



BYERS GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

MONDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2018

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. I hope everyone is looking forward to the busy autumn term ahead.

Please note the following points:

STAFF UPDATE

I would like to welcome back Miss Hardie (previously our PE and School Sports Apprentice) to her new part-time role of Teaching Assistant with PE Specialism. She will continue to work across school to provide classroom support, assist with the delivery of PE lessons, lead structured sports activities at playtimes and lunchtimes and run afterschool clubs.

NE FIRST CREDIT UNION – PREVIOUSLY 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 – FRIDAY 14 SEPTEMBER

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.

CLOTHING COLLECTION – TUESDAY 25 SEPTEMBER

Please see the leaflet sent home today for further details.

EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES – TUESDAY 26 SEPTEMBER

To celebrate this event each class will take part in European language activities during the day.

HARVEST FESTIVAL – THURSDAY 4 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 and toiletries.

COFFEE AFTERNOON – FRIDAY 19 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. Parents, family and friends are welcome to take their child/children home with them after this event.

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHER – MONDAY 29 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 19 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 £15.00. 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.

PARENTAL CONCERNS

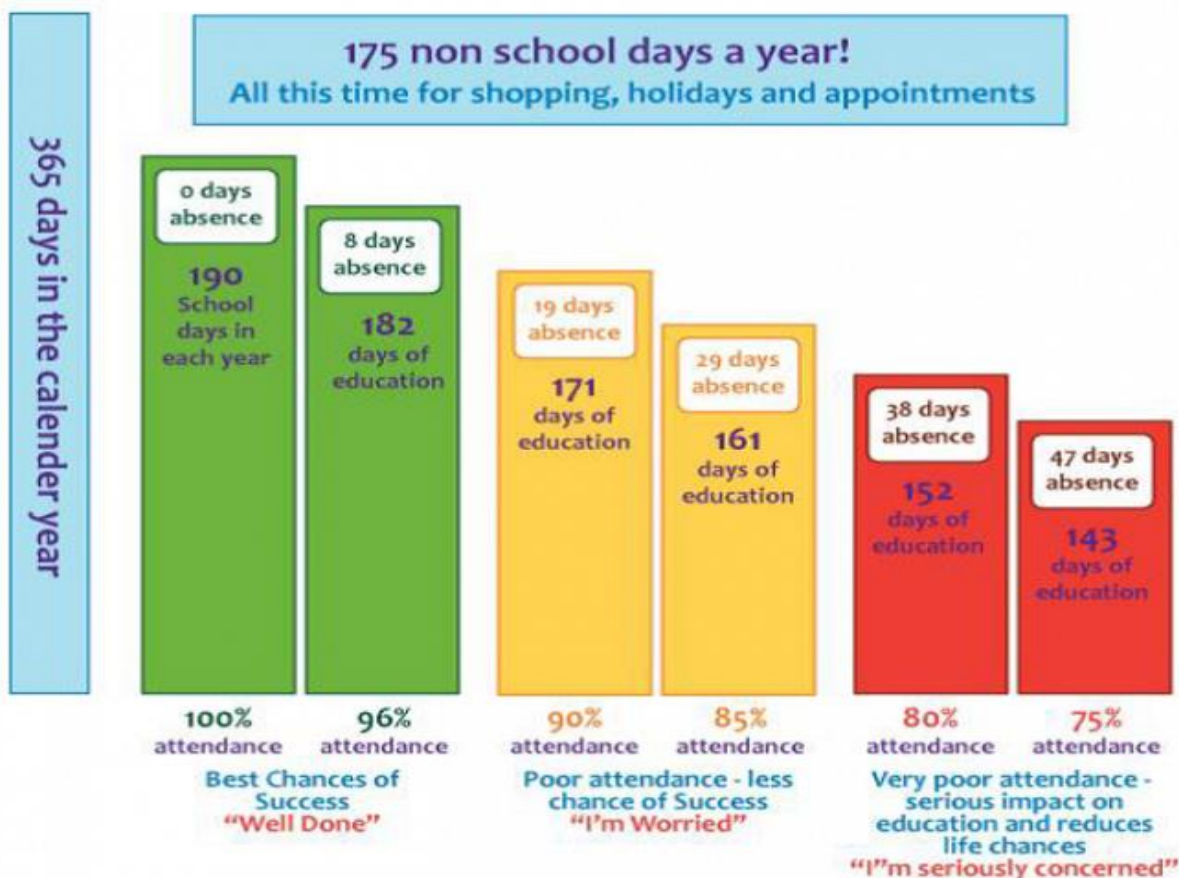
Our teachers make every effort to see parents informally to discuss any concerns as quickly as possible. However, schools are busy places, particularly in the morning, and staff are not always available to see parents immediately. It may be necessary for parents to make an appointment to see the class teacher or the Headteacher at a mutually convenient time. By working together we hope that most issues will be dealt with at this stage. Formal parent-teacher meetings will be organized after half-term and further information will follow nearer the time.

ONLINE SAFETY – O2 AND NSPCC

On this hub (<https://www.o2.co.uk/help/nspcc>) you'll find articles on everything from online bullying, to the apps your children are using. Each article follows the same structure. First, an exploration and explanation of the topic. Then tips on how to talk about it with your children and some ideas on ground rules you might want to agree. Then help with how to manage technology to keep your children safe. Finally, if you need more help on anything, from setting up parental controls to reporting online bullying, you can call the free helpline on 0808 800 5002.

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 19 October 2018 at 3.15pm**. We return on **Monday 29 October 2018**.

Mr W. Kirtley (Headteacher)