



BYERS GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 2 OCTOBER 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

It is hard to believe that a whole month has already elapsed since the start of term! The weather is now turning distinctly autumnal and it appears that the last of the warmer days is now behind us.

The last six months have been the most challenging period for schools that I have experienced in my 23 years in education and it is likely that we will be living with the current situation for the foreseeable future. As I said in one of my previous communications, I can only ask that we, as a school community, all play our part to follow the most up to date guidance in order to minimise the risk to everyone.

Please note the following points:

DROP OFF AND PICK UP

To ensure a safe start and finish to the day we will continue to have staggered drop off and pick up times as follows:

Class/Year groups	Teacher	Start time	Finish time
Class 1 (YR)	Miss Morgan	8:45am	3:05pm
Class 2 (Y1/2)	Miss Forth	8:55am	3:15pm
Class 3 (Y3/4)	Mrs Bradwell	8:45am	3:05pm
Class 4 (Y5/6)	Mrs Mowbray	8:55am	3:15pm

- Children are to be accompanied to and from school by **one parent only** please.
- Older children may walk to and from school unaccompanied but, if doing so, we request that they observe social distancing expectations on these journeys.
- All children and parents must enter and leave the school site via the pedestrian gate. The vehicle gate will be closed during the drop off and pick up periods.
- Parents must **follow social distancing guidelines** when on the school site and must **arrive and leave as promptly as possible** for everyone's safety.
- Please can I request that parents **don't congregate** outside the school gate during the drop off and pick up times in order to reduce any potential transmission of the coronavirus.
- If you have children in different classes with different drop off and pick up times, please **drop off** at the **earlier time** and **pick up** at the **later time**.

PARKING OUTSIDE SCHOOL

Concerns have been raised by local residents and parents recently in relation to issues with parking outside school at drop off and pick up times. To ensure the safety of everyone concerned, please can I ask that all drivers transporting children to and from school observe the following guidelines:

- park away from school gates to reduce congestion
- keep clear of zig zags, school entrances, dropped kerbs, junctions and residents' driveways
- don't reverse into the school's vehicle entrance to turn around as this poses a potential danger to pedestrians
- don't stop in the middle of the road to drop off children
- don't park on a pavement in a way which stops pedestrians, disabled users or parents with prams/pushchairs from using that pavement
- don't block a road which could prevent emergency vehicle access

Please share this important safety message with all adults involved in transporting children to school.

EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

To celebrate this event each class took part in activities on the afternoon of Friday 25 September as follows: Class 1 - France, Class 2 – Greece, Class 3 – Italy, Class 4 – Germany.

SCHOOL EVENTS

Unfortunately, due to current restrictions, we are unable to host any of our normal events in school. In place of our usual Harvest Assembly, each class has put together a harvest/autumn-themed video clip which will be shared with the rest of the school and will also be posted on our website next week. Coffee afternoons will not take place until further notice. It is with great regret that I also have to inform you it seems highly unlikely that we will be able to host our Christmas performances in school this year.

COUNTY DURHAM FOODBANK

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 particularly any of the following: milk (UHT or powdered), fruit juice (long life), soup, pasta sauces, cereals, tinned sponge pudding, tinned tomatoes, tinned vegetables, tinned rice pudding and jam.

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHER – MONDAY 2 NOVEMBER

The photographer will be in school on the above date. In accordance with our risk assessment we will only be able to offer individual children's photographs this year. We understand that families (with more than one child in school) may be disappointed about this but we must follow guidance and maintain the integrity of our class bubbles in school.

CHRISTMAS PANTOMIME

As is our tradition, we had booked for the whole school to attend the pantomime at the Gala Theatre in the last week of this term. I am sure it will come as no surprise to you that we recently received notification that our booking has been cancelled and moved to December 2021.

NE FIRST CREDIT UNION

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

Book Club is on hold for the time being. All money previously saved by the children will remain valid once it is able to resume.

HALF-TERM HOLIDAY

School will close for the half-term holiday on **Friday 23 October 2020 at 3.15pm**. We return on **Monday 2 November 2020**.

Mr W. Kirtley (Headteacher)