



KEY DATES FOR PARENTS/CARERS 2025-26

Welcome to a new school year! I hope you have had a great Summer; it's been lovely to see the children return to school today and to hear their holiday news. A big welcome also to our new Reception and Nursery pupils and new pupils who have joined classes across the school.

To help you plan ahead, I thought it would be useful to inform you of key dates for the coming year. More details about these events will be given nearer the time. We will try to keep to these dates, however circumstances may alter our plans as we progress through the year and we will keep you informed of any changes. Please note that this year County Durham schools have been asked to take **three** training days within term time. Another two will be taken during school holidays.

Our 'Welcome to the New School Year' meeting for parents/carers is on Monday 22nd September from 4.30pm to 5.30pm. This gives you the opportunity to:

- meet your child's teacher
- hear about how the class have settled in so far
- find out about the work and topics your child will be covering this year
- find out about homework and organisation for the year ahead
- meet other parents/carers in your child's class (especially useful for new Reception/Nursery parents!)
- ask any general questions. Please note that this meeting is just to give general information about the year ahead. We also have parents/carers evenings later this term where you will be able to find out how your child is doing/progressing and discuss your child individually.

Please note that this meeting is for parents/carers only ideally. Children should not attend, wherever possible, unless you have no other childcare at this time. Let us know if you have any issues with this as we may have spaces available in our Kidz Club during the meeting.

If you have more than one child in school, it is useful if two parents/carers are able to attend as the meetings happen at the same time. If this is not possible and/or if you have more than two children, you can still meet with your child's class teacher briefly following your first meeting and receive all the information needed.

As we start a new school year I would also like to share the following information and reminders:

- If Year 5 and 6 pupils who walk home alone wish to bring a mobile phone into school, the sheet sent home this week should be completed by parents/carers and returned to school.
- Children will be asked to come to school on their PE day in their PE kits. Please note that we expect all children to wear the school PE uniform which is a white t-shirt and black shorts or jogging bottoms. Class Teachers will let you know your child's PE day. Where children come to school in PE clothing that is not our PE uniform, we will contact you and ask you to bring their correct uniform to school.

It is really important that children continue to look smart and part of our school community on PE days also and do not stand out because they are wearing different items of clothing. It also removes the pressure to keep up with current trends/wear more expensive and/or designer items.

- A reminder about healthy packed lunches. Chocolate, sweets and fizzy/high sugar drinks **should not** be included in lunch boxes. Please try to include fruit and vegetables and keep crisps and biscuits/cakes to a minimum. We have children in school with nut allergies so please be vigilant and do not include nuts/nut products in packed lunches.
- End of day collection times can be busy so please ensure that you are looking out for your child when the teacher brings them out and stand near to the collection area rather than at a distance. It is really difficult for teachers to spot parents/carers on a busy yard, particularly on rainy days with the added disguise of raincoats and umbrellas!
- Please ensure also, that children are supervised by parents/carers when waiting for older siblings to come out. Children should not be running around on the grass in front of my office and near the car park. They should also not be running onto the school fields. Children are not permitted to ride bikes/scooters within school grounds or use the Timber Trails before and after the school day. They will be told by staff members to stop doing this if seen.
- Please complete the Health/Medical Information sheet sent out as soon as possible and return to school.
- Children do not need to bring their own pencil cases and stationary into school. Individual pencil cases and pencils, rulers, pens etc are provided by us.
- Please note that pupil attendance is closely monitored and where this drops below the expected level, I will need to contact parents/carers to discuss this issue and how it can be resolved.

- Please ensure that children arrive at school on time, ready to start the school day by 8.55am. Once the doors close at 8.55am, parents/carers need to bring their children round to the main entrance and we will need to record your child as a late entry. Where our records show that this is a regular occurrence, I will need to contact parents/carers to discuss this issue and how it can be resolved.
- A reminder that earrings should not be worn in school. Where ears have only just been pierced and parents/carers feel they cannot be removed at this time, children will need to wear a plaster to cover these. These need to be provided by parents/carers.
- The majority of our After School Clubs will start from October onwards but one or two will start in September. We will send an information leaflet out later this half term which gives details about the clubs that will be on offer for your child this year.
- For parents/carers who use Kidz Club - when you arrive to collect your child either at the office or at the gate (if pupils are outside on the yard), please press the bell/buzzer as usual and wait at the door/gate. The staff member will then collect your child and their belongings and bring them to you.
- For some of our performances you will notice we have slightly different arrangements this year. As Nursery is now almost full, we will have separate Harvest and Christmas performances for them. Their performances will be quite short followed by refreshments in the Nursery classroom so if you have a child in Nursery and Reception/KS1 you will have time to watch both of the Harvest performances.

Year 6 and Reception pupils will have their own Christmas performance together as part of our Year 6 Buddies programme.

- I have attached the results of our Parent/Carer survey carried out earlier this year for you also.

We are looking forward to another exciting and successful year. I'm sure our children will settle back into school really well and I will send a newsletter in the coming weeks with further information and news about school events so far. In the meantime, please contact us as usual if you have any questions or concerns.

Best Wishes,

Mrs Lavelle
Headteacher



KEY DATES FOR PARENTS/CARERS 2025-26

SEPTEMBER

3rd : Pupils Return to School

22nd : New School Year meetings with parents/carers, 4.30-5.30pm

25th and 26th : School Photographer in - classes, individual/siblings.

OCTOBER

9th : Book Fair starts.

13th : Harvest Festival Week. Pupils may bring in Harvest donations

17th: Year 3 Harvest Assembly 9.10am/Nursery Harvest Assembly at 2pm/Reception and KS1 Harvest Assembly 2.30pm Parents/Carers of pupils in these year groups invited to these

24th : Year 6 Class Assembly at 9.10am and end of half-term

NOVEMBER

3rd : Pupils return to school

10th : KS1, Reception and Nursery Parents/Carers Evening (2.30-5pm)

11th: KS1, Reception and Nursery Parents/Carers Evening (3.30-6pm)

10th : Anti-Bullying Week. Theme- 'Power for Good'.

14th: Friendship Friday - end of Anti-bullying week. Children may wear non-uniform - bright colours.

17th: KS2 Parents/Carers Evening (2.30-5pm)

18th : KS2 Parents/Carers Evening (3.30-6pm)

DECEMBER

Tues 9th pm - Years 3, 4, 5 Christmas Performance (Year 3 parents/carers)

Wed 10th pm - Years 3, 4, 5 Christmas Performance (Year 4/5 parents/carers)

Thurs 11th am - KS1 Christmas Performance (Year 1/2 parents/carers)

Fri 12th am - Reception and Year 6 Christmas Performance (Reception and Year 6 parents/carers)

15th : Christmas Lunch Day - children may wear Christmas jumper/top, hat etc

15th: Christmas parties this week

15th : Nursery Christmas Performance pm

19th : End of Term.

JANUARY

5th : Training Day for Staff - Pupils not in School

6th: Pupils return to school

FEBRUARY

10th : Safer Internet Day

18th : Wizard of Oz Theatre Production in school pm, Years 1 - 6

20th: Year 5 Class Assembly at 9.10am, Year 2 (Mrs Baum) Class Assembly at 2.30pm

20th: End of half term.

MARCH

2nd : Pupils Return to School

5th World Book Day - pupils may come to school dressed as a book character

9th : KS1, Reception and Nursery Parents/Carers Evening, 2.30 -5pm

10th : KS1, Reception and Nursery Parents/Carers Evening, 3.30 -6pm

13th: Mothers' Day Breakfast

16th : KS2 Parents/Carers Evening, 2.30 -5pm

17th : KS2 Parents/Carers Evening, 3.30 -6pm

30th: Egg decoration!

APRIL

1st : Easter Coffee Afternoon & Performances for Nursery and Reception Parents/Carers

2nd: Year 4 Class Assembly, 9.10 and Year 1 Class Assembly, 2.30pm.

2nd: End of Term

20th : Pupils return to school.

MAY

4th : May Day Bank Holiday

11th: Year 6 SATS Week

22nd : Year 3 Class Assembly at 9.10am/ Year 2 (Mrs Turner) Class Assembly at 2.30pm

22nd: End of half term

JUNE

1st : Pupils return to school

1st : Year 4 Multiplication Check within next two weeks

8th : STEM Week

8th: Year 1 Phonics Screening this week

17th : New Nursery parents/pupils open evening, 4.30pm

18th : KS2 Sports Day pm

19th Fathers' Day Breakfast

25th : KS1/Reception/Nursery Sports Day pm

JULY

1st : New Reception Parents/Carers meeting, 4.30pm

6th : Careers and Enterprise Week

9th : Ouston Art Gallery, 3.30-5pm

13th : Year 5/6 Disco 4.45pm-6pm

15th : Nursery and Reception 'Teddy Bears Picnic' at 2pm to share reports with parents/carers

15th : Reports to all Parents/Carers.

16th : Summer Fair and Family Picnic, 3.30-5pm

17th : Y6 Leavers Assembly (2pm) and end of term

Training Day for Staff: 20th July