

Byerley Park Primary School Newsletter

Issue 4

November 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our fourth newsletter of the academic year and one of the final newsletters of 2023.

Schools are exciting places to be in the lead up to Christmas and preparations for Christmas performances are in full swing. I am sure that parents of children in the infant department are probably able to sing some of the songs as well as the children can with all of the rehearsals that are going on! Thank you so much for your support at home with this.

As the weather is turning colder, I would just like to remind parents that if there are issues with opening school due to bad weather, we will send a text as early as possible to the first named contact. Please make sure you have notified us of a change of details if necessary.

Take care,
Mrs. Pattison

Staff News

Mr Gargan will be leaving at the end of this term. We would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his years of service at Byerley Park in the role of PPA teacher. We know you will join with us in wishing him all the very best in his retirement.

Children in Need update



Thank you to everyone who supported Children in Need. We raised £307 on our wear something spotty day and this has gone directly to Children in Need.

Wear a festive sweater day **Friday 8th December**

Friday 8th December is 'National Wear a Christmas Sweater Day'.

We would like to invite all children and staff to wear a Christmas sweater/top instead of a school jumper on this day, just for fun.

Normal school uniform should be worn substituting only the school sweatshirt for the Christmas top. If you have any queries, please contact your child's class teacher.

Christmas Lunch

We will be having a traditional Christmas Lunch on **Wednesday 6th December**.

Our wonderful kitchen staff work really hard to prepare and cook a delicious 2 course meal that we know children enjoy.

On this day, KS1 children will be served by KS2 staff and KS2 children will be served by KS1 staff.



Pupil Safety

As the nights are closing in and it is getting darker earlier, we would like all parents to make sure that children are safe when walking home after school.

It is important that children can be seen by motorists, especially if they have to cross roads. Reflective clothing is a good idea. Please ask your child to follow the Green Cross Code and keep to illuminated footpaths and walkways.

Cold Weather & School Uniform (& Energy Bills)

Please could I ask for your help by ensuring that your child wears warm undergarments (e.g. vest/Tshirt underneath blouse/shirt) and their school cardigan/sweatshirt during the winter months. As you are aware, the cost of energy has increased dramatically. This applies to schools too. We are attempting to conserve our energy usage to try to reduce expenditure without making classrooms uncomfortably cold, therefore it is important that children are warmly dressed.

Please could I also ask that children wear a warm coat to school. They do play out at break/lunch times when the weather is dry and they need to wear a coat outdoors.

Finally, please could I remind you that boots are not part of our school uniform. If your child wears boots to school, they must change into school shoes once inside the building.

Starting School in September 2024

If you have a child who will be 5 on or between 1st September 2024 and 31st August 2025, then you need to complete an online application for a school place, so that your child can start in Sept 2024, if you haven't already done so. Application forms are accessed using the following link

www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions

Closing date for receipt of applications is midnight on 15th January 2024.

Admissions to schools are done by:

The School Admissions and Transport Team, Durham County Council.
03000 265896

No Smoking/Vaping on School Grounds

Over the next few weeks, we will be welcoming Parents/Carers to come to school to watch their child take part in either the School Nativity Play or Carol Service.

Please could I remind parents that smoking/vaping is not allowed in any part of the school building or grounds, including the car park and entrance foyer.

Please wait until you are outside the school perimeter. Thank you.

Dogs on School Grounds

Please could I politely ask that you do not bring dogs into the school grounds when you are picking up/dropping off your child. We have a number of children who are frightened of dogs and walking near the dogs causes unnecessary stress for them.

Recycling Scheme for small electrical and battery operated items



We are part of a ‘**small** electrical and battery operated items’ recycling scheme.

If you have any small electrical or battery operated items that you no longer need/use and no longer works, rather than put it in your domestic waste bin destined for landfill, you can send it to school and we will recycle it for you. Items could include:

Freeview boxes	electric shavers	power tools
CD Players/radios	electric toothbrushes	sat navs
remote controls	kettles	digital cameras
electronic toys	digital alarm clocks	handheld games consoles
headphones	irons, toasters	tablets
hairdryers	sandwich makers	phones
hair straighteners/curling tongs	electric scales	extension leads
hair trimmers	blenders	Christmas tree lights etc.

This list is not exhaustive and you may have suitable items that are not included here. All we ask is that if the item will fit in a carrier bag, then we will take it. If the item is larger than this, please recycle it at a household waste recycling centre or organise a bulky waste collection for larger items at

www.durham.gov.uk/bulkywaste

Reading Corner



Wondering what to get your child for Christmas? Why not buy one of our ‘60 books to read before you leave Byerley Park?’ They would make great stocking fillers.

As part of our continued drive to instill a love of reading in our pupils, we have a school wide ‘reading for pleasure’ initiative which runs throughout your child’s time at Byerley Park. Each child has already been given their own special reading record sheet with the 60 book recommendations that they could aim to read before they leave Byerley Park. A full list of the books is also available on our school website in the Love of Reading Section:

<https://byerleyparkprimaryschool.co.uk/our-curriculum/love-of-reading/>

We break up for Christmas at the end of the school day on Tuesday 19th December. We return to school on **Wednesday 3rd January 2024.**