



Kirk Merrington Primary School Newsletter

Summer Term 1

May 2025

I think that has been the shortest half term I have known!

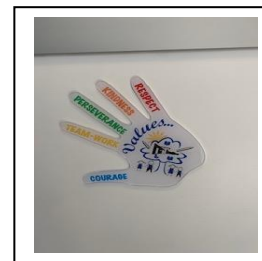
I wanted to say well done to our Year 6 children, they worked so hard and tried their very best with their Sats, which is all anyone can ask of them!! They really did rise to the challenge.

Many of the Year 5 and 6 children have been to Robin Wood this week and really had to put their team work and perseverance to the test! It always makes me smile to hear children talk about our school values.

After the holidays we will be sending home the parent questionnaires which is an opportunity for you to give us some feedback.

I hope you the children all enjoy their week off.

Mrs Murray



Colour Run:

Many thanks for your support with the Sponsored Colour Run.

The children have been asking for this for a long time!

Thanks to the PTA for organising it and purchasing the paint etc.

We are always very grateful for their time.

This was lovely for the whole school to have an event just for us to celebrate the school as a community.

It was also a good physical challenge with some children finding it very challenging to run for more than 1 minute. We definitely need more work around pacing!!!

(Apologies for the mess)



School Meals:

Please let us know if you change any school meal arrangements. Meals should be paid on a Monday for the week. There should never be a debt!

Attendance:

Our school attendance continues to be very good at 96.5% with the National Average at 95.5%.

We have got a number of children on holiday or about to go on holiday which impacts the whole school figures. Whilst we understand it is significantly cheaper, we are not able to authorise holidays and you should expect to receive a fine when 5 school days are missed. Fines are cumulative so are more for a second offence.

Please be on time!

Gates close at 8:55am



Transition:

After the half term we will be starting to prepare the children for moving to their new classes. This will start subtly but will not be more formally until July so we do not unsettle them, For Y6 this means visits to their new Secondary schools. For the new Reception children it means visits to school. For all our other children this starts with class teachers going in to read stories, teachers dropping in etc. For children we know who have increased anxiety around change then we will put additional sessions in place.

Polite

Uniform Reminder

No nail varnish
No jewellery
Stud earrings only
Long hair tied up
Plain black shoes

Sports Day:

Wednesday 16th July
1:15pm

Training Days for 2024/2025:

Monday 2nd December
2024

Monday 16th June 2025

After school clubs:

We have had an extensive offer of clubs again this year. I would like to say thank you to the staff who have all given up their time to all run two clubs each over the year. This is above and beyond!

This has enabled us to provide a wide range of opportunities for the children, many of which have been free.

We will continue to seek the views of the children to see what they most enjoy!

Website:

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

The club letters and previous newsletters are on there if you need to look back on them. Clubs are under the Pupil tab.

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 and a **student teacher** 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.



Phone Safety

It has come to our attention that a number of our pupils have been accessing apps that are not age appropriate. Please discuss this with your child and check what apps they are using to ensure they are safe. The internet is an amazing tool but can also be very dangerous. Age ratings are useful to help you decide what is appropriate for your child. You are probably familiar with the age ratings used for films, but apps and games are rated differently and there is lots more to consider. Some ratings give a minimum age, some use categories. Please be vigilant!

Little Darlings:

Little Darlings will be ending their rental agreement with us at the end of term in July.

They have had a difficult few months and I would like to thank them for their support for the school and years of service. Many children have attended over the years and I know this has been invaluable to some parents.

We are currently in the process of sourcing a new provider. I will be able to confirm details with you in June.

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)

4.6.25 Y1 visit to the Oriental Museum

4.6.25 Y3 visit to the Faith Museum

9.6.25 Drama club at Bishop Auckland College

16.6.25 School closed for teacher training

20.6.25 School Photographs for classes

24.6.25 Y5 at Hardwick Park

30.6.25 Art Week

9.7.25 Year 6 Leavers Service (Year 6 parents only)

16.7.25 Sports Day- 1:15pm start

17.7.25 Year 6 Leavers Disco 3:15 - 4:15pm

18.7.25 Last day of school

Assessment Dates for your diary:

(Please do not book holidays at this time)

Year 4 multiplication check any time in the 2 weeks from 2nd June 2025

Year 1 Phonic Screening Check-wc: 9th June 2025

Year 2 Phonics for children who need to re-sit wc: 9th June 2025

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

Several Times On Purpose

