



BYERS GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

THURSDAY 26 JANUARY 2017

Dear Parents,

Please note the following:

NATIONAL STORYTELLING WEEK – 28 JANUARY–4 FEBRUARY

To celebrate this event we are asking the children to bring their favourite picture book to school, on **Friday 3 February**, to share with a child from another class. Any child who is not able to find a suitable book at home will be able to select one from our school library. During the week the children will also have the opportunity to listen to our teachers reading from their own favourite picture books.

SAFER INTERNET DAY – TUESDAY 7 FEBRUARY

The theme of this year's Safer Internet Day is 'Be the change: unite for a better internet' The children will be taking part in age-appropriate activities with the aim of highlighting positive uses of technology and exploring the role we can all play in helping to create a better and safer online community. It would be very much appreciated if you could reinforce the idea of online safety when your child is using electronic devices at home. Please see the following websites for further guidance:

- THINKUKNOW thinkuknow.co.uk
- PARENTINFO parentinfo.org

HEAD LICE

We have had a few cases of head lice reported to school recently. We suggest that you check your child's hair as soon as possible. You can visit your local pharmacy for advice on the many treatments that are available. We also suggest you continue checking your child's hair on a weekly basis as this will help prevent head lice returning.

COFFEE AFTERNOON – FRIDAY 17 FEBRUARY

We will be holding our coffee afternoon on the above date, commencing at 1.15pm. As usual we would be most grateful for the contribution of cakes, scones, biscuits etc. for the refreshment stall. The book club will run throughout the afternoon. If your cupboard is full of Christmas presents that may not be suitable for you please recycle them. We are always looking for raffle prizes - any donations are most welcome.

PARENT SUPPORT ADVISERS

We all know that being a parent is not an easy job and at times things can get tough. Like you, we want to do the best for your child. Our Parent Support Advisers, Susan Colclough and Wendy Clarke, are here to help all parents deal with the challenges family life can bring. If you would like to find out more, you can contact Susan on 07502093572 or Wendy on 07825341214.

OPERATION ENCOMPASS

The safety and wellbeing of young people is our greatest priority. Our school is one of many in County Durham that will be taking part in a new project aimed at providing extra support to young people who are affected by or witness domestic abuse in their home lives.

Witnessing domestic abuse is really distressing for a young person. They can often see the abuse, hear it from another room, see a parent's injuries and distress afterwards, or be physically hurt themselves.

A new project, called Operation Encompass, aims to support children affected in any way by domestic abuse. The project is a joint initiative involving Durham County Council, Durham Police and schools across the county.

A major part of the project is the training of school staff, known as 'key adults' in each school to liaise with police and work with the young people affected. Starting from January 2017, following higher risk domestic abuse incidents being reported into Durham Police, specialist staff will identify which school that child attends, make contact with the key adult and communicate relevant and necessary information. This will ensure that the school is made aware at the earliest possible opportunity and they can subsequently provide support in a way that means the child feels safe and supported.

I believe our school's involvement in this project demonstrates our commitment to providing the best possible care and support for our pupils. In the meantime, if you would like to speak to someone about the project or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact school. You can also find out more information at www.durham.gov.uk/encompass

HALF-TERM HOLIDAY

School will close for the half-term holiday on **Friday 17 February 2017 at 3.15pm**. We return on **Monday 27 February 2017**.

Mr W. Kirtley (Headteacher)