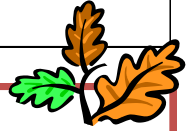




SEPTEMBER 2014 NEWSLETTER

Welcome back to a new school year and to the first newsletter of the year. It is great to see everyone back looking so fit and healthy and we all look forward to another successful school year.

As always, we look forward to working in partnership with you as parents and guardians so that we can help your children be happy and achieve their full potential while in our care.



Welcome

I'd like to begin by welcoming all of our new starters who have joined us this year:

Tyrystn Appleton, Kuba Ascherl, Joel Barnard, Emilia Bradwell, Lilly Carr-McAdams, Lucy Coatsworth, Lilia Craggs, Pablo Cubillas-Espino, Lillia Embleton, Oliver Harrison-Alderson, Amelia Hepple, Ruby Scholick, Jayden Ibinson, Luca Jamieson, Kirsty Marshall, Sadie-Ann Peart, Callum Smith, Elin Wilson, Megan Parsley

Website

Our school has a website. Our school policies are on there, and we will keep updating the events & dates. The school holiday dates are also on there. The web address is:

<http://www.st-godrics.durham.sch.uk/>

We will also keep our newsletters on there too.



MacMillan Coffee Afternoon – Friday 26th September

We hope you are able to join us for coffee at 2.30pm, so that we can raise funds for this important charity.

We will also let the children come to school in non uniform on the Thursday if they bring in 50p towards the MacMillan charity. This is because school photographs are being taken on the Friday, and children will need to be in uniform for them.



Parents'

Information Evenings

We like to hold these evenings so that you are able to meet your child's class teacher, and they are able to speak to you as a group of parents about the routines of your child's class, expectations & what they will be learning. Parents who attended these evenings last year found them very useful, particularly if their child has changed class.

Class 1 Information Evening:- Thursday 16th October at 6pm

Class 2, 3 & 4 Information Evening:- Monday 29th September at 6pm

Whole School Photographs - Friday September 26th

With reference to school photographs—if your child has a younger brother/ sister (not in school) and you would like them to have a photograph taken with them, please come along to the school hall at 9.00am.

**THIS NEWSLETTER IS AVAILABLE IN LARGE PRINT– PLEASE CONTACT
SCHOOL OFFICE IF NEEDED**

A Few Reminders!

Holidays:

The Government have still tightened the rules concerning taking leave of absence in term time.

The law now no longer mentions any reference to 'family holidays', or entitlement to 10 days leave of absence.

The head teacher is only allowed to grant any 'leave of absence' in "exceptional circumstances", and these can only be very exceptional circumstances.

PLEASE be aware of the law when planning holidays in the future.

Please note: NO absences will be authorised in May. This is an important assessment time, including Y6 SATs, and pupils must not miss work at this point.

Names in clothes:

As you will realise, it can be a great problem identifying which clothes belong to who when the children all wear uniform. PLEASE put names in your children's clothes, coats & on their book bags.

Money in school:

Please remember to put any money sent into school in an envelope clearly marked with your child's name and what the money is for. Dinner money should be sent into school on a Monday, with correct amount of money if possible please - £9.75.

Absence:

If your child is going to be absent, please inform school before 9.30am so that we know that they are safe.

Haircuts:

Governors agreed that the school policy would be only appropriate haircuts for school should be permitted. This means no patterns to be shaved into heads – this includes the 'v' shape that is shaved down the back of children's heads.

Jewellery:

Governors agreed that the school policy would be that NO jewellery is allowed to be worn in school for health & safety reasons. Children will be asked to remove any & it will be kept safe for a parent to collect. In the case of earrings, parents will be asked to come down to school to remove the earrings if a child is unable to do this themselves.

This is also the case for any make-up, nail varnish or heels.

Packed Lunch Policy

Our packed lunch policy is in place. No crisps (except baked crisps) and **no** chocolate or sweets will be allowed. There should be no chocolate yoghurts or anything else containing chocolate. A piece of cake or 2 biscuits is allowed. There are lots of alternatives to crisps such as bread sticks, crackers etc. A copy of the policy is on the website, or held in the school office, or if you need to speak to us about this, please don't hesitate to contact school.

Medication:

No medication is allowed in school unless it has been prescribed by a doctor and must be taken 4 times per day or more. If this is the case, an adult must bring the medicine to school & collect it, and must fill in a medication form at the office.

Morning supervision:

Please remember that there is no supervision for children until 8.45am each morning. Until then, parents are responsible for the supervision of their children. We cannot admit children into school until 8.45am from which time we are able to supervise them.

Dogs:

No dogs on school premises please.



Breakfast Club

Thank you to those of you who have kindly volunteered to help at breakfast club. If you do find you have a spare half hour, we would love to hear from you.

Fairtrade Tuckshop

This is now no longer taking place. New Government guidelines state that no school tuckshop may sell sweets or chocolate. Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 children will be receiving free fruit each day, and Year 3, 4, 5 & 6 children can bring in a piece of fruit for break times.

Birthdays

The staff are happy to hand out cake for children's birthdays but could you please send in individual small cakes or biscuits as sharing out big cakes has been



Living Streets Campaign

This is a campaign to encourage children to walk to or from school once per week. The children will be told about this in an assembly on Friday. The campaign will then start next week.

There will be a chart in each classroom, and if a child has walked to or from school at least once per week each month, they will receive a badge at the end of the month. The aim is that they collect all of the badges for the year.

If it is impossible for you to walk from home to school, then you are encouraged to park further away from the car park and walk a further distance – just once per week. Then your child can get their 'tick' on the chart.

We do hope you support this campaign. It is important to show our children the health benefits of walking, the environmental benefits, and how much more sociable it is to 'walk & talk'!

Dates for your Diary so far

- 25th September- Non uniform day for MacMillan
- 26th September- MacMillan Coffee Afternoon
- 29th September- Class 2, 3 & 4 Information Evening at 6pm
- 3rd October - 2.30pm – Class 1 & 2 Welcome Liturgy for our new starters in the school hall – all welcome
- 16th October - Class 1 Information Evening at 6pm
- 21st October - Friends of the school coffee morning
- 22nd October - Lion King theatre trip – children will not return to school until approximately 5.30pm
- 23rd October - CHILDREN OFF SCHOOL – STAFF TRAINING DAY**

BREAK UP FOR HALF TERM HOLIDAY

- 11th November - 11am – Class 4 Remembrance liturgy in the school hall – all welcome
- 13th & 14th November -Year 6 residential retreat to Youth Village
- 5th December - 2pm – School Christmas Fair – all welcome
- 11th & 12th December – 1.30pm - Class 1 & 2 Nativity Play
- 15th December - 6pm – Class 3 & 4 Carol Service
- 17th December - Reception, Year 1 & 2 Christmas Party
- 18th December - Year 3, 4, 5 & 6 Christmas Party
- 19th December - BREAK UP FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

Return to school on 5th January