

Dear Parent and Carers,

20<sup>th</sup> October 2021



We are now rapidly approaching the end of our first half term so it's timely to send you a few updates and reminders.

I've recently written to you about our Parent Governor Vacancy. If you are interested in applying for this and haven't done so yet, please submit your application by the end of today, Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October.

## **Catch Up Plans** (Extended day on a Wednesday)

I said that we would review this provision before half term. As far as we are aware, no more funding will be made available for this particular 'Catch Up' provision.

We have therefore decided to continue this for the next half term, up to and including Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December.

**After this, Catch Up in this format will end and the school day on a Wednesday will finish at the same time as the other days of the school week, starting from Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December.**

Thank you very much for your support with this. It has made a difference to all children regarding the Maths support we have put in place as well as giving us the opportunity to do some focused English support with many individual children. We could not have done this without your support.



### **Eligibility for Free School Meals**

*We are aware that people's financial situation can change very quickly in the current climate. If you find that your family are now accessing benefits then your child/ren may be eligible to access free school meals. As well as helping you financially, it also helps the school. If you think that you may be eligible, please contact the office and they will give you a simple form to complete. These forms can be processed very quickly so you don't have to wait too long to find out.*

### **Parent Meetings**

Parents of children in Reception through to Y6 will have received an email last week informing you that booking is now open for Parent Meetings (via a video link) on Monday and Tuesday the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> November. If you have not booked an appointment yet please do so as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. Guidance on how to book an appointment is on our website (under Parent Letters) or just follow this link:

<https://tanfieldleacommunity.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

Pre-School parents need to book a telephone call with Mrs Dunham by completing the letter she distributed. There is also a copy of this on our website (under Parent Letters).

## **Attitudes to Learning and Pre-School and Reception Autumn Updates**

These forms, giving you an update on how your child has approached their learning this term, will be sent out today (Wednesday), with your child. Please watch out for them.

## **Websites supporting Home Learning**

Don't forget, the children access a number of different websites to support their learning. Just ask them about it and I am sure they will enjoy showing you. If they have forgotten their login details then you'll find the details in their Personal Organiser. This is a way we can support the children's learning without having to sit with them throughout the activity. The websites include: Times Tables Rockstars, Numbots, Mathletics, Bug Club, Nesy and Readwriter.

## **Nasal Flu Vaccine**

This will take place in school on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November and will be offered to all children from Reception through to Y6. The vaccine is given as a spray squirted up each nostril. It's quick and painless.

The vaccine will still work even if your child gets a runny nose, sneezes or blows their nose.

The nasal spray flu vaccine gives children the best protection against flu. It may take around 2 weeks for the flu vaccine to work.

Any children who catch flu after vaccination are less likely to be seriously ill or be admitted to hospital.

We'll receive more information nearer the time and will then seek permission from you for this.

Until then, if you want to find out any more about this, please follow this link.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/child-flu-vaccine/>

## **Additional Bank Holiday**

As you may know, the Queen will become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, seventy years of service, having acceded to the throne in 1952 when she was 25 years old. An extended Bank Holiday has been announced. As this falls in May half term all schools have been told to select a day in lieu of this. We have chosen to take this in January as we felt this would cause minimum disruption for parents. We will therefore now return to school after the Christmas break on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January.



## Pre-School and Reception Places

If you have a child who will turn 3 before August 2022 then they will be eligible to start our Pre-School in September 2022. You must apply for a place and these forms can be obtained from the office.

If your child is currently in our Pre-School then you will need to apply for a place in our Reception classes for September 2022. You can do this now by following this link:

<https://www.durham.gov.uk/article/2189/Apply-for-a-primary-place-deadline-15-January-2022>



In addition to this, if you know of any families who have children who will be due to start Reception in 2022 and do not attend our Pre-School, please do not hesitate to tell them about our school and, if they are interested, ask them to contact us to arrange a visit.

## School Dinners

We have received a letter from Taylor Shaw (our school meal providers) that they are beginning to struggle with deliveries and they anticipate this will continue. This would mean that next half term it may not be possible to stick strictly to the menu if provisions have not been delivered. Be assured that our cook will endeavour to manage this difficult situation as well as she can.



## Finally, a few reminders when you drop off and pick up your children:

- Please do not park on the double yellow lines outside of school
- Please do not bring any dogs onto the yard
- Please ensure you follow our one-way system. Only adults or children with mobility issues should use the entrance as an exit (i.e. leave via the main entrance). Everyone else, please keep to the agreed one-way system.



Thanks in advance for your adherence to this. I hope that everyone has a restful half term and we look forward to returning on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November.

Many thanks.

Kay Hemmings (Head Teacher)

