



## BYERS GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER 18.04.2024

Welcome back to the Summer term – the final term of the school year. I hope you had an enjoyable Easter break and are well-rested ready for the busy term ahead.

### Colour run

On the afternoon of Friday June 7<sup>th</sup>, we have invited GoWell into school to deliver a Colour Run for our children. This will involve the children running around our school field, through powder paint clouds and getting very messy! We are inviting parents and families along to the event, which starts at 1pm. I would like to make this a big community and charity event so the Friends of School are having a planning meeting on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April at 3:15 to discuss ideas to make it an afternoon to remember. If you would like to come to the planning meeting, you are more than welcome. I am going to ask the children to suggest ideas for which good causes we could support and the pupils will vote for their chosen charity. We totally understand that getting messy isn't for everyone, so this is not compulsory. If any children do not want to take part in the run, please let us know. They can still get involved in the afternoon's festivities and watch the event.

### Friends of school

A planning meeting will be held on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April at 3:15 to discuss ideas for the Colour Run and for ByersFest in July. Everyone is welcome to come along and offer their ideas and suggestions. If your child is with you, they can access Sunset club while you attend the meeting. We really love hearing everyone's ideas and it is one of the things I have really loved being involved in over the past few years. We need volunteers for events in school, so even if you can't make the meeting, your support at the events would be much appreciated.

### Statutory assessments:

- Key stage 2 sats

Key stage 2 sats start on the week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> May. The children have worked so hard in preparing for the tests and we are so proud of their hard work and efforts. We strongly believe in the children being the best they can be and achieving their own personal best for the examinations. Please see the test timetable below:

Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> May	Grammar and Punctuation: 45 minutes	Spelling: 20 minutes
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> May	Reading: 60 Minutes	
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> May	Arithmetic: 30 minutes	Maths Reasoning Paper 1: 40 minutes
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> May	Maths Reasoning Paper 2: 40 minutes	
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> May	No tests	

- Y4 times table check

The children in Year 4 will take part in the Tables Check in June. The children will be assessed online and tested on all tables facts and corresponding division facts. There are 25 questions and the children have 6 seconds to type their answer. TT Rockstars really helps to support the children in learning the facts so as much practice as possible will help to prepare the children. The exact date of the assessments will be given at the start of next term.

- Y1 phonics screening

In June, the children in year 1 will sit their Phonics Screening Test. This involves each child sitting with Mrs Bradwell on a one-to-one basis to read through 40 flash cards. Mrs Bradwell marks down on the recording sheet whether the child can read the word or not. It is a very calm and relaxed way to assess the phonics knowledge of the children in Year 1. The exact date of the assessments will be given at the start of next term.

## Attendance

Our overall attendance at Byers Green remains above 95%. Letters were submitted to families where attendance was a concern last term. We continue to monitor attendance closely and letters will be issued for any children who are causing concern. Attendance is vital to the development and achievement of your child.

The law states Head Teachers should not grant any leave of absence in term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. If you take a leave of absence without the school's permission, and this absence amounts to 7 days or more, you could receive a penalty notice. We do not take this lightly and would much prefer to work with families to ensure fines are not issued.

## Extending the School Day

The white paper Opportunity for All sets an expectation that schools should deliver a school week of at least 32.5 hours by September 2024. This is the equivalent of 6.5 hours per day. Due to having a staggered start to the day, our pupils vary between having 6 hours 20 and 6 hours 30 in school per day. We will be consulting with Governors and all stakeholders to discuss the best way to ensure all pupils spend the 6.5 hours per day in school. I will keep you informed as we move through this process. The new times, once agreed, will operate from September 2024.

## Wrap-Around Care

Sunset club is our new wrap around care offer. It runs **every night** from 3:15 – 5:15 and there are a wealth of fun and exciting things to do. Miss Plews runs the club and has so far enjoyed getting to know the children. **Anyone can attend the club**, just contact the school office to book a place.

Please note, that you may be entitled to tax free childcare. Tax free childcare is a government scheme which allows parents to receive a 20% discount on any childcare. At Byers Green, we have signed up to the scheme. There is also support available if you claim Universal Credit. If you need any support in seeing if you are eligible, please contact Mrs Blenkiron and she will go through it with you. So far the club is a success and I really hope this is something which we can continue into the new academic year. I will be contacting you later in the term for reviews of the club.

## Accessing the school premises

Breakfast club starts at 8:00am and our After School Club finishes at 5:15pm. Please can I politely ask that all children and parents walk through the school entrance gate at all times of the day when coming to school. We sometimes have deliveries and staff accessing the car park at different times so for everyone's safety please use path and entrance gate rather than cutting through the car park. Thank you for your cooperation to keep everyone safe.

## PE Days

Due to the refurbishment of the swimming pool at Spennymoor, our swimming lessons were changed in January. I apologise about the clash of the rugby coach and swimming lesson for Class 3 on a Friday. This is due to unforeseen circumstances. The rugby coach was planned a year in advance and therefore we are unable to change the time slot. Class 3 need to come to school on a Friday in their PE kit.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Class 2	Forest school class 1 and 2.  Please wear old clothes/PE kit and footwear appropriate for outdoors  Class 4	Class 1		Class 3 with rugby coach  Class 3 swimming  Class 4 With rugby coach

## Diary Dates

Please see below a list of dates for your diary:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> April	C1 and 2 at Hardwick Park – Outdoor and Adventurous Activities
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	Friends of School Planning Meeting at 3:15pm
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> May	Transition to Whitworth day – Year 5
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> June	Colour Run 1pm start – school field
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> July	ByersFest – outdoor disco in the style of a summer festival
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	Class 4 Residential visit to Newby Wiske
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Year 6 Leaver's show 9:10 start

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

Kind regards,

*G.E.Dodds*

Headteacher