

Byerley Park Primary School Newsletter

Issue 1

September 2023



Welcome back to the new school year. I hope you have had a lovely summer break. We are all looking forward to the year ahead.

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to our new pupils and their families. We hope that our new starters will settle well and enjoy their time at Byerley Park Primary School.

There is a lot of information in our First Newsletter for this school year, which you may find helpful.

It may be beneficial to keep this Newsletter for future reference.

For information, all newsletters for the school year are published on our school website, which can be accessed at www.byerleyparkprimaryschool.co.uk. They are also stored on your ParentPay account under the 'communication' tab.

Uniform

Our pupils all look very smart in their school uniform. Thank you for your support of our uniform policy. Black school shoes are part of our uniform. We **do not** allow the children to wear trainers or boots. Children are also expected to come to school with a suitable hairstyle. Whilst we encourage individuality, we expect pupils to come to school with an appropriate hairstyle and not, for example, with shaved patterns, stripes or wearing gel. Please keep these styles for the holidays.

Uniform can be ordered at any time throughout the school year from our uniform suppliers, Tots to Teams (www.totstoteams.com) or Elizabeth's Embroidery (www.elizabethsembroidery.com).

Please ensure your child's entire school uniform/PE kit/plimsolls/outdoor coat etc. is named as this helps enormously if anything goes missing in school.

Parent Pay Accounts – New Reception Children

We use 'ParentPay', our e-payment provider, for you to pay electronically for **all** school related items (e.g. breakfast club, ties, water bottles, trips, charity fundraising activities, dinner money for Junior pupils, etc) using your debit or credit card. ParentPay offers you the freedom to make payments whenever and wherever you like, 24hrs a day, 7 days a week, safe in the knowledge that the technology used is of the highest internet security available. Making a payment is straightforward and ParentPay holds a payment history for you to view at any time.

We also use ParentPay to send email communications out to Parents, e.g. Newsletters, information items, etc., so even if you have no payment items, you still need to activate your account so that you can receive these emails and be kept informed of what's going on.

Activation letters will be out to parents of new Reception children over the next few days for you to activate your unique Parent Pay account. It is possible to set up secondary payer accounts if more than one parent would like to have access to Parentpay. Please contact the Office if this is required.

Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC)

You may have seen recent media coverage regarding Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) and its use in educational settings. RAAC is a lightweight form of concrete; because it is weaker than regular concrete, concerns have been raised about its long-term durability. Department for Education (DfE) has recently changed its guidance to education settings on the management of RAAC to take a more precautionary approach and as a result areas in affected spaces will be vacated. We wanted to inform you that we are **not affected** by this decision as we do not have RAAC in any of our buildings and therefore they will continue to function as normal. We understand that parents may want to understand more about the support to educational settings to manage RAAC safely. You can read more through the article published by the DfE on the Education Hub.

Methods of Communication with Parents

We communicate with Parents in several different ways. It is crucial that you keep us up to date with changes to your mobile telephone number and /or email address so that we are able to contact you if necessary. You could be missing very important updates and information items regarding your child if you do not keep us informed.

Text Messaging to parents – We use a text messaging service on occasions to inform **one** parent of events, reminders, urgent notifications etc.

Email via ParentPay – Generally, whole school/class information items and Newsletters are sent **via email** to those parents with an activated ParentPay Account. When we require a response from Parents, we will send letters out via your child as and when necessary. Please check your child's bag regularly for leaflets etc.

Email from School – there are also occasions when we communicate individually to parents via email from the school email address.

Tapestry – Reception Class only – Mrs Bowes regularly posts information and pictures of what your child is doing in school.

Seesaw – Years 1 through to Year 6 – We use Seesaw as our learning platform. Class Teachers and staff can send messages and work to your child's Seesaw account and you are able to view and comment on this.

Please contact School if you experience any difficulties in receiving messages/emails from us.

If you have a message that requires an urgent response, please contact us using the school email address (byerleypark@durhamlearning.net) and mark the email for the attention of the appropriate member of staff. The school email address is monitored the most regularly out of all forms of written communication at school.

Please note, that while some members of staff will respond to communication outside working hours, it is not the expectation that they do so. Staff are entitled to time away from work and while communication may be sent at this time, it is not the expectation that staff will respond. If they do choose to respond out of working hours, like weekends or holidays, please be mindful that they are taking time away from their own families to do so.

Behaviour Award at the end of the Summer Term

The Infant positive behaviour award went to Isabella P who is now in Year 2

The Junior behaviour award went to: Olyvia Jane W, who is now in Year 6.

Each child received a £5 National Book Token.

There will be another positive behaviour award at the end of the Autumn Term.

Administration of Medication



Staff at Byerley Park are happy to administer medicine that has been prescribed for at least **THREE** times a day to pupils, provided that a consent form has been signed by the pupil's parent. The medication should be handed to a member of staff at the school gate when dropping off your child or brought to the School Office.

We can now also administer medication that you have purchased at a Pharmacy (e.g. Calpol, travel sickness tablets, cough mixture) but only after written consent has been given by parents.

Please contact the Office for a copy of the permission form as and when necessary.

Please note that cough sweets, strepsils, lozenges etc. are not classed as medicine and children should not have them in school.

Leave of Absence during school term time

Government Regulations state that Head Teachers are **not allowed** to grant any leave of absence during school term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. The Law says that parents **do not** have the right to take their child out of school for holidays during term time.

If you feel your circumstances are **exceptional**, then please contact Mrs Pattison to discuss your request.

Please consider these questions **before** deciding whether it is appropriate to ask for term-time leave:

1. Is the request for leave of absence due to exceptional circumstances?
2. Does my child have a good attendance record? (above 96%).

You **must** complete an application form for term-time leave at least seven days before the absence is due. Each request will be considered on an individual basis. It is therefore essential that you provide as much information as possible to enable an informed decision to be made.

Any pupil who has unauthorised absences that are of 7 days or more in a rolling 12 school week period will be considered as persistently absent and the consequence of this is a school referral to the Attendance Improvement Team. This could result in a fixed penalty notice being issued which carries a fine or you could face prosecution.

Birthday Cakes



This is a polite request to all parents asking you to please contact your child's class teacher before sending in cakes for birthdays. Whilst we appreciate that it is a lovely thing to do, we do have a number of children in school who have food allergies and who cannot join in sharing the cakes.

Thank you for your understanding.

Parking

IMPORTANT INFORMATION



Please consider others when dropping off children and picking them up after school. As you are fully aware, the area is a residential one and parking around the school is restricted. Please do not park on the yellow school lines - they are there for the safety of your child. A few parents still insist on dropping their children off in front of the school gates and then have to reverse onto Staintondale or turn around in the school entrance, which is extremely dangerous and gives us grave concern as to the safety of other pedestrians. Please refrain from this practice.

Please be considerate to both residents and pedestrians.

For safety reasons, please DO NOT drive into the school car park at any time to collect or drop off children.

WE DO NOT WANT ANY ACCIDENTS TO ANY OF OUR PUPILS.
PLEASE BE AWARE OF HOW YOU ARE PARKING.

Starting School in 2024



Do you have a child who will be 5 on or between 1 September 2024 and 31 August 2025?

If so, you need to complete an on-line application for a school place so that your child can start school in September 2024.

From now until 15th January, 2024 you can apply online at www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions. You will also be able to access a copy of the guide for parents "Primary School Admissions in County Durham 2024/25" which will contain essential information that will help you in making your application. If you cannot access the Council's website please contact the School Admissions Team, using the details below, and you will be sent a copy of the guide for parents and an application form.

Please note that the deadline for applications for a Primary School Place is midnight on 15 January 2024.

The School Admissions and Transport Team.
Telephone 03000 265 896

Swimming Lessons – Y6 & Y5 **Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre**

Children in Years 5 and 6 will receive swimming lessons this academic year.

Year 6 children will have swimming lessons every Thursday, beginning Thursday 7th September, until the end of the Autumn Term.

Year 5 children will begin their lessons in January 2024 and parents will be given further details nearer the time.

Please retain for future reference

Term Dates 2023 – 2024

Holiday	Closing Date	Re-open for Teaching
Summer 2023 (6 weeks + 1 INSET day)	Friday 21 st July 2023	Tuesday 5 th September 2023 (INSET day for staff on Mon 4 th Sept)
Autumn Half Term 2023 (1 week)	Friday 27 th October 2023	Monday 6 th November 2023
2 x INSET days	Thursday 23 rd November 2023 (INSET days for staff on Friday 24 th & Monday 27 th November)	Tuesday 28 th November 2023
Christmas 2023 (2 weeks + 1 INSET day)	Tuesday 19 th December 2023	Wednesday 3 rd January 2024 (INSET day for staff on Tuesday 2 nd Jan 2024)
Spring Half-Term 2024 (1 week)	Friday 16 th February 2024	Monday 26 th February 2024
Easter 2024 (2 weeks + 1 INSET day)	Wednesday 27 th March 2024 (INSET day on Thursday 28 th March)	Monday 15 th April 2024
May Day (1 day)	Friday 3 rd May 2024	Tuesday 7 th May 2024
Summer Half-Term 2024 (1 week)	Friday 24 th May 2024	Monday 3 rd June 2024
Summer 2024 (6 weeks)	Tuesday 23 rd July 2024	To be confirmed