



Kirk Merrington Primary School Newsletter

Spring Term 1

January 2018

Welcome back. We hope you all had a lovely Christmas and enjoyed some quality family time. Sadly some of our children have been unwell with chicken pox so please be vigilant for any spots. Children are able to return to school once the spots have scabbed over.

We have had some positive feedback from our Facebook page. Lots of parents are enjoying receiving the regular updates and seeing the photographs.

Please see the important dates overleaf as we have now added the dates for the next parent meetings.

Mrs Murray

School Events:

School Lunch

This has been the first week of the children choosing their lunch. We have put the weekly menu on the banana in order for the older children to read what options there are. For the younger children we have put some pictures near the serving hatch to help them to choose. The feedback so far has been very positive from the children. We will continue to monitor this closely.

Pantomime

It was the turn of our KS2 children to visit the pantomime this week. They have been to see Peter Pan at the Theatre Royal in Newcastle.

Family Groups

The children will be meeting in their family groups this term to discuss tolerance linked to Martin Luther King Day and then Chinese New Year.



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

Zak, Kendon, Lilly, Romilly, Poppy Y, Ben R, Isaac, Oliver M, Blake, Isla Q & Jake L

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Lottery

We have now got our Lottery signage ready to be put up to acknowledge our funding. The money was used to replace the planters at the back of the school and for new resources in Early Years.



Sports Coach

We have a new sports coach in school called Mr Fox. He will cover some of the PE lessons and after school sports clubs.

He replaces Mr Newell who left Craig's coaching for a different job.

Parking

I have received complaints again from residents about cars blocking their drives. Please park with consideration for others.

Lateness

We have a group of children who are regularly late. This is very unsettling for them and disruptive to the class. Lessons start promptly at 9:00. Please try to be on the playground for 8:55!

School Values

We have been talking about our values again this week.

We do lots of work in school to help to build children's resilience.

Perseverance is a quality we particularly encourage with the children as many of them face challenges on a daily basis.



Dates for your diary:

11.1.18 KS2 Pantomime
 17.1.18 Year 1 Multi skills event
 1.2.18 Year 1 visit to Preston Park
 8.2.18 Internet Safety Parent Assembly 2pm
 9.2.18 **Break up for Half term**
 2.3.18 Book Fair
 5.3.18 Parent Meetings 3:30-6:00
 6.3.18 Parent Meetings 3:30-6:00
 8.3.18 Year 4/5 visit to Beamish
 29.4.18 start of Easter holidays
 7th May- 18th May Year 2 SATs
 14th- 17th May 2018 Year 6 SATs
 25.5.18 Teacher Training- PD Day (**School Closed**)

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
Monday		
Tuesday		KS2 Multi sports (4:30 finish) Y6 Booster- free (4:30 finish)
Wednesday	KS1 Multi skills (4:30 finish)	German- free (4:30 finish) Kodu (free computing club Y4,5 & 6)
Thursday		Recorders- free (lunchtime) Fitness (4:30 finish)

Please can you let us know when children are going home with someone different. You could ring the school or email if you prefer.