



Kirk Merrington Primary School Newsletter

Summer Term 1

May 2026

I wanted to say a huge 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 6 children have been to Robin Wood this week and really had to put their team work and perseverance to the test! The staff commended their fantastic behaviour. We always get complimented on our children when we take them out!

I hope you the children all enjoy their week off and the sun shines for you.

Mrs Murray



Holidays:

We always understand why people choose to take term time holidays. We know the costs are so much cheaper, however, the DFE and the local authority have a firm stance that children need to be in school every day. Please make sure you know the rules:

- **Fine:** £80 (within 21 days) or £160 (within 28 days).
- **Applicability:** Per parent, per child (e.g., two parents taking two children can be fined £320-£640).
- **Threshold:** 5+ days (10 sessions) of unauthorized absence within a 10-week period.
- **Repeat Fines:** A second fine within 3 years is automatically £160.
- **Legal Action:** A third offence (or non-payment) can lead to prosecution, with fines up to £2,500.

Are you late for School?:



Attend Today = Achieve Tomorrow!

Missing School = Missing Out!

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 15th July

1:15pm

Training Days for 2025/2026:

Monday 20th July 2026

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.

Parking:

Please do not use the school car park unless you have a blue badge.

This is for safety reasons but equally it has to be fair for everyone!

Our school risk assessments do not cover families being in the staff car park.

Please park with consideration to residents in the village, we continue to get complaints about parents swearing and blocking drives!

Sanco:

We have recruited Mrs Cleminson to take on the role of Special Needs Co-ordinator in September. She will start some transition visits after the half term. She is really looking forward to working here and getting to know your children.

Online 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!

[Switched on to privacy | ICO](#)

Caterpillars:

School is taking over from Nutmeg and Sprout which will be re-branded as Caterpillars- the children have voted for the logo and wanted caterpillars to link with our butterfly theme.

I just want to thank Gail and her family for all their hard work.

The wrap around provision has been transformed and we hope to carry on their hard work!



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)

4.6.26 Year group photographs

25.6.26 Welcome meeting for new Reception parents

26.6.26 Summer Fair

13.7.26 Leavers Service for Year 6

15.7.26 Sports Day- 1:15pm start

17.7.26 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 1st June 2026

Year 1 Phonic Screening Check-wc: 8th June 2026

Year 2 Phonics for children who need to re-sit wc: 8th June 2026

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

Several Times On Purpose

