



# Kirk Merrington Primary School Newsletter

Autumn Term 1

October 2025

It has been a long half term but the children have had lots of opportunities with a range of clubs, visits and visitors to enhance our curriculum. We like to share as much as possible on our Facebook page so please have a look.

We are excited to start work with the local artist Olga Ayre who will be working with children on creating a mural for the bus stop in Kirk Merrington.

We are also delighted that our nurture room, The Nest, is finally completed and ready to use.

This will provide a much-needed quiet space for children who need additional support to meet their sensory needs. We are very grateful to Spennymoor AAP and Esh Group for all their work as without them it would not have happened!



Mrs Murray

## Events:

Parents have been invited in for the Meet the Teacher meetings, parents evening and Reception Stay and Play.

Reverend Barbara led our Harvest assembly. We talked about helping the community and how our donations will help lots of families at the Food Bank.

Year 5 & 6 had a visitor teaching them about Parliament and democracy.

Year 2 enjoyed a visit to Locomotion to learn about the History of trains, Year 6 have visited Beamish to learn about life in Victorian times and Year 3 went to Hardwick Park to learn about the Stone Age.

**We have a new school meals menu for after the half term. You might want to check the options if your child has both dinners and packed lunch!**



Thanks to the PTA for all their help organising the Halloween Disco.

## Readers:

If you can spare one hour per week (or a Grandparent) to come and hear our children read in the afternoon we are always very grateful for the help!

## Please see key dates overleaf:

These have been sent out via email and are on the website.

Note: Training day on 1.12.25- school will be closed

## Kirk Merrington Primary School is 100:

Did you know our current school was built in 2013. It replaced a temporary wooden structure that was used as a school for 88 years having been built in 1925. In World War 11 the children carried gas masks to school. When they were building our current school they found signs of an air raid shelter and medieval activity.



## School Games Gold Award:

We are thrilled to have been awarded the School Games Gold Award. This is recognition of our commitment to sports and engaging the children in physical activity. Special thanks to Miss Goldsborough, Miss Wilson and Mr Walton for all their organisation of events and clubs.

## Information:

Our website has the diary dates, copies of letters, forms 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.

## Parking:

Please report any dangerous or unsafe parking using the QR codes on the signage on the school fence.

Please do not park or pull into the staff carpark. It is too busy and therefore not safe. Staff have also had cars damaged again which is unfair.

**Safeguarding:**

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

**Nuts and snacks:**

Please do not send any food into school containing nuts as we have a child with a nut allergy. This includes Nutella.

Snacks for morning breaktimes should be fruit, dried fruit, cereal bar, meat or cheese please.

No crisps, cake or biscuits.

**Birthday cakes:** We promote healthy eating in school but as you may guess, the children like to bring 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.

**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.

Please be on  
time! 8:55am

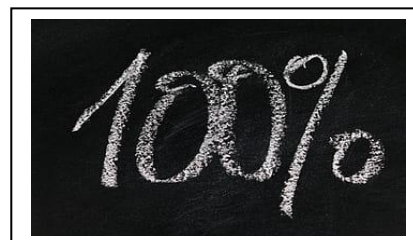
**Attendance:**

103 children have 100% attendance and have been at school every day this half term since September.

The children have all received a Headteacher Dojo.

Well done children!

The Year 2 class have the best attendance record, well done Year 2.

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

3.11.25 Back to School

14.11.25 Odd Socks for Anti-bullying

21.11.25 Nasal Flu Spray

8.12.25 Reception Stick Man visit to Hardwick Park

10.12.25 Christmas Lunch

10.12.25 KS2 Christmas Film Night

11.12.25 KS1 Christmas Film Night

15.12.25 Reception Nativity for parents

16.12.25 KS2 Christmas Play- morning

16.12.25 KS1 Christmas Play - afternoon

17.12.25 KS2 Christmas Play- morning and afternoon

18.12.25 KS1 and Reception party in the morning and Y3/4 in the afternoon

19.12.25 Year 5/6 party in the morning- break up at 3:15pm!

18.5.26-20.5.26 Robin Wood Residential for Y6

**Assessment Dates for your diary:**

(Please do not book holidays at this time)

**Year 6 Sats** wc: 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026

**Year 4 multiplication check** any time in the 2 weeks from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026

**Year 1 Phonic Screening Check**-wc: 8<sup>th</sup> June 2026

**Year 2 Phonics** for children who need to re-sit wc: 8<sup>th</sup> June 2026

**Training Days for 2025/2026:**

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2025

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2026

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

**Several Times On Purpose**

