



# Kirk Merrington Primary School Newsletter

Spring Term 1

February 2024

School continues to be busy and as a result our children are thriving. The school council is extremely active and the children very much have a voice in school! They have selected some of the clubs, requested Cookie Tuesday for the Summer term and asked for Y1 + 2 to have a day for using the MUGA.

Our website has the diary dates and lots of other useful information about what the children are learning.

<https://www.kirkmerrington.durham.sch.uk> click on the Parent tab at the top.

The club letters are on there if you need to look back on them.

We hope you all enjoy the half term. Next half term is very short!

Mrs Murray



## Events:

The children have been out on several visits and had visitors in to enhance our curriculum.

Year 4 visited Arbeia Roman Fort

Year 2 visited Durham Castle

Reception visited the church

Y5/6 went to a Basketball competition

There was a STEM workshops for Y5/6 from Technology Tom

A Childline Workshops for Y5/6 + Y2

Reverend Barbara has also delivered assembly and visited Y3

## Parent Governor

Mrs Amahal won the parent vote so we would like to welcome her to our Governing Body.

## 100% attendance:

There are 94 children who have been at school every day since Christmas so all those children have received a Headteacher Dojo.

Our school attendance is very good at 96.6% with the National Average at 94.7%.

We have 6.6% of children whose attendance is below 90%. The National Average for this is 16.2%. We know you all value the importance of children being in school every day. It is important to us that children are happy at school.



## Homework:

We are delighted with the progress children have been making with their Times Tables on Times Table Rock Stars (Year 2 to Year 6)

Children use their tables almost on a daily basis in Maths so being able to recall them quickly is a huge help to them.

Children are rewarded at school for reading at home and completing their Mathletics and Spelling Shed tasks. It is really important our older children get into a routine of this as part of being prepared for Secondary School.

If you are having trouble accessing the homework then paper copies can be sent home. If you need any support with this then please let us know.

Please be on time! 8:55am



## Keeping Safe:

We continue to deliver regular lessons with the children about Keeping Safe online. Please talk to the children about their learning and ensure they understand your rules you have at home.

## Parking:

Our Governors have raised concerns about the speed outside of school and the parking issues with both the council and the police. We will continue to put forward a case for them to improve access to the carpark and reduce the speed from 30mph to 20mph outside of school.

Please also be considerate and do not park on the grass.

### 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.

### Concerns:

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.

### Nuts:

Please ensure children do not bring any nut products in their packed lunch, including chocolate spread.

We have a child in school who is allergic to nuts so we need to be nut free!

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



### 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: Darcie and Roman

Year 1: Evie and Phoebe

Year 2: Jasmine and Benjamin

Year 3: Abel and Charlie

Year 4: Cora and Isabelle

Year 5: Jacob G and Poppy H

Year 6: Lilly and Romano

#### Training Days for 2023/2024:

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> 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)

26.2.24 Back to School

7.3.24 World Book Day

12.3.24 Stay and Play session for the Reception class parents

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

18.3.24 + 19.3.24 Parents Evening

27.3.24 Reception class visit to Hall Hill Farm

### Assessment Dates for your diary:

(Please do not book holidays at this time)

Year 6 Sats wc: 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Year 2 Sats wc: 13<sup>th</sup> May - 24<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Year 4 multiplication check any time in the 3 weeks from 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024

Year 1 Phonic Screening Check-wc: 10<sup>th</sup> June 2024

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

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

Several Times On Purpose

