

Byerley Park Primary School Newsletter

Issue 8

18th December 2020



Dear Children, Parents, Carers, Staff, Governors, Colleagues and Friends,

In view of my imminent departure, I wanted to get a message out to you all. I really want you all to know that I have had the most amazing 16 years at Byerley Park Primary School. It has been a privilege to teach with, work with, support and learn from an amazing school community and with the help of many passionate and committed people both within the school and beyond, the school has continued to go from strength to strength.

The most significant part of Byerley Park has to be the people and the teamwork; laughing, sharing, supporting, encouraging and understanding. There are too many great people to mention individually— you know who you are, you know what a great support you have been and you know that I will be forever grateful.

The Byerley Park PTA deserve a big thank you too, for all their efforts over the years. They have made a significant difference to the offer at Byerley Park, helping to secure a great atmosphere and opportunities for children through the significant fund raising that has been done.

Special thanks to our Governing Body who have been critical friends and a huge support in the strategic leadership and development of the school. They are a team of huge-hearted people who rarely get a mention for all their hard work and time but are pivotal in the smooth management and leadership of the school.

I would like to say a massive thank you to all the staff I have had the pleasure of working alongside over the past 16 years; the admin teams, teaching teams, support teams and catering & cleaning teams – they have all done their bit to make Byerley Park the place it is today. Our school only works because of all the amazing people front of house and behind the scenes who keep the cogs whirring. I will miss you all.

And so to the children of Byerley Park – you will all hold a very special place in my heart and I will continue to smile and glow with pride as I hear about you reaching milestones and achieving your dreams. Always remember, if you follow the Golden Rule ‘Treat others as you wish to be treated’ you won’t go far wrong in life. Stay true to yourselves; be your own person; have your own ideas and opinions and most of all, always be kind.

As the sun sets on my reign, I am delighted to be handing over the Byerley Park crown to my partner in crime, Mrs Pattison, our loyal and trusted Deputy Head, who was superb at interview and in gaining the Head’s role. As you will know, Mrs Pattison always puts the needs of the children first and upholds Byerley Park’s values to the core. I hope that you will all continue to back her in the day-to-day and strategic leadership of Byerley Park, as you have with me. My aim has always been to lead a school where I would be happy for my own children to attend ... and so ladies and gentlemen, my job is done!

Onwards and upwards, Byerley Park. I shall be keeping a very close eye on your news and developments over forthcoming years. I know that with everyone’s continuing support, the school will continue to make memories for generations to come. With very best wishes for all your future successes I bid you farewell.

COVID Symptoms over the Christmas Break

If your child develops any symptoms of Covid:

- persistent cough
- high temperature – over 37.8
- loss of sense of taste or smell

Please arrange to have a Covid test (online at www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or by telephoning 119).

Please would you email school at byerleypark@durhamlearning.net to let us know the results so that we can take any necessary action to keep everyone safe.

Staff News

We officially welcome Mrs Wilson, Y2 Teaching Assistant, who will join us officially in the New Year. Mrs Wilson has been working for us since September in a temporary capacity.

It was wonderful to welcome all the children back to school in September. The last four months have flown by and we have experienced many unexpected and sometimes unwelcome twists and turns along the way.

Your support of our school and all of our staff over this time has been invaluable and very much appreciated. Whilst things have been very different to the 'old normal', the children have adapted brilliantly to our new routines and staff have worked incredibly hard to keep children safe, happy and well educated in and at times, out of school.

Let's hope that at some point in 2021 we will be able to return to more of what school used to look like before the Pandemic.

Parking

Once again, we have received a number of complaints from frustrated residents living on Staintondale, **PLEASE** can I ask that you are mindful of your driving practices and are considerate to other road users and pedestrians when dropping off and picking up children from school. You should not park across dropped kerbs or block access to residents drives.

There is more room for parking further up Staintondale or on Meadowfield Way that would not involve parking across residents driveways or cause congestion at the junction with Greenfield Way. Please **DO NOT** use the school car park entrance to drop off children and turn around. This causes obstructions and is dangerous to pedestrians trying to cross the road and travelling motorists. Pupils do not have to be dropped off right in front of the school gates!

Please also note, the School Car Park is for **STAFF**, not for parents.

Thank you for reading this notice.

This will be our last Newsletter of 2020. All the staff would like to wish Parents, carers, children and their families a very Merry Christmas and a happy and peaceful New Year.

We look forward to welcoming you back to start the new school term on **Tuesday 5th January 2021**.

Stop Press..... From Mrs Gargan..... I am overwhelmed by the kindness shown by Parents, Pupils and Staff as I bid farewell to this wonderful school. Thank you, thank you, thank you from the bottom of my heart for the wonderful gifts that I have received. I shall treasure them all. I am going to buy myself a laptop with the money that I have been given!