



Kirk Merrington Primary School Newsletter

Autumn Term

September 2018

I would like to welcome our new Reception children and their families to Kirk Merrington Primary School. The children are all looking very smart in their new uniforms. It has been lovely catching up with them and hearing about their news from over the holidays.

We always have huge amounts of lost property each year due to uniform without names on. Please can I make a plea for you to label all clothing as it ends up being thrown away as charity shops are unable to accept them. This includes all items of PE kits, packed lunch bags, shoes and coats ☺

We have a good range of after school clubs on offer this half term. You should have received letters already. They start next week so please check the finish times carefully as they do vary between 4:15 and 4:30pm.

Please email the school if you have any queries. We have an open door policy and so you are welcome to come in and speak to me or arrange an appointment. We look forward to a fun and hard-working half term.

Mrs Murray

School Events:

Meet the Teacher Meetings were held yesterday- I hope you found these useful for you to know what the children will be learning and the best way to help them at home. If you missed the meeting please request the handouts from the teacher.

We are currently in the process of recruiting our new school council members. These children are voted on by their class mates where we take the opportunity to talk to the children about Democracy.

The staff are busy booking visits for the children. Letters for some classes will be sent out soon.

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

Thomas V, Aidan B, Brooke, Kallum, Ben S, Gracie, Hunter, Chase, Sonny, Alex, Fearne, Izzie, Mena, Poppy S, Amalia, Finlay H, Edward, Stanley, Autumn, Isla, Evie, Ewan, Hayden, Layla, Grace, Billie-Jo, Joseph, Joel, Alexis and Oliver G.



PTA- Friends of Kirk Merrington

School will be holding its annual Macmillan coffee afternoon on Friday 28th September at 2:30pm. As usual any cake donations will be greatly appreciated.

Please let us know if you are able to help out at events or perhaps have an auntie, uncle or grandparent who might be available.

PE Kits

Please can you make sure that your child has both an indoor and outdoor PE kit in school at all times. They all need trainers for them to be able to fully participate in lessons.

Staffing

We would like to welcome Mrs Castling as a Teaching Assistant in Reception.

We also have Sam Chatt as our new school cook from Taylor Shaw.

We would also like to welcome Miss Wilson as our new PE apprentice.

Lunchtime Supervisor

We are looking to recruit a new lunchtime supervisor as Miss Allison has left her position. We wish her all the best in her new job.

Please contact the school office for an application form if you are interested in applying. The role involves working every day from 11:45 to 1pm.

Dates for your diary: * Some Durham school holidays next year are different to other local authorities.

19.9.18 Tri Golf Taster Session for Y1, 2 and 3/4

21.9.18 Tri Golf Taster Session for Y4/5 and 6

2.10.18 NSPCC assembly

10.10.18 School Photographs

11.10.18 Year 6 visit to Nissan

19.10.18 Last day before the October Half Term holiday

26.11.18 **PD Day**- School closed

School Lunches

Please note that Taylor Shaw have increased the price of school lunches to £2.05 per day from September. Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 still receive a free dinner paid for by the government. From Year 3 onwards they are to pay for at £10.25 per week. Please ensure dinners are paid for in advance as school cannot allow you to get into arrears. If your circumstances have changed then you may be entitled to free meals.

Please speak to Mrs Harrison for more information

Attendance

Please note that school does not authorise holidays in term time. Fines will be issued when 7 school days are missed. Please try to ensure appointments are made out of school hours. When this is not possible please ensure that children are in school at 9am or 1pm for their registration.

Good attendance is rewarded each term.

Lateness

The school gates are open from **8:45- 8:55am** in order to provide a flexible drop off.

The registers are taken at 9am so any children arriving after this time are considered late.

In line with our policy if your child is late more than twice in one half term then you will receive a letter home.

Children feel embarrassed by being late and often miss the start of lessons. Please try to be on time!



Please contact the school if your child is unwell by 9am on 01388 816230

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 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.

Please let us know if you need to access the **disabled space** in our school car park. The gates are kept closed during the start and end of school for the children's safety. The school car park should not be used by family members.