



# Kirk Merrington Primary School Newsletter

Autumn Term

October 2019

As usual life in school has been very busy. The school is continuing to grow and we are in high demand. We are an inclusive school and now have lots of children with additional needs. Our children are very good at accepting difference and we celebrate diversity. We are delighted to have appointed Mr Clarey as our new school caretaker. We look forward to him starting with us after half term. I would like to say a big thank you to Mr Hodgson, one of our governors, who has been a huge help to us in school.

We have significantly reduced our number of children arriving late for school, so thank you for your support with this. My door is always open, please feel free to pop in to see me with any questions or concerns. We wish you a lovely half term break and look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November. *Mrs Murray*

## School Events:

The children enjoyed a visit from the Fire Service this week, talking to them about keeping safe with fireworks.

## School Councils:

The children have voted and elected members of three different councils. We have the school council, the Sports Crew and an Eco council. All of which are meeting regularly and carrying out important work.

## Curriculum:

We have been reviewing our curriculum to ensure it is bespoke for us and matches the needs of the children. We have three key drivers which are:

21 <sup>st</sup> Century Citizens	Independent Learners	Healthy Living
Multi-cultural Awareness	Independent	Healthy Eating
Sense of community	Resilient	Being Active
British Values	Creative and curious	Healthy Mind
Understanding of the wider world	Able to solve problems/think critically	Outdoor Learning

You should start to hear your child talking more about these areas and see them coming through their work.

We are busy updating our **website** for you to be able to see on there exactly what the children learn in in each class. Our school Facebook Page is also a very useful source of information and about day to day learning.

## PTA:

Unfortunately we have had to cancel the **Christmas Fair** this year due to lack of helpers.

Hopefully we can recruit some new members soon.

Thank you to the PTA for organising the Halloween disco.

## 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.

## Water

Children need a water bottle with them every day- no juice please.

## Packed lunches

We are a nut free school and so it important that children do not have chocolate spread in their sandwiches. Our policy also requests that the children do not have sweets or chocolate bars.

## Sporting Achievements

We are thrilled to say our children won the Gold medal at the Tag Rugby Competition. Our football team has also won the bronze in the Spennymoor Football League.

We were also very proud of the children who represented us in the cross country trials. Well done everyone!!

**Dates for your diary:** *(Please see your calendar for Christmas performances etc)*

7.11.19 Year 4/5 to visit Durham Cathedral

14.11.19 Year 5/6 to visit the Safety Carousel

15.11.9 Children in Need- non uniform day

10.12.19 Christmas Film night for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children

12.12.19 Christmas Film night for Year 3,4,5 & 6 children

**2.12.19 School Closed for Teacher Training**

### **Change in circumstances**

Please let us know if you have changed mobile numbers or there has been any changes in your family circumstances.

### **School Lunches**

Please keep your Parent Pay in credit. You should now have your new menu to see the options available to your child.

### **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.

**Our school attendance is 97.5%** and remains above the National Expectations.

### **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
<b>Above 97%</b>	Less than 6 days absence per year	Excellent Attendance	These children will almost certainly achieve their full potential in school
<b>95-96%</b>	10 days absence per year	Missing 2 weeks of school every year	These children are likely to achieve but could still improve their attendance!
<b>90% - 94%</b>	19 days absence per year	Missing one month of school every year	These children will find it hard to achieve their best in school
<b>85% - 89%</b>	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
<b>80% - 84%</b>	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 is for staff only.

**Dogs** Unfortunately dogs are not permitted on the school grounds and need to be left outside the gate.