

Newsletter 5

May 2019

Dear parents and carers,

I can't believe we are in the summer term already – this year is absolutely flying by, and as you can see from the diary dates attached, we have a jam-packed term ahead of us.

### **Testing times**

As parents and carers know, we are entering Statutory Test time. Year 6 will be taking their SAT tests throughout the week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019. Year 2 will begin their tests during the week beginning 20<sup>th</sup> May, and will continue to have further teacher assessments throughout the Summer term to verify their test results and Year 1 will be taking their Statutory Phonics Screening Test during the week beginning Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June.

It is so important that children, in these particular year groups, have excellent attendance this term so as not to miss vital teaching and learning opportunities as well as their actual tests.

I'm sure you will join me in wishing all the children the very best of luck!

### **Attendance**

You may have noticed that we have included an attendance and late update on the termly reports. This is so that parents can make informed decisions when considering whether their child should have a day off school.

We have graded attendance percentages as the following:

<b>Attendance Thresholds</b>		
<b>96% and above</b>	<b>95% to 90%</b>	<b>90% and below</b>
Very Good	Cause for concern	Critical concern

When a child's attendance drops below 95%, we will write to parents inviting them to an attendance meeting and if attendance continues to fall below 90%, further attendance meetings will be requested.

Pupils who are below 90% and fall into the persistent absentee category, will be monitored very closely for unauthorised absences and formal warnings and fines will be issued by the Durham County Council Attendance Enforcement Agency.

I would ask any parent or carer, who may be having issues getting their child to school to come and speak with Mr. Orwin or myself and we will try our very best to support you.

### **Careers Week**

As one of our key curriculum drivers is "Aspirations and Possibilities," we have organised a fantastic week of events for Careers Week (beginning 20<sup>th</sup> May). The aim of the week is to inspire our children to dream big about who they want to be when they grow up.

It is important that children have goals in their life, so that they can take small steps to achieve them. We want our children to understand and make the link between doing well at school and being successful at work. We will also be challenging gender stereotypes by asking questions like – Can a woman be a firefighter? Can a man be a nurse?

We will be sending out a timetable of events nearer the time, however we wanted to give you notice that on the final day of the week, **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May**, we will be asking children to dress in the role of their dream job. On this day, we will also be visited by Mr Richard Crane, who is Durham County's new Director of Education and is very interested in the work we are doing to inspire our pupils.

If any parents would like to come along and talk to our pupils about their job, during this week, please let us know.

### **Summer Fair**

We are in the process of planning and organising this year's summer fair on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July and ask if any parents would like to help with the organising or to help on stalls on the day, to contact Miss Booth or Miss Pole. We will start to collect any items for tombola or raffle soon.

### **Parking**

Once again, I am receiving emails from disgruntled neighbours about parents parking in the back streets between the terraced houses and the school. Some neighbours have been blocked from getting out at the end of the day.

I am asking, again, that parents do not park and leave their cars in this back street. The neighbours in question, have taken photos of the cars in question and will be notifying the traffic wardens of the obstructions.

### **PTA Purchases**

This year we have been investing in some new technology for children to use in the classrooms. Using the money raised by your good selves, we have managed to buy:

- ★ 13 electronic thesaurus machines
- ★ 8 Mouse Bot coding units with mats
- ★ 13 Coding Microbit packs
- ★ 1 wireless presentation control

We are hoping to upgrade 1 set of laptops with the remaining money and ask that parents continue to support our fundraising events as always!

I look forward to seeing you all at the forthcoming events this term.

Mrs N James

Headteacher