



Weekly Bulletin 2 – Friday 15th September 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope the children are now well and truly settled into school again – they certainly all seem very happy and I don't think we have ever had such great Nursery and Reception children. Hardy a tear in sight – just smiles all round!

Extension

You may have noticed some visitors on site at home time on Wednesday this week. I invited the Project Manager of the new extension and a Health and Safety representative on site to see for themselves the congestion we are experiencing at the end of the school day. I have asked for more of the area to be tarmacked, especially the two patches of grass where the children come out, which would just give us a little more space. Of course, as usual, it all comes down to money, but I think they were certainly surprised to see for themselves the number of children and parents on site at one time. Hopefully I shall have some good news for you soon regarding this.

Eligibility for Free School Meals

Although Reception and KS1 children do not pay for school meals, there is still an important eligibility check that we can complete on your behalf to see whether your child meets the criteria for Pupil Premium Funding. All children who meet the criteria bring additional funding into school (£1,320 per pupil) which means that we can help to fund residentials, music tuition and additional support in school for these children. The attached form has all the key information needed. Please read this and complete the details on the form and we can contact the Local Authority who will find out whether or not you are eligible. This really does make a huge difference to the provision in school – last year we received an additional £80,000 into our school budget. However, this is only because parents have applied in the past. Please help us!

Sal's Shoes Collection

A huge thank you to all parents who very kindly donated their children's old school shoes at the end of last term. Lisa Lewis (James' mum from Year 1) organised the collection of the shoes and was quite overwhelmed with 165 pairs of donated shoes! Sadly, Sal's shoes were unable to accept them at the moment, but Clarks, who work in conjunction with UNICEF, were delighted to accept them and all shoes should all now be with their very grateful owners. Another very worthwhile cause so thank you.

Apologies

In last week's letter, it stated that the Year 6 open evening at Consett Academy was on Thursday 21st. Please do not attend then as it is actually their Sixth Form Open Evening! Year 6 Open Evenings are held on Tuesday 26th and Wednesday 27th September from 6 p.m. I am sorry for any inconvenience this has caused.

Nursery News

Thank you so much for your support during the children's settling in period. We will be letting you know who your child's key worker will be at the beginning of next week. Our stories for next week will be 'Shark in the Park', 'Dear Zoo', 'Owl Babies', 'Tip, Tip, Dig, Dig' and 'Where's my Teddy?' Our song of the week will be '5 Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed'.

School Photographs – Deadline

I do hope you were happy with your child's photograph this week. There is absolutely no obligation at all to buy these photographs. However, many parents do like to purchase these special photos and we ask that all orders and money are returned no later than Friday 22nd September. Thank you.

Girls Football – Monday 18th September at 3.30 p.m.

Our girls are in action once again on Monday evening – this time at Leadgate Primary School. They played exceptionally well last week, especially considering that we have a lot of new players. I am sure they will once again enjoy their matches on Monday.

Laura Pidcock MP Meeting the School Council – Wednesday 20th September

We are delighted to welcome Laura Pidcock to our school on Wednesday lunchtime to meet our School Council when she will be talking to them about life as an MP and life at Westminster. This is a great opportunity for our children to hear first-hand how democracy works!

Years 5 & 6 Boys Football League – Wednesday 20th September

Our Year 5 & 6 boys have their next football match on Wednesday at Tanfield Lea School. Letters will go out on Monday to those chosen to represent the school.

Thursday 21st September - Phonics and Early Reading Information Session for Parents

In the past, many Reception parents have asked how they can help their child with their reading and sounds. So at 2.45 pm and 5.30 pm on Thursday 21st September, Mr McLoughlin will lead an information session for parents explaining just that! Please come to the Junior Hall door, where Mr McLoughlin will meet you.

Thursday 21st September – 6 p.m. – Meeting for Year 5 & 6 Parents – Residential Visits

On Thursday evening we will be holding a meeting in the Junior Hall when we will be sharing information about this year's residential for Year 5 & 6 children to the PGL centre in Dalguise, Perthshire. This takes place from Monday 2nd to Friday 6th July 2018. During their time at the centre, the children will have the opportunity to participate in a number of outdoor activities such as abseiling, canoeing, archery and climbing to name just a few. This is always a very popular residential and one which the children thoroughly enjoy!

Year 6 also have a 2 night residential to Ford Castle, Northumberland from Monday 19th to Wednesday 21st February 2018. This is always a special visit as it is the only time Year 6 have the opportunity to go away as a year group on their own. They sleep in the castle and have chance to explore the castle, dungeons, grounds as well as choose from a number of different activities during their time there.

We will share information about the PGL holiday first, then once Year 5 parents have left, we will talk about the Ford Castle visit.

Karate – Friday 4.15 p.m. – 5.15 p.m.

An additional after school club is open to all children from Reception to Year 6. Karate, which is led by an outside provider (Mr Rayner) takes place in the Junior Hall between 4.15pm and 5.15pm every Friday and costs £5 per child. Please just bring your child along if they are interested and Mr Rayner will be there to welcome you and answer your queries. Please note, we do not take payment for this through the school.

As usual, if there is anything at all that you would like to talk about, or that is concerning you, please do not hesitate to contact me at school. We are here to help you and your child.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Jane Davis
Head Teacher