



WELCOME BACK NEWSLETTER

Dear Parent / Carer

Welcome back to the new academic year. The children have made a great start and it has been lovely to see everyone again.

I'd like to start by sharing another success with you all. The international and global work that children do in school has been recognised by the British Council and we have just been awarded The International Schools Award at Foundation level. We can build on this and are aiming to be accredited at intermediate level by the end of the year.

On a different note, I'm sure you are aware of the media interest in aerated concrete. Our roof structure was surveyed in spring as the age of the building means that RAAC could have been used in its construction. The roof is supported on a steel beams that have been coated in a fire retardant, the beams then support a wooden structure. This means that no concrete beams or panels have been recorded as present in the roof.

You may have also heard about the number of children in the country who do not attend school or who have attendance which means they are persistent absentee (less than 90% attendance). Last year our attendance was broadly in line with the national average for primary schools but it did dip in the summer because some families chose to take their children on holiday during term time. I would just like to remind parents of the importance of attendance and the impact of absence on the achievement of your children. We have a detailed page on the school website about attendance if you want more information and we will work with you and help you if you are having any difficulties with helping your child to attend school regularly.

Finally, another success and a thank you. Last year Home Group made the decision to support the work of our Pupil Parliament by funding some new fixed play equipment. This was installed on the edge of the school field during the school holidays and the children have enjoyed playing on it this week. Mrs. Callendar, one of our long serving mid-day supervisors, was instrumental in getting Home Group to support this project and turning the children's ideas into reality. A big Thank You is needed for the children in the Pupil Parliament, to Mrs Blondrage who runs the Pupil Parliament, to Mrs Callendar and to Home Group. It is work like this which makes our community so special.

A more detailed newsletter will be published in the next week or so. Let's build on these successes and have another great year at Durham Gilesgate Primary School.

Kind regards
Mark Turner

PE Days Autumn 1

11th September – 27th
October 2023

Monday

Year 1

Y4/5

Tuesday

Year 2

Year 3/4.

Wednesday

Year 3/4.

Year 5/6.

Thursday

Reception

Year 4/5. Swimming

Year 1

Year 2

Friday

Nursery

Year 5/6.

Important Dates

4th Oct – Road Safety Show

10th Nov – Flu Vaccinations-
Reception to Y6

17th Nov – Children In Need

24th Nov – Y1-Y6 Panto

28th Oct – 6th November –
Half Term

20th Dec – 3rd Jan 2024 –
Christmas Holidays

More dates and more
details to follow



Durham Gilesgate Primary School

Road Safety and Parking

Please park in the streets away from the school gates and the garages and walk the last little bit into school. Parking is becoming a concern and a health and safety risk, particularly at pick up time. We do not want to see any child or parent injured as a result of parking habits. Residents in School View have complained to the local council because vehicles are blocking access to their street. There will be parking wardens making random spot checks and handing fines out. Please help us keep your children safe by parking away from the gates, the garages and the narrow road to School View.



Breakfast Club

We continue to offer a breakfast with childcare from 8:00 am to the start of the school day and this is £2 per session per child.



Preloved Uniform

We are collecting preloved uniform, if any families would like to donate. Any for any donations of uniform and PE kits in a good condition would be gratefully received.



Important Dates – More information to follow

Half Term – 27th May – return Monday 5th June

Tue 6th & 13th June – Y3/4 Pedestrian Training

Wed 7th June – 12th July Every Wed – Head's Up Ambassadors after school club.

Thu 8th June Y6 Walk & Talk every Thursday for 6 weeks

Thu 8th June – R-Y6 **Parents** Jigsaw Meeting 2.30pm

19, 21, 23 June and 3 July – Indian Dance and Kuchipudi workshops

Saturday 17th June – Summer Fayre with June Project – 11-1pm

Tue 20th June – Reception visit to Hall Hill Farm.

Tue 20th June Y5/6 Quidditch Festival – PE kit & trainers

Wed 21st June – KS2 Frisbee day - PE kit & suitable footwear

Wed 12th July – Beautiful Durham visiting school allotment

Summer Picnic.

On the last day of term, to reward the children for all of their hard work this academic year we will celebrate with an end of year Summer Picnic. Children who have a school meal will choose their option in school (please let the office know if your child would like to bring their own packed lunch instead of a school one) If your child brings their own packed lunch they will have the option of having a school packed lunch, we will send letters home at a later date. Teddy Bears are welcome at the picnic.

