



School Photographs

On Thursday 2nd October, the photographer will be in school. Individual and sibling photos will be taken throughout the morning. Family groups with preschool children are welcome to arrive from 8:30am. All children are to come to school in school uniform. Class 2 can bring their PE kits to change into after their photographs.

Harvest Craft Morning

We would like to invite parents into school for a harvest/autumn-themed craft morning. This will be held on Friday 3rd October. Parents can meet in the school hall following drop off, where tea, coffee and refreshments will be on sale along with a raffle. Elaine Atkinson from the EWEL team will also be joining us to talk through the school approach to Restorative Conversations.

From 9:15 – 10:30 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. Younger siblings are welcome too.

Lexia Core 5

Our children in Key Stage 2 (Class 3 and 4) are trialling an online platform called Lexia Core5. The children are also able to access this from home. Lexia is an award winning literacy program designed to help students of all abilities improve their reading, writing and speaking skills. The platform reacts to the individual needs of the pupil and delivers a program to support them from their starting points. If this trial is a success, we will be investing in the program moving forward. This will be at a high cost, but we are committed to supporting the children in the very best way that we can. The personalised approach to the program will support children with dyslexic tendencies but will also support every learner as each child is screened to determine their exact needs.

Homework

Following discussion with some parents, we wish to clarify our approach to homework. We aim to streamline the approach across the school so everyone is clear with the expectations. Children in classes 2, 3 and 4 will be given a reading book(s) from the reading scheme which they are encouraged to read 3-4 times per week at home. Children who have completed the reading scheme will choose a 'free reader' from the class library. Weekly spellings will be issued on a Friday. The children can learn the words at home, ready for a spelling test the following week. We are now introducing a Maths book - which will have targeted work linked to year group expectations. This will be sent home on a Friday with page references and due in school on a Wednesday. If children struggle with their work, they can ask for support. Teachers will be going over the answers with children at the end of their maths lesson on a Thursday/Friday. Green Track-its will be given to those children who complete their homework. We will not give detentions for not completing homework as we feel at primary age, it is parental responsibility to support their children at home. Class 1 children will be directed via the Tapestry app and TenTown. Reading books and phonics will be introduced as the term goes on.

MUGA

The MUGA is our Multi-Use Games Arena and has been part of the school since it was built in 2008. Due to drainage from the surrounding fields, when the weather is poor, silt and soil flood the MUGA floor. We have had a lot of rain so the surface is particularly damp. I have closed the MUGA for general play as it is very muddy despite Mr Costello cleaning the surface regularly. It will be open for football coaching on a Friday but please be aware children's clothes may get muddy. This is partly why I always suggest basic PE kits, so high quality trainers and other clothes are not damaged. We are looking into getting the MUGA surface replaced but know the cost will be in excess of £40,000. Mrs King and the children in class 4 are looking for ways of raising money and applying for grants to help us to replace the surface. I have explained to the children, this may take time. If anyone in our community has any insight or suggestions of where we could get some funding, we would really appreciate it.

Wrap Around Care

Breakfast Club runs from 8am every day and is £2 per session, with a sibling discount. Sunset Club will run after school from 3:25 – 5:25 and will be charged at £5 per hour. If you require longer hours than this, please let us know and we can discuss options.

Spooky Movie Night

On Thursday 23rd October, Sunset Club is becoming Hallowe'en club! For £5, children can stay from 3:30 – 5:30 and watch Hotel Transylvania. They can bring Hallowe'en costumes to change into after school to attend our school cinema event! Children can also bring blankets or cushions if they wish. Pop, crisps and a treat from the blind box are included in the ticket price. Please can we ask for primary-school appropriate costumes and no masks due to the age group of the children coming together for this event.

PE Days

Please can children come to school on their PE day dressed in PE kit. PE kit comprises of navy joggers and jumper /hoody and a white t-shirt. Please can all hair be tied back and all jewellery be removed. Please wear plain or school branded items only.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Class 4 swimming at Spennymoor Leisure Centre	Class 2		Class 2	Class 1 Class 3 Class 4
Class 3 PE				

Diary Dates

Please see important dates coming up this term

Date/time	Event
2 nd October	School Photos
3 rd October 8:55 – 10:30	Harvest Coffee morning 8:45 – 9:10 for parents/carers in the school hall. Raffle tickets and refreshments will be available to purchase followed by: Autumn and Harvest crafts in classes – 9:15 – 10:30
23 rd October	Spooky Movie Night 3:30 – 5:30 Snacks and drinks available - £5 per ticket More information to come.
24 th October	School closes for half term
3 rd November	School re-opens for Autumn 2
10 th November	Parents' Evening
11 th November	Parents' Evening
11 th December	Whole School Trip to 'The Gift' at Glow Theatre, Newton Aycliffe
12 th December	Christmas Fair and Christmas jumper day
16 th December	1:15 – Class 1 and 2 Nativity Play 2:00 – Class 3 and 4 Christmas Show
17 th December	9:10 – Class 1 and 2 Nativity Play 10:00 – Class 3 and 4 Christmas Show
18 th December	Christmas lunch and Christmas party day
19 th December	School closes for Christmas holidays
More dates will be updated in this table as other opportunities arise – please keep checking.	

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

Kind regards,

G.E.Dodds

Headteacher