



# Kirk Merrington Primary School Newsletter

Autumn Term

October 2017

We have very standards of behaviour at Kirk Merrington. In order for this to be maintained it is important for school to work together with parents. We have had several instances of rough play and name calling this half term which will not be tolerated. It is important that we teach the children that we all make mistakes but we learn from them and don't do it again. We always take a positive approach but at times children need to know there will be consequences for their actions. As a result of the parent questionnaire Class Dojo positives and negatives are now the same for every class. We have clear procedures in place where class teachers' deal with issues in the first instance and then this comes to me as the Headteacher. If the behaviour continued then parents would be notified.

Mrs Murray

## School Events

It's been a busy half term and the children have had some memorable experiences to help bring their topic work to life! Did you know Year 1 found a Spaceship crashed on our field?

Year 6 have visited Beamish as part of their Victorian topic.

Year 2 have visited the Hancock Museum as part of their Dinosaur topic.

Year 3 have visited Alnwick Castle as part of their topics on Castles and Potions.

Well done to Miss Rawlings' class who came third at the Multi skills Festival,

Well done also to all of the children who represented the school at a Cross country event.

Particular congratulations to Neve who came third in her race out of 95 children. What an achievement!

The children have enjoyed a Harvest assembly led by Reverend Barbara Hilton from St John's Church. We are extremely grateful for all of the food donations which have now been taken to Spennymoor **Food Bank** to help members of our local community.

During their work in **Family Groups** the children are going to be involved in helping to highlight the problem with dog fouling on the path near school. Watch this space!!



## Chair of Governors

Ms Carol Robinson has now been elected as our Chair of Governors. We look forward to working closely with her over the next year. We currently have a vacancy for a Local Authority Governor and a Community Governor if anyone knows any suitable candidates!

## Car Parking:

We have received complaints from some residents in the village about parking.

Please try to park with consideration for others and use the carpark opposite the school whenever possible.

## School crossing:

The school has been in regular contact with the Schools crossing patrol team. I am extremely concerned about the safety of the children crossing the road.

**Comments Book**- There is a comments book in the school office should you wish to give us any feedback. We also have a suggestions box if you would prefer to remain anonymous.

## PTA- Friends of Kirk Merrington

We are looking to **Match Fund** our Christmas Fair again if anyone knows any friends or relatives who could help?

**Fruit**-Key Stage 2 children are welcome to bring a piece of fresh fruit to have during morning break if they wish. They have been reminded not to run around whilst eating! (Key Stage 1 children are provided with fruit at school)

Please note the applications for **secondary schools** need to be submitted by 31<sup>st</sup> October.

We are still looking to recruit a **play leader** for lunchtimes. Please contact the office for more details.

## PE kit

Unfortunately we still regularly have children without PE kit for lessons. Weather permitting they have outdoor sessions every week and so require a tracksuit and trainers. These can be left at school all week or even for the full half term if you prefer! **Children need to remove their own ear rings for PE or bring plasters to cover them.**

**Dates for your diary:**

20.10.17 Break up for Half Term  
 17.11.17 Year 6 out at the Safety Carousel / Children in Need  
 6.12.17 Nasal Spray- Flu prevention for Reception, Year 1,2,3 & 4  
 13.12.17 Reception, Year 1 and 2 Pantomime Visit  
 15.12.17 Christmas Fair 2pm  
 19.12.17 Rec, Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas Play 2pm  
 20.12.17 Years 3,4, 5 & 6 Christmas Play 2pm  
 21.12.17 Carol Service at St John's Church  
 22.12.17 Teacher Training- PD Day (School Closed)  
 14<sup>th</sup>- 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018 Year 6 SATs  
 25.5.18 Teacher Training- PD Day (School Closed)  
 11.6.18 Year 1 Phonic Screening Check

**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.

Attendance is monitored regularly and we are expected to notify you when your child's attendance falls below 95%. Attendance below 90% is considered to be "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 on the website 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 before 9am when your child is absent as we need to make sure that the children are safe and where they should be. (01388 816230)

**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
<b>Monday</b>		
<b>Tuesday</b>	Multi Skills (4:30)	Mathletics (4:30) Netball (4:30)
<b>Wednesday</b>	Craft Club (4:15)	Basketball (4:30)
<b>Thursday</b>		Cheerleading (4:15)

**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.