



Kirk Merrington Primary School Newsletter

Spring Term 2

February 2018

What a half term, so many of our children have been ill with chicken pox and then sickness. Hopefully they are all now feeling better and able to enjoy the half term. We have had to liaise with public health who have been checking that no children have returned until after the 48 hours. This is in line with infection control guidance. We have put a link to this on the website as it is a useful point of reference to parents about chicken pox, head lice etc. We appreciate your support with this as we know some children were only sick the once. The school has had a deep clean and we have had an additional cleaner working to ensure all areas have been thoroughly cleaned. The carpets are also all being cleaned during the holidays.

Mrs Murray

School Events:

Safer Internet Day

All of the children have been learning about Internet Safety this week. They enjoyed being able to share their work in the assembly. The E-safety session for parents was led by Pauline Stewart who is a Computing Adviser from DCC. Hopefully you all found your Digital Literacy magazine useful!

Wind Road Boys

14 of our KS2 children have been selected to take part in this production. They are performing on Saturday 10th March at 1pm. Rehearsals start after the half term.

Children's Mental Health Week

The children had an assembly about Being Themselves. We take every opportunity to celebrate differences at school and talk to the children about sharing worries and being confident in their own unique way.

St Mark's Church Visit

The Year 2 children have visited the church to learn more about Baptism as part of their RE topic. Reverend Barbara has also been in to talk to Mrs Thirkell's class about the Bible and the different parts of it.

Police visit

Our local PCSO has visited school to work with Year 6. She set up a crime scene for them to investigate!

Mother's Day Lunch

We are delighted to be able to invite Mum's for lunch on Wednesday 7th March to celebrate Mothering Sunday.

We will be holding 2 sittings at 11:30 and 12:15.

Letters have been sent home with more details.

Other significant female relatives are welcome if Mum's are unable to attend!



Water Bottle

Please can you ensure your child has a water bottle at school every day.

Unfortunately we only have water chillers at school (no water fountains) so children need a bottle to be able to have a drink.

These should not include juice. We have a small number of children who have juice for medical reasons. As a school we need to encourage children to avoid drinks with sugar to look after their teeth,



World Book Day- Thursday 1st March

Children will be having a special themed lunch on that day and not their usual menu.

Earrings

Please note children should only wear plain studs for school- no coloured earrings.

Children need to take them out for PE and if they can't then they need to bring plasters from home to cover them with.

Facebook

Please check out the Facebook page for regular updates and pictures of what the children are learning in school.

Book Fair

We are holding our annual Book Fair on **Friday 2nd March**. As part of our celebrations the children are invited to **dress as their favourite book character**. Prizes will be awarded for the best costume in each year group. Friends and family are invited to join us from **2:30pm**- this will be an opportunity to purchase books, refreshments will also be available. We raised over £1000 at the Book Fair last year which enabled us to purchase lots of new books for the children.



Dates for your diary:**9.2.18 Break up for Half term**

22.2.18 Year 6 visit to Eden Camp

1.3.18 World Book Day- themed school lunch

2.3.18 Book Fair 2:30pm- Dress up as a character

5.3.18 Parent Meetings 3:30-6:00

7.3.18 Mother's Day Lunch

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 SATs14th- 17th May 2018 Year 6 SATs25.5.18 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.

Clubs for this half term:

	KS1	KS2
Monday	Dance (4:30 finish)	
Tuesday	Mathletics for Y2	KS2 Tag Rugby (4:30 finish) Mathletics- free Y6 Booster- free (4:30 finish)
Wednesday	KS1 Tennis (4:30 finish)	German- free (4:30 finish) Kodu (free computing club Y4,5 & 6)
Thursday		Recorders- free (lunchtime) Fitness (4:30 finish)
Friday		Dance (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.