



Kirk Merrington Primary School Newsletter

Spring Term

February 2020

We are half way through this school year already! The Local Authority have visited school this week to review our curriculum and the Quality of Education. We are really pleased with the outcome and were delighted to hear they think the school is very good, children's behaviour is exemplary and that the provision for our children with Special Educational Needs is excellent. Unfortunately, some children's lateness caused a disrupted start to lessons and so I must request you try to ensure your child is on time for school and on the playground by 8:55am. We wish you all a lovely half term break with your children. *Mrs Murray*

School Events:

Safer Internet Day- thank you to those of you who were able to attend. We hope you found the session thought provoking and also useful to guide discussions and rules for your children. The children (and adults) produced some amazing posters with some key messages for us all to remember.

I hope everyone sticks to the pledges they made to reduce screen time!

The posters were judged by Mrs Coulthard, our Safeguarding Governor, as you can imagine this was a very difficult job!!

1st Prize was awarded to: Connor and Isabelle- £20 cinema voucher

2nd Prize was awarded to: Neve- £15 cinema voucher

3rd Prize was awarded to Kyra and Brooke Darnell-£10 cinema voucher



Friendship:

We have been doing lots of work with the children around friendships.

We've talked about how friends should not tell you to do something you know is wrong.

Friends should not be unkind or make you feel embarrassed or uncomfortable.

We talked about all of the traits they look for in friends. The children came up with a long list including: honesty, kindness, team player, thoughtful, helpful, friendly, trustworthy, encouraging, respectful, courageous, supportive and fun!

We do not have to be friends with everyone in school but we have to be polite to them!



PTA:

The school council have requested some picnic benches for the children to sit on outside. This will be the focus of the fundraising for the next few events.

Tuesday 25th Feb- Pancake Day! Scotch Pancakes on sale for 50p + tea/coffee for 50p in the café from 3:15pm

Wednesday 1st April- Easter egg-stravaganza 2:30-4:30pm details to follow.

Thursday 2nd April Easter Disco- 3:15pm to 4:15pm tickets will be £2.50 to include a drink and a hot dog. More details to follow.

School Council

The school council are becoming very good at writing persuasive letters! They requested the non-uniform day and have also requested we sell cookies on a Friday at morning break. (letters to follow)

Mobile Phones

Please note children are not permitted to have mobile phones in school. If they need to bring them they should be handed in at the office in the morning and collected at the end of the school day. Smart watches are also not permitted.



Attendance Letters

Please note that if your child's attendance drops below 96% then as part of the policy you will be sent a letter. Even when we know that children are off with genuine illnesses I am still required to send the letter. The letters also have standard wording as I am required to use a template. Attendance in school remains above National Expectations. Most absences for us are due to unauthorised holidays and not due to illness.

Dates for your diary: (Please see your calendar for additional dates-spare ones are available on request)

24.2.20 Back to School

- 24.2.20 Year 2 visit to Durham Castle
- 26.2.20 Year 6 visit to Nissan (STEM)
- 6.3.20 Book Fair
- 10.3.20 Reception visit to Hall Hill Farm
- 16.3.20 Parent Meetings (3:30pm-6:00pm)
- 17.3.20 Parent Meetings (3:30pm-6:00pm)
- 20.3.20 Mother's Day Assembly 9:15am
- 2.4.20 Stay and Play for Reception parents 2:00pm



Attendance

Please let us know if your child is going to be **absent**. (01388 816230)
If they are unwell we need to know a reason to record on the register.

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.

Please contact the school by 9am on 01388 816230

Safeguarding

It's that time of year again when we need to prepare for inclement weather. Please feel free to use the yellow grit bin outside of school to grit the path down to the road. The bin is there for public use.
Please park responsibly and be considerate of not blocking people's drives in the village.

Birthdays



We would like to wish Happy Birthday this last half term to:

Maiya, Ava, Lilly, Romilly, Poppy Y, Jacob T, Ben, Laina, Lydia, Isaac, Jake L, Ada and Jacob N