



# **BYERS GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER**

**THURSDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2017**

Dear Parents,

On behalf of everyone at our school, I would like to say a special welcome to all children and parents at the start of this new academic year. Although there is an autumnal feel to the weather and the summer break is now a distant memory, I hope everyone is looking forward to the busy term ahead.

Please note the following points:

## **NEW STAFF**

I would like to extend a warm welcome to three new members of staff: Mrs Mowbray (Class 4 Teacher), Mr Weeks (Class 3 Teacher) and Miss Hardie (PE and School Sports Apprentice).

## **PRINCE BISHOPS COMMUNITY BANK**

We will continue to take deposits for savings accounts on a Thursday. Anyone wishing to start a savings account for themselves or their children please speak to Mrs Blenkiron for further information.

## **BOOK CLUB**

The weekly book club is open to all children. Parents who want to accompany their child/children to help them choose a suitable book should come into school at 3pm on a Friday. Savings cards are available – any amount of money from as little as 20p per week can be saved to pay for a book.

## **EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES – TUESDAY 26 SEPTEMBER**

To celebrate this event each class will take part in a carousel of activities during the day.

## **HARVEST FESTIVAL – THURSDAY 5 OCTOBER**

This will start at 9.15am. Parents, family and friends are very welcome to join the children for our assembly. For our harvest collection this year we are again supporting the Spennymoor distribution point of the County Durham Foodbank. We would appreciate donations of in date, non-perishable food items (please see the attached list for further information).

## **COFFEE AFTERNOON – FRIDAY 20 OCTOBER**

Our first coffee afternoon of this year will commence at the usual time of 1.15pm. We would be grateful for the donation of any raffle prizes and cakes, biscuits etc. for the refreshment stall. The book club will run throughout the afternoon. Lindsay Atkinson (School Nurse) will also be available if parents have any questions or concerns. Parents, family and friends are welcome to take their child/children home with them after this event.

## **SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHER – MONDAY 30 OCTOBER**

The photographer will be in school on the above date. Family groups with pre-school children will be photographed from 8.30am. Parents will be given a ticket on arrival and photographs will be taken on a 'first come, first served' basis. Further details will follow nearer the time.

## **CHRISTMAS PANTOMIME - WEDNESDAY 20 DECEMBER**

The whole school will be visiting the Gala Theatre to see the annual pantomime on the above date. The price per child will be £14.00. This will include the ticket, transport and a drink. Due to the large amount of tickets reserved the theatre asks that we pay for them in advance. We would be grateful if the money could be paid into school as soon as possible. Please contact Mrs Blenkiron if you would like to arrange a payment card – we are happy to receive instalments.

## PARENT-TEACHER MEETINGS

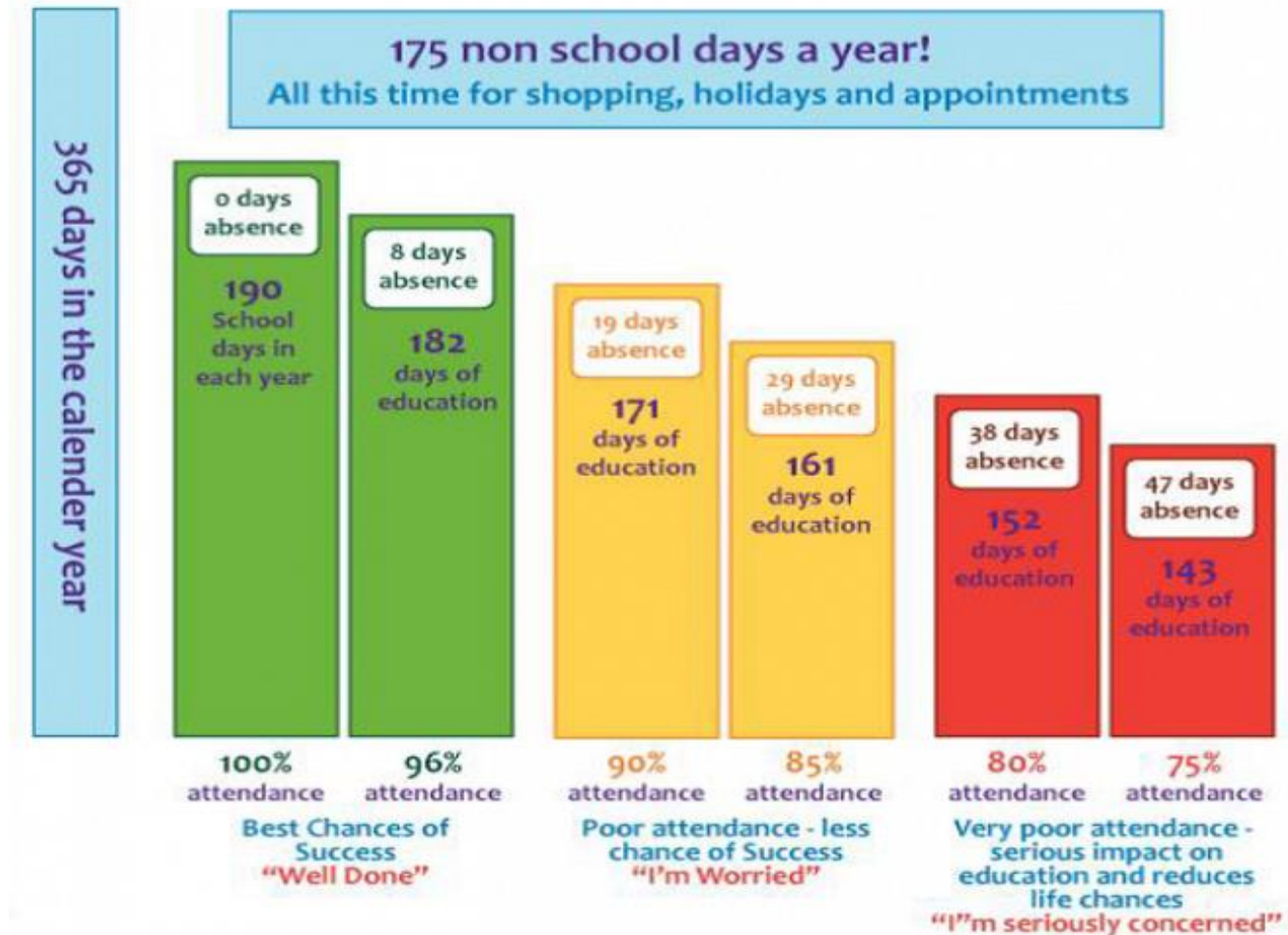
We will be organising specific sessions after half term for parents to meet formally with their child's class teacher for a progress update. Further details will follow nearer the time. However, in the meantime, if you have any concerns about your child, please do not hesitate to request an appointment to see the class teacher.

## ONLINE SAFETY – SHARE AWARE

Please spend some time with your child reading and discussing the information contained within the 'A parents' guide to being Share Aware' booklets published by O2 and the NSPCC.

## ATTENDANCE

Please see the diagram below which emphasises the importance of good school attendance:



I would like to remind everyone that as of 1 September 2013 the DfE amended the regulations relating to attendance for all schools. References to family holidays and extended leave as well as the statutory threshold of ten school days were removed and it was made clear that Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. The Local Authority is able to issue penalty notices (fines) to parents who fail to ensure their children's regular attendance at school. A leave of absence form must be completed for all planned absences. If you have any questions about your child's attendance please just ask.

## HALF-TERM HOLIDAY

School will close for the half-term holiday on **Friday 20 October 2017 at 3.15pm**. We return on **Monday 30 October 2017**.

Mr W. Kirtley (Headteacher)