



Spring Term

February 2017

This has been a busy half term and the staff and children have been working really hard. The children have enjoyed their new topics and have been producing some lovely work. We are particularly pleased with the efforts the children are putting into reading at home and trying to impress their teacher to be Writer of the Month. Keep up the hard work!

## School Events

The children have had lots of memorable experiences as part of their topic work.

Year 5/6 have visited the Oriental Museum and the Monozakuri Caravan.

Year 3/4 visited Vindolander and the Roman Army Museum.

Year 2 had a Prince and Princess Party

Year 1 held a tea party for a group of children from the Pre-School and had a visit from "That History Bloke" who showed them lots of old toys.

Reception have shown their parents their learning based on Handa's Surprise.



## Junior Education Programme:

The Year 5/6 children have been taking part in an 8 week programme which aims to educate junior pupils about personal safety and crime prevention. It encourages young people to become active, responsible community members whilst giving them a lasting, positive impression of the emergency services and partner agencies. The programme is coordinated by Durham Constabulary, and is delivered by a number of partner agencies, including the Royal National Lifeboat Institute, Lifeline, Age UK, Civic Pride, and British Transport Police

**Juice**- We have an increasing number of children with juice in their water bottles. Please note we are a healthy school and so must be seen to encourage children to drink water and reduce their sugar intake. We have a small number of children who have clear juice for medical reasons.

**Ear rings**- Please note only small plain studs should be worn for school. Anything larger poses a safety risk during break times.

We are collecting the **Active Kids Vouchers** from Sainsbury's and would be grateful for any vouchers.

## Website

We have been working hard updating our website and trying to include more useful information on there for parents.

Please see the Maths calculation policy which is going on the website very soon.

## PTA- Friends of Kirk Merrington

We are delighted with our playground markings. The children have really enjoyed playing with them. Our next event will be a ladies night, details coming soon!

**Governors**: Our governors would like to know more about what the children think of the curriculum and whether they have any suggestions for improvements. They will be coming in over the next half term to talk to the children in small groups.

## Sporting Achievements:

Well done to Year 1 who recently came first in the Multi Skills Festival. We are so proud of them!

Our Year 6 children went to a Basketball competition and came 8<sup>th</sup>. They were happy to have won some of their matches and showed great team spirit.



**Dates for your diary:**

17.2.17 Valentines Disco

**17.2.17 Break up for half term**

1.3.17 Author Visit- Liz Million

2.3.17 World Book Day- children to dress up as a Book Character

3.3.17 Book Fair from 2pm

9.3.17 Year 2 visit to Hardwick Park

16.3.17 Reception visit to Hall Hill Farm

23.3.17 Mother's Day Lunch

5.4.17 Easter Egg Competition

7.4.17 Break up for Easter

20.3.17 &amp; 22.3.17 Parent Meetings

8.5.17 Year 6 Sats

**Attendance**

In order to maximise their learning the 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 **96.97%** 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 after February half term:**

	KS1	KS2
<b>Monday</b>		Dance- lunchtime (existing members)
<b>Tuesday</b>	Team Games	Booster (Year 6)
<b>Wednesday</b>		Dodgeball Booster (Year 6)
<b>Thursday</b>		Cross Country

**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.