



## BYERS GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER 19.01.24

Welcome back to the Spring term. I hope you had an enjoyable and restful Christmas break.

### Attendance

Please see our school website for the latest version of our school Attendance Policy. You may have seen recent news articles relating to attendance and attainment. Data has proven that higher rates of attendance lead to better outcomes for children. The government have launched a campaign called 'Moments Matter, Attendance Counts' and are asking all schools to rigorously monitor this area.

When you enrol your child in a school, you have a legal duty to ensure your child attends that school regularly.

This means that your child must attend every day that the school is open, unless:

- Your child is too ill to attend that day
- You have asked in advance and been given permission by the school for your child to be absent on that day due to exceptional circumstances.
- Your child cannot attend school because it is a day you are taking part in religious observance
- Your local authority is responsible for arranging your child's transport to school and it is not available on that day or has not been provided yet; or
- You are a gypsy/traveller family with no fixed abode, and you are required to travel for work that day meaning your child cannot attend their usual school. In most circumstances, however, your child is required to attend another school temporarily during such absences.

These are the only circumstances where schools can permit your child to be absent. We cannot authorise term time holidays and our attendance policy summarises information around this.

Please see the table below explaining attendance percentages:

Percentage	Days absent	Comment	Achievement
Above 97%	Less than 6 days absence per year	Excellent attendance	Will almost certainly achieve full potential
95-96%	10 days absence per year	Missing 2 weeks of school every year	Likely to achieve but could still improve
90-94%	19 days absence per year	Missing one month of school every year	Will be harder for the children to achieve their best
85-89%	29 days absence per year	Missing 6 weeks every school year	High risk of under achievement
80-84%	38 days absence per year	Missing a year of school over the time spent in Primary education	Almost impossible for the children to keep up
BELOW 80%	More than 38 days absence per year	Missing over a year of school over the time spent in Primary education	Extreme impact on learning and development

Every week in Praise Assembly, I share our weekly attendance data and give a special trophy to the class with the best attendance. If any class gets 100% attendance, they get an additional playtime. The class with the best attendance across the whole academic year will receive a reward in July.

### Punctuality

We are also monitoring punctuality. We ask that all children arrive between 8:45 and 8:55 for the start of the school day. Children arriving on time helps them to be prepared for the day ahead and helps them to settle down quickly ready for learning. If you are facing any difficulties around arriving on time, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

### Sensory room and learning hub

Thanks to the funds raised from the school fair, we have now opened a calm sensory space and a learning hub within school. If children are feeling overwhelmed they are welcome to access the sensory room to help them to calm down.

### Rock Star Day

To mark the re-launch of TT Rock Stars in our school, we are going to link Safer Internet Day and Maths together to have a Rock Stars Day! On 1<sup>st</sup> February, children (and staff!) can come into school dressed as a rock star. We will complete some fun and engaging maths activities throughout the day and also hear some very important messages

around staying safe online. If you have not yet received the login details for TT Rockstars and Numbots, please ask the class teachers.

### World book day

This year, we are hoping to organise a scarecrow hunt around the local area to mark World Book Day. We will be asking families who would like to take part, to make a scarecrow of a popular book character for the children to search for around the village. Mrs Bradwell, our English lead, will be providing further details soon.

### PE Days

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Class 2 Class 3	Class 4  Forest school class 1 and 2 Please wear old, warm clothes appropriate for outdoors	Class 1		Class 2 Class 4  Class 3 swimming Please note class 3 should wear school uniform to go swimming

### TESCO

At the start of the year, we applied to take part in the Tesco Stronger Starts In-Store Voting. Our Forest School project has been selected by Tesco Extra at Bishop Auckland. The project with the highest number of votes across our region will receive £1,500, the second placed project £1,000, and the third placed project £500. If you shop in Tesco at Bishop, please vote for us with the blue chip coins and share the news with friends and family! Voting will commence in store from mid-January 2024 until the end of March 2024.

### Diary Dates

Please see below a list of dates for your diary:

Date	Event
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> January	Net/Wall/Ball Games – Class 4 – Spennymoor Leisure Centre 9:30 – 11:30 Further details to follow from Mrs King
Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> January	Class 3 to visit St. Peter's Church, Byers Green
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> February	<b>ROCK STAR DAY!</b>
Tues 6 <sup>th</sup> – Thurs 8 <sup>th</sup> February	Class 1 - Balance bike workshops
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Valentine disco – Friends of School

Thank you for reading our newsletter. Please get in touch if I can help you in any way.

Kind regards,

G.E.Dodds

Headteacher