



September 2017 Newsletter

28 09 2017

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:

Ellie, George, Lilly-Anna, Tyler, Brody, Rose and Esme!

I would also like to welcome our new teachers Miss Evans and Miss Darwin. There are a lot of changes this year to our staff and we are all excited to be working together. As most of you will already know, Mrs Lewin is on secondment for 2 years, and Mrs Hill is the Acting Headteacher.

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 29th September

Thank you to Friends of the School for organising and holding this very important event.



Rights Respecting School Award

In February 2017 we achieved the UNICEF UK Rights Respecting School Award for Recognition of Commitment.

This means that as a school, we are committed to placing the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) at the heart of our ethos and becoming a rights-respecting school.

In October, we are being assessed at the next level—level 1. This takes a lot of hard work and commitment from everyone in school.

We will keep you informed of the outcome and let you know what that means for our children.

Internet Safety Reminder

We will continue to send out any information we receive in school about how to keep your children safe on the internet. In the meantime, please make sure you have parental control settings on devices that your children are using and check often to make sure they are safe. Ideally, children only use internet programmes when a parent or responsible adult is with them.

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SCHOOL OFFICE IF NEEDED**



A Few Reminders!



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 - £10.00.

Holidays:

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

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. Year 2 pupils will also be required to be assessed during May.

SATS week is from Monday 14th May—18th May

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.

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 will soon be added to the website. One is held in the school office if you would like a copy, or if you need to speak to us about this, please don't hesitate to contact school.



Jewellery: Reminder

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.

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.

Dogs:

No dogs on school premises please.



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Absence:

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

**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 can be quite challenging.

Thank you

Morning supervision:

The new routine on a morning is working really well. We all feel that the start of the day is well organised and calm. Thank you to everyone for your support. Staff will be on the yard from 8:45.

Home Time:

We like to make sure that our children are safely going to the person picking them up. To help us in this, please wait until their teacher sees you and lets them come to you and it would be a big help if you come down onto the playground rather than at the fence on the path. It is difficult to see if you are there otherwise. Thank you.

Breakfast Club

Children can enter breakfast club from 7:45 and they need to be signed in every time by an adult.

Last entry is at 8:30.

We are very grateful to our volunteers who help out each week and we are currently looking for other adults who could commit to helping.

Please contact the office if you can help.

PE kit

Our school uniform policy was sent out on the first day of term. Can I please remind you that all pupils should wear gym shoes for PE lessons taking place in the hall. Trainers are only worn for PE when lessons are held outside. Thank you.

**IMPORTANT - Parent Information Meetings**

Finally, I would like to mention Parent Information Meetings. The idea of these meetings is to give you a chance to meet your child's teacher.

Teachers will share with you their expectations of the children, details about homework and information relevant to your child's year group.

1-1 consultations with your child's teacher are held later in the term (see dates sheet). If you need to speak to your child's teacher before then, please do not hesitate to contact school and make an appointment.

If your child has already spent 1 year with their teacher, please do not feel that you need to attend.

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Dates for your Diary so far

- 29th September - MacMillan charity day –
2pm – coffee afternoon in school hall
- 2nd October - Cross country club starts for 3 weeks
- 9th October - 4:45pm – Parent Information meeting
Class 3 Mrs Cornley
Class 4 Mrs Reineck
- 10th October - 4:30—Parent Information meeting
Class 2 Miss Darwin
- 12th October - Class 4 leading the school in Harvest Mass **All welcome!**
1:45 in the hall
- 12th October 4pm—Parent Information meeting
Class 5 Miss Evans
- 16th October - 3:15—Parents Information Meeting
Class 1—Mrs Dobson

Half term week—23rd October 27th October

- 31st October Fancy Dress Disco – 3pm – 4.30pm
- 14th November - Parents' Evening – please make an appointment
- 6th December - 9am – Class 1 Christmas Stay & Play with your children
- 8th December - Christmas Fayre
- 12th December** - **Whole school Trip to the Panto—Fully funded by Friends of the School -Oh yes it is!**
- 13TH December - 2pm – Nativity Play – Performance 1
- 14th December - 2pm – Nativity Play – Performance 2

PLEASE NOTE THAT TICKETS WILL BE ALLOCATED FOR THESE PERFORMANCES!

14th-15th Y6 Retreat to the Youth Village (details will follow shortly)

- 20th December - Year 3,4, 5 & 6 Christmas Party
- 20th December - 9am Class 1 Stay and Play
- 21st December - Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 pupils Christmas Party
- 21st December - BREAK UP FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY**

Return to school on Tuesday 9th January (please note change of date)

Please note, our holidays are sometimes different to many other schools around us – so please make sure you have the correct dates in your diary.

