



Kirk Merrington Primary School Newsletter

Spring Term 4

March 2018

School has an open door policy. Please feel free to pop in and speak to me at any time or you are welcome to email if you prefer. It has been another very busy but short half term! We haven't been able to do some of our planned activities due to the days lost with snow. However the children have still enjoyed lots of fun and interesting lessons. This week our Key Stage 2 children particularly enjoyed a visit from the Mad Alice theatre group. This was funded through Spennymoor AAP. There are lots of visits planned for after the holidays so please check the diary dates overleaf. We are also expecting the SSP to organise more sporting competitions for our children to participate in! Finally, the children are looking forward to celebrating the end of term with the Book Fair and Easter Extravaganza organised by the PTA. As always your support is greatly appreciated.

Mrs Murray

Communication

We are trying to communicate information with parents in as many ways as possible to ensure that everyone gets the information they need.

As the school continues to grow there is a lot going on and there are sometimes oversights on our part.

The increased number of clubs, whilst great for the children, brings with it its own challenges in terms of logistics.

Text- we text reminders whenever possible. Please let us know if you are not receiving texts or you need two numbers set up on the system. (Texts cost 5p per message)

Newsletters- sent home at the beginning and end of each half term. Paper copies are just inside the entrance hall on the stand if you require an additional copy.

Letters- sent out regularly.

Facebook- regular updates and pictures of what the children are learning in school.

Website- this is updated weekly (you can see the Facebook page from here)

Dojos- Class Dojo is useful to liaise with teachers directly.

If you have any additional suggestions then please let us know.

Smoothie Bike

The Year 1 children have been learning about healthy eating. They borrowed the smoothie bike from Taylor Shaw to help them to make a Super Smoothie for a Superhero!!



Easter

The children have been learning about the meaning of Easter in their RE lessons. Special thanks to Reverend Barbara and Carol from St John's church who came in to make Easter Gardens with the Year 1 and Year 2 children.



Bike Handling

The Year 1 children have also been very busy improving their bike handling skills. They have had five sessions from a British cycling coach to help them be more confident steering and going around corners.



Science Fair

Thank you to everyone who came to the Science Fair. The children loved showing off what they have been learning!



On Thursday our Reception children represented KMPS at the Dance Festival!

Attendance

Well done to all of the children who have managed to come to school every day this term. This is an amazing achievement!

Layla, Oliver J, Isla S, Poppy W, Joseph, Isabelle, Jake H, Chloe, Sophie, Imogen, Alfie, Charlie, Gracie, Will, Emma, Ben C, Sonny, Leon G, Jake L, Victoria, Jack S, Jude, Finley Y, Jack B-S, Emily C, Evan H, Jojo, Emilie L and Isla Q

100%

Dates for your diary:

29.3.18 start of Easter holidays
 16.4.18 Back to school
 18.4.18 Year 2 visit to Durham Castle
 19.4.18 Year 1 visit to the Forbidden Corner
 20.4.18 Reception visit to Hardwick Park
 Year 4/5 visit to be confirmed!
 7th May- 18th May Year 2 SATs
 14th- 17th May 2018 Year 6 SATs
 22.5.18 Year 3/4 visit to the Archaeology Museum
 25.5.18 Teacher Training- PD Day (**School Closed**)
 11.6.18 Year 1 Phonic Screening Check
 13-15.6.18 Kingswood Residential
 20.7.18 Last day before the Summer holidays

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 TBC	Rugby (4.30 pm)
Tuesday	Mathletics (4.30 pm) Athletics (4.30 pm)	Mathletics (4.30 pm)
Wednesday KS2 Dance 8am- free	Craft club (4:15 pm)	Tennis (4.30 pm)
Thursday		Spanish (4.30 pm) Cross country KS2 (4.30 pm)
Friday		Creative Dance (4.30 pm)

Changes

Please let us know if your family situation changes which may impact on your child or if there are any changes in contact details.