



Kirk Merrington Primary School Newsletter

Autumn Term 2

December 2023

Another busy term over. As always our children have been a pleasure. We are delighted with their progress and they continue to thrive. School really is a happy place and children make the most of the varied opportunities available to them! I know for busy working parents it can be hard to keep up. Our website has the diary dates and lots of other useful information if you miss things. <https://www.kirkmerrington.durham.sch.uk>- click on the Parent tab at the top. You could also direct Grandparents to this if they help with childcare. Thank you so much for all of our very generous gifts. We are very grateful. We hope you all have a lovely Christmas and a Happy New Year.
Mrs Murray



Events:

Christmas Performances of Snuggle Up Stable and Bah Humbug: I am very proud of our children, they are a credit to our school. I always say for a small primary school, we have so many talented children! It is always lovely to see those coming out of their shell on the stage but I am always particularly impressed with the courage of others who put themselves out of their comfort zone. It is definitely a team effort!

Christmas Parties: Lots of fun was had at the parties, the snacks for the children were paid for from the sales of the photos from the plays. The money left will pay for treats for Dojo parties throughout the year.

Film Night: Thanks to the staff, children and PTA for their help to give the children a fun experience.

100% attendance:

These children have been at school every day this term since September. Well done to: Ella, Allegra D, Ted, Iris, Roman, Harry M, Renee, Ada, Grace, Charlotte, William, Thomas, Maiya, Alexis, Jenson, Joshua, Ben R, Lewis, Niall, Freddie, Nathan, Phoebe, Jessica, Archie, Joey, Fynn, Isabelle, Francis, Isaac, Isla, Nancy, Ben, Harry, Jos, Benjamin, Finn, Austin, Joshua J, Naomi, Eadie, Mia, Seth, Elizabeth and Charlie.



Independence:

We strongly promote our school values with the children but we also encourage independence. This starts from zipping up your own coat in Reception, tying your shoe laces in Year 2 to completing homework independently in KS2 and looking after their belongings. This then extends further into roles and responsibilities around school.

The more independent the children are the more prepared they are for their next steps.

We always ask the children to think, can I sort it myself? Can a friend help? Do I need an adult to help?

Saying Goodbye:

Mrs Symonds is retiring and is leaving us today. We would like to thank her for all her hard work. She will very much be missed by the staff and the children. We would like to wish her a long and happy retirement!

Keeping Safe:

We regularly promote keeping safe with the children. They know how to keep themselves safe online, they know about fire safety, water safety and of course road safety. We are very proud of Mr Clarey and the recognition he has had for his crossing patrol role. Please click on the link if you haven't already seen his clip!

<https://www.facebook.com/DCCRoadSafetyTeam>

Parking:

Residents in Kirkstone Court have requested parents are more considerate and do not block their drives. Please also be considerate in the car park and take care not to block the exit.

Safeguarding:

Please do not park or drop off in the school staff car park. (unless you are using Little Darlings)

Please be aware we have a parent needing to drop off using the disabled bay and so a car will be coming in for drop off and pick up.

Should you have a concern about a child outside of school you can report this yourself anonymously on 03000 267979.

Birthday cakes: We promote healthy eating in school but as you may guess, the children like to keep bringing cakes in on their birthday. Please be aware of allergies of other children in the class and the number.

If you choose to send a full cake then this **must be cut into the correct number of pieces** as staff cannot cut it.

We appreciate this has a cost attached so please do not feel any pressure to bring anything in.

Scooters- please leave scooters and bikes near the MUGA and remind children not to ride them inside the school gates.

Keeping children safe is our number one priority and we always respond immediately to any concerns.

Please be on time!
8:55am



Reading Raffle:

We had our Reading Raffle in assembly. Every time children read at home three times per week they get a raffle ticket. Every half term two tickets will be chosen from each year group. The children can choose either a book or a book token. The lucky winners were:

Reception: Iris and Ella

Year 1: Taylor and Jessica

Year 2: Phoebe and Daisy

Year 3: Lola I and Eadie

Year 4: Harry and Jessica

Year 5: Sophie and Sophia

Year 6: James and Niall

Training Days for 2023/2024:

Monday 4th September 2023

Tuesday 5th September 2023

Friday 27th October 2023

Monday 4th December 2023

Monday 17th June 2024

Contact Details:

It is vital we have the correct contact details for you. Please let the school office know if you have any changes in phone numbers or names of emergency contacts who can pick up your child from school if needed.

Dates for the diary: (More information to follow nearer the time)

3.1.24 Back to School

16.1.24 Coffee morning for parents of children with SEND- 9am

18.1.24 Year 4 visit to Arbeia Roman Fort

29.1.24 Year 2 visit to Durham Castle

15.3.24 Red Nose Day- wear red for a donation to the charity

Assessment Dates for your diary:

(Please do not book holidays at this time)

Year 6 Sats wc: 13th May 2024

Year 2 Sats wc: 13th May - 24th May 2024

Year 4 multiplication check any time in the 3 weeks from 3rd June 2024

Year 1 Phonic Screening Check-wc: 10th June 2024

Year 2 Phonics for children who need to re-sit wc: 10th June 2024

We use the **STOP** sign to help children understand the word bullying.

Several Times On Purpose

