

Byerley Park Primary School Newsletter

Issue 2 – 26th September 2023

Dear Parent/Carers,

Welcome to the second newsletter of the academic year. The new term has been so busy that the summer holidays seem like a distant memory!

We are back in the routines of school life. Our new Reception class is in for the second full week this week and the children have settled really well. Top Table will re-start over the next few weeks which I know the children really enjoy.

We are pleased to say that parents' evenings are returning to normal this year and will all be face to face. Due to this, we will be able to share the children's books with you again, which I know many of you will be pleased about. The usual dates for the diary are at the end of this newsletter and include Harvest Festival, the KS2 Remembrance Service and Christmas dates.

Take care,
Mrs Pattison

House Teams and House Captains

Every child in school is allocated to a Team. Our House Teams and names are based on the British Values. Each Team has 2 House Captains from Year 6. For this year, they are:

Democracy - William P & Bella T

Liberty - Tyler & Emily

Respect - Jessica & Lucy

Law - Lilian & Abigail

Staff News

Mrs Broad, cleaner, will be retiring at the end of this week.

She has worked at Byerley Park, as a cleaner for 17 years and we will be sad to see her leave. We know that you would join with us in wishing her a happy and healthy retirement.

Appeal for donations for Foodbank

Please look out for a letter that will be emailed out this week asking for donations of food and toiletries as part of our Harvest Festival Service. We really appreciate your support.

Parents' Evenings – Tuesday 17th October and Wednesday 18th October

We will be holding Parents' Evenings on the above dates. BOTH parents' evenings will be face to face, in school.

Invitations to book your appointment will be sent out by text to the first priority contact at 4pm on Wednesday 4th October. You will have the choice to book for **either** date but please only select **ONE** appointment on **either** Tuesday **or** Wednesday.

Appointments will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

Face to face meetings will be kept to 10 minutes per appointment and parents will have the opportunity to look at their child's books prior to the appointment.

These meetings are primarily an opportunity to meet your child's teacher and find out how they have settled into their new class.

Internet Safety - Parental Controls



Many children access the internet using tablets, mobile phones, games consoles etc. It is important to help them access the internet safely.

The best way of protecting children is to play alongside them and help them learn safely, but setting up Parental Controls on devices will provide additional safety. This website provides guidance on how to set this up on a wide range of devices:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/controls/interactive-guide/>

The following website also has lots of very useful leaflets and advice for parents, including online safety tips for parents of children aged 0-5, 6-10, 11-14 and 14+. Please take a few minutes to click on the link and read the information that is appropriate for your child's age.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/esafety-leaflets-resources/>

ParentPay – email communication

As you are aware, we use your email address that you have registered in ParentPay to send emails to you. If you change your email address, please remember to also change this in your ParentPay account.

This can be done by going into the 'Profile settings' on the homepage in your ParentPay account; then 'email addresses' and 'change username'. Once you have changed your email address, you will be sent an activation email to complete the process. In this way, we can ensure that you always receive up to date information. Thank you for your continued support.

Free Online Courses from NHS - Supporting children's emotional health & development

Emotional health can make a big difference to a child's prospects in school and beyond.

As children come back to a new school year, they can feel a range of emotions from excitement, anxiety and nervousness to name but a few.

To support parents in dealing with this, the NHS have launched a 'new term/school year' promotion especially for parents/carers.

A separate poster giving more detailed information on how to access these FREE courses will be emailed to parents/carers at the same time as this Newsletter.

Eligibility for Benefit Related Free School Meals

If you have had a change of circumstances affecting your income and you believe you may qualify for benefit related free school meals, please contact the School Office and we can arrange to have a FSM eligibility check carried out.

Reading Corner



Welcome to our new reading corner in which we offer top tips to help early readers with reading.

This Newsletter's tip is:

'Make it Fun!'

Enjoy reading together with your child. Give characters funny voices and engage with the pictures in the book. Make a game out of finding words that rhyme or start with the same sound.

School Council

Each year, every class from Year 2 – Year 6 elect two representatives to be members of our School Council. Members of the School Council represent the views of their classmates in discussing school issues at termly School Council Meetings, with the aim of improving our school. It is a brilliant way of giving pupils a voice in school.

Our School Council Representatives for this academic year are:

Year 2 – Emilia W & Henrie Y

Year 3 – Aria L & Dylan S

Year 4 – Luke R & Arya B

Year 5 – Elijah J & Lilia G

Year 6 – Will H & Erika D

Thank you to our outgoing School Council representatives from the last academic year. They were brilliant in bringing issues to the Council and helped the adults in school see the issues from a child's viewpoint. They represented their fellow pupils and brought important matters to our attention.

We look forward to working with this year's representatives and see what further improvements we can make in school.

Is my child too unwell for school?

As autumn and winter approach, it is likely that there will be increasing numbers of children and adults affected by winter illnesses, such as coughs, colds, influenza, respiratory infections and sickness and diarrhoea.

It can be tricky to know whether or not to keep your child off school or send them in.

There are government guidelines for schools about managing specific infectious diseases, which say when children should be kept off school and when they shouldn't. This can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities>

For other illnesses, the NHS have issued a helpful guide that can be accessed using this link:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

As a reminder, there is no need for children to be tested for Covid, unless specifically advised to do so by a health professional. If your child has a high temperature (over 38C), they should remain away from school until the temperature has dropped back down to normal (usually about 36.4C in children).

*** Please keep for future reference ***



Autumn Term – Dates for the Diary - (more information will follow for some activities)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>
Friday 29 th September	Whole school	After school	Cake sale in aid of Macmillan
Thurs 7 th Sept – Thurs 14 th Dec	Selected Y6 pupils	pm	Swimming Lessons @ Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre
Tuesday 3 rd October	Year 6	All day	Educational Visit to Hamsterley Forest
Tuesday 10 th October	Year 4	All day	Educational Visit to Durham Cathedral
Wed 11 th October	KS1	9.30am	Harvest Festival. KS1 parents invited
Thurs 12 th October	Year 5	All day	Educational Visit to Ripon Museums
Tues 17 th & Wed 18 th October	Whole School	3.30pm – 6.00pm	Parents' evenings (by appointment) Please see information item above
Monday 23 rd October	Whole School	All Day	Nasal flu vaccine

**School closes at 3.30pm on Friday 27th October for half term.
Re-opens on Monday 6th November.**

Fri 10 th November	KS2	9.30am	Remembrance Service for KS2 Parents
Fri 17 th November	Whole School	All day	Children in Need Day. Wear something spotty instead of school uniform for donation to charity

**School closed on Friday 24th and Monday 27th November – INSET days.
Re-opens on Tuesday 28th November.**

Tues 5 th December	KS1	2pm	Nativity Play to KS1 parents
Wed 6 th December	KS1	9.30am	Nativity Play to KS1 parents
Wed 6 th December	Whole school	Lunchtime	Christmas Dinner Day
Friday 8 th December	Whole school	All day	National wear a Christmas Jumper/top day for donation to charity
Monday 11 th December	KS2	2.00pm	KS2 Carol Service for KS2 parents
Tuesday 12 th December	KS2	9.30am	KS2 Carol Service for KS2 parents
Wed 13 th December	Rec/Year 1	All day	Educational Visit to Hall Hill Farm
Thurs 14 th December	KS1	1.15pm	Christmas Party
Friday 15 th December	Y3 & Y4	1.15pm	Christmas Party
Monday 18 th December	Whole school	Morning	Theatre Production - Cinderella
Monday 18 th December	Y5 & Y6	1.15pm	Christmas Party

**School closes at 3.30pm on Tuesday 19th December for Christmas Holidays.
Re-opens on Wednesday 3rd January 2024**