

# BYERS GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER 08.09.23



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to a new term and a very new beginning at Byers Green. I would like to take this opportunity to say I am very grateful and honoured to become the Headteacher of the school I love. I feel very excited to move it forward and have many new ideas. I have a passion for learning and absolutely love everything about the primary phase. I always put the children at the heart of what I do and wish to continue the positive, caring and nurturing ethos of Mr Kirtley's legacy. The send-off we gave to Mr Kirtley was fantastic and thank you to everyone who contributed towards his leaving events.

I would also like to take this opportunity to introduce Mrs King, our new Deputy Headteacher and Class 4 teacher. Mrs King has a wealth of experience and shares the same vision as the rest of the staff of wanting the very best for the children in our care. We all really value the supportive community we work in and hope to work in partnership with you to provide the very best for our children. We want to deliver an excellent, exciting curriculum which is interesting and inspiring and plan and deliver events and experiences which enhance learning and provide positive memories for life.

I see the newsletter as your 'go to' to keep track of what is going on at school. If ever you're unsure of what is coming up, you should be able to access the information you need on our website and on the most recent newsletter. If things still aren't clear, do not hesitate to call myself or Mrs Blenkiron and we will always be happy to help.

## **Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC)**

You may have seen recent media coverage regarding Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) and its use in educational settings. RAAC is a lightweight form of concrete; because it is weaker than regular concrete, concerns have been raised about its long-term durability. We want to inform you that **we are not affected** by this issue as **we do not have RAAC in our building** and therefore it will continue to function as normal.

## **Forest School**

Every Tuesday afternoon we are going to run forest school activities for the whole school. We will be working in collaboration with Nikki Kell (Nikki Noo Noo), who we have worked with in the past. Every Tuesday, children should come to school in PE kit for their outdoor session. As the weather changes, I will inform you of the clothing required to take part in the activities. We hope to access the outdoors in all weathers so waterproof coats and wellies will be needed as the weather changes.

## **PE Days**

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
Class 2 Class 3	Class 1 Class 2 Class 3 Class 4	Class 1		Class 1 Class 2 Class 3 Class 4

## **Apply for a school place**

If your child turns 5 between 01.09.24 and 31.08.25, the window to apply for a school place is now open. Visit [www.durham.gov.uk/primaryschoolplaces](http://www.durham.gov.uk/primaryschoolplaces) where you can access a useful guide to help with your application. Applications open 5th September and close on 15th January 2024. We will be holding an open morning on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September from 10am- 12 for perspective children and parents.

## **Friends of School (FOS)**

One of the things I have thoroughly enjoyed over the years, is working with the Friends of School to plan events for the children. Fundraising is something which is of great importance to our school as

it helps us to purchase resources and fund activities and trips. Please know that everyone is welcome, even if you can't commit too much time, you are welcome to come along to meetings to suggest ideas. We will let you know of meetings via text updates. We have put dates in the diary for the year ahead. Please see the table at the bottom of this letter.

### Harvest Festival

This year, we have decided to change our harvest assembly and replace it with something different. We would like to invite parents into school for a harvest/autumn-themed craft afternoon. This will be held on Friday 6th October from 1:30pm. You will be welcomed into classrooms to take part in a collaborative craft session with your child. If you have more than one child in school, you are welcome to go between classes or bring an additional adult. Since this is the first event like this, we will need to limit numbers to one adult per child to assess uptake. More information will be provided closer to the event.

### Foodbank @ St.Pauls Centre

As part of our Harvest Festival celebrations, we like to collect donations to help our local foodbank. The foodbank is always grateful of our support and it is lovely for the children to see how we can work together to support others. A link to a suggested list of items is as follows: [Donate food | County Durham Foodbank](#). Please could donations be brought into school week commencing 2<sup>nd</sup> October.

### After School Clubs

You should have already received our afterschool club offer. Each half term, we hope to offer a variety of clubs to enrich the curriculum. Every half term, you will need to re-apply for a place in each club. This will allow for anyone who has missed out to receive the opportunity to attend. We will monitor up-take and will review and develop this offer as the year progresses.

Please see below a list of dates for your diary:

Date	Event
Week beginning: 2 October – 6 October	Food bank donations
6 October 1:30 – 3:00	Harvest Craft Afternoon
24.10.23	Hallowe'en Disco (Nikki Noo and Friends of School)
08.12.23	School Christmas Fair (Friends of School) Elfridges throughout the day
12.12.23 (pm) Exact times TBC	KS1 Christmas Performance KS2 Christmas Sing-Along
13.12.23 (am) Exact times TBC	KS1 Christmas Performance KS2 Christmas Sing-Along
14.12.23	Christmas jumper/cinema afternoon
14.02.24 15:15 – 17:00	Valentine Disco (Friends of School)
28.03.24	Easter Bingo
18.07.24	ByersFest - Outdoor disco
Lots more exciting events will also be coming up. I will add further dates to this table over the coming weeks, so keep checking if anything new has been added. If any dates change, as sometimes unforeseen circumstances can occur, I will let you know and ensure you are aware.	

If ever you wish to discuss anything, please contact the school office and I will get back to you as soon as possible. I am very excited for the year ahead and look forward to working with you all.

Kind regards,

*G.E.Dodds*

Headteacher