



Kirk Merrington Primary School Newsletter

Summer Term

May 2018

Thank you to all of those parents who returned their questionnaires. We really value your feedback. We will be sending home information about classes for September after half term. Then our transition arrangements will begin in order for us to help children to be prepared for their next steps. Please see overleaf for key diary dates. Enjoy your holidays!
Mrs Murray

School Events:

Thank you to everyone who supported our Royal Tea Party. It was lovely to see the children dressed in their red, white and blue. Please see the Facebook page for photographs.

Centre for Life

Mrs Thirkell's class particularly enjoyed their Planetarium workshop as part of their Stargazers topic.

Archaeology Museum

Miss Rawlings class enjoyed seeing lots of Ancient Greek Artefacts as part of their topic on Gods and Mortals.

Sporting Achievement

Well done to Neve who qualified for the Cross Country Regional Finals where she came an amazing 17th place, what a star!



E-safety

We would like to take the opportunity to remind parents about some online dangers faced by our young people. Apps and websites can be a great tool for youngsters to find out about the world, but some areas of the internet are not always safe for children. Our children are sometimes called "Digital Natives" - they are growing up in a world surrounded by social media. Children can be naive, they are still learning about the world and sometimes they can be taken advantage of by predatory adults. Durham Police have once again been involved in an investigation where primary school children may have potentially been exploited so, to try and prevent any re-occurrence, we would like to suggest the following:

- parents and carers should discuss with their children their use of technology, and take the time to find out more about their children's online life; parents should know who their children's online friends are and what apps they are using
- it is also worth setting parental controls, both on devices and on the home and mobile internet feeds - this is not a fool-proof solution, but it does reduce the chances of children either coming into contact with inappropriate material or individuals.

Advice on setting up Parental Controls is available from www.internetmatters.org by following the parental controls links. Alternatively, the NSPCC have teamed up with O2 to provide free support on setting up controls which is available by ringing their helpline on 0808 8005002

PTA- Friends of Kirk Merrington

I would like to thank our PTA again for their hard work with the Royal Tea Party. Thank you for your kind donations. All monies raised go towards PTA funds.

Dance Classes

School is now renting out its hall space to Astrid Academy of Movement. This is run by Hannah Coggin from 4:30 onwards. Please speak to Hannah with any questions on 07804983564

Year 6

We are so proud of all the hard work the year 6 children have put in both before and during their SATs. They all tried their very best throughout. Afterwards they very much enjoyed their celebratory party day!

The transition arrangements have started for these children with school visits from both Ferryhill and St John's staff.

Water bottles

We are selling plain water bottle for £1.50- available at Reception. Children need a water bottle every day at school as they are unable to access a drink without one.

Dates for your diary:

22.5.18 Year 3/4 visit to the Archaeology Museum
 25.5.18 Teacher Training- PD Day (**School Closed**)
 4.6.18 Phototronics to take class photographs
 6.6.18 Year 1 and Year 2 Buddhism visit
 11.6.18 Year 1 Phonic Screening Check
 12.6.18 Father's Day Lunch - sittings have been given
 13-15.6.18 Kingswood Residential
 29.6.18 Summer Fair
 4.7.18 Brass ensemble for parents at 2:30pm
 11.7.18 Year 6 Leavers Service - 2pm
 12.7.18 Whole School Moving Up (morning in new classes)
 18.7.18 Sports Day 1:15pm
 20.7.18 Last day before the summer holidays

Attendance

The whole school attendance is **96.8%**. The National Average is 96%

Mrs Bell **95.8%**

Miss Goldsborough **96%**

Miss Peat **97.2%**

Miss Rawlings **96.8%**

Mrs Thirkell **97.2%**

Mrs O'Sullivan **97.3%**

Percentage	Days Absence	Comment	Achievement
Above 97%	Less than 6 days absence per year	Excellent Attendance	These children will almost certainly achieve their full potential in school
95-96%	10 days absence per year	Missing 2 weeks of school every year	These children are likely to achieve but could still improve their attendance!
90% - 94%	19 days absence per year	Missing one month of school every year	These children will find it hard to achieve their best in school
85% - 89%	29 days absence per year	Missing six weeks of school every year	These children will find it very difficult to keep up with work in school and are unlikely to achieve their potential
80% - 84%	38 days absence per year	Missing a year of school over the time spent in primary education	These children will find it almost impossible to keep up with their work.

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)

Please do not let children play on the equipment in the playground after school. We are not able to accept any responsibility for accidents that happen at this time.

Love Spenny Week

From the 4th- 10th June the local churches are running events to promote positivity in the community.

On **Saturday 9th June** from 10am -12pm St John's Church in Kirk Merrington are doing Teddy Bears parachute activities.

This will be followed by more activities in Jubilee Park as part of a family fun day.