

Dear Parents and Carers,

September 2024



It was great to welcome all the children back this week. They have settled into the school routines very quickly and have enjoyed being back with their friends, and possibly making some new ones too. It was also lovely to see the new children, including those in Pre-School, settling in well.

Please read on for further updates and general information and reminders. I hope you find it useful and informative.
Mark Temple (Acting Head Teacher)

Staffing

Miss Hemmings very much enjoyed her last few days in school and wishes to thank all of the parents for their generous best wishes at the end of term.

I am very pleased to be Acting Head this year, having taught in the school for 17 years mainly in Year 5 and 6, and having served as Deputy Head for 9 years. It is a great honour to work with you to support the children's education. Mr Richardson has joined our teaching staff and has had his first week with his Y6 class. We are very pleased to welcome him to our team.

The staff will be discussing the full year plan on Tuesday and we will let you have the Dates for the Diary in paper form following this. In the meantime, here are some upcoming dates this week:

Grinton Meeting

Year 5 parents and children have been invited to a meeting on Tuesday 10th September at 5pm. Please enter via the Main Gate.

Phototronic Photos

On Wednesday 11th September, Phototronics will be in to take photographs of individual children, plus their siblings.

If you would like your child's photo taken with an older / younger sibling who is not at this school, please come to the Main Gate for 8.25. Photos with siblings who do come to our school will be taken through the day. For children who have PE that day (Year 5), can they please come in their school uniform and bring their PE Kits in their bags.



Team Captains

On Friday 13th September, the Year 6 children will be pitching their ideas to the younger children to become Team Captains. I hope their speech preparations are going well.



Instruments

Music tuition will be starting next week. For the first term, Durham Music Service will be delivering music lessons to Mrs Wilkinson's. Mrs Brotherston's and Mr McIntosh's classes will be having Ukulele lessons too. Also, individual guitar lessons with Mr Taylor will be on Tuesdays and clarinet lessons will be on Fridays with Mrs Milne.

Asda

Asda is running a free way to raise money for the school. Anyone with the Asda Rewards app can link our school as a Cashpot meaning money is raised for school every time they shop at no extra expense or impact of their own rewards. See the picture to the right.



The total raised so far is over £140 with nearly 3 months of fund-raising time remaining so thank you for your support.

School Uniform

Needless to say, the children look extremely smart at the start of this term. If you want your child to ensure they keep bringing their uniform home then I can't reinforce enough that you MUST put a name on all of their clothing. A name ensures that if they leave anything lying around school we can return it to them. If there is no name then it's impossible to return it to its owner.



We have stocks of nearly new uniform in school. If you are short of any uniform then please either come in to school, and we'll see if we can help you out, or go to PACT House in Stanley which also has stock.

Dropping off and Picking up

I'd just like to remind you for a few things when dropping off and picking up your child/ren:

- Please follow the one-way route by entering through the main entrance and exiting via the Activity Den. A very small number of parents have requested (due to particular needs) not to follow this but for **everyone else** please follow this route as it makes it easier for everyone. There is a barrier blocking direct access to the road if you exit via the correct exit, ensuring the children's safety. It's also a good example to your children if you follow these simple rules.
- Parents should not gather at the top of the steps leading out of the Upper School. Please come and wait on the yard. This avoids congestion in that area. Many parents are pushing buggies or have a few children with them and if there are people gathered there it makes it difficult to pass you.
- When picking up your child at the end of the day, once they are dismissed and in your care, please keep all younger children away from the Upper School classrooms at pick up time. The older children are still in class and it's very distracting for them if younger children are playing outside their classroom windows. If you are waiting on the Upper School yard please keep your children by your side. Thank you.

Finally, parking continues to be an issue as some of you have identified in the Parent Questionnaire. At the start and end of the day the road outside school is exceptionally busy. Please ensure you do not compromise the safety of children and adults by parking on the double yellow lines. Thank you.

PE Kits – As stated in the letter I sent out before the start of term, P.E. days are as follows:

Reception	Tuesday
1D	Thursday
2W	Thursday
1/2B	Thursday
3K (this term)	Tuesday
3/4B (from Spring)	Tuesday
4Mc (from Spring)	Tuesday
Year 5	Wednesday
Year 6	Monday



In addition to this, **Y3 and Y4** will be wearing PE kit on a Friday this half term as they are having additional P.E. for the Tag Rugby competition at the end of this half term. Please dress your children appropriately. School PE kits preferably but if not, then please choose plain clothing and plain T-shirts – no football tops etc. Leggings or tracksuit trousers will be necessary in the cooler months.

This term, **3/4B and 4Mc** are going swimming so require their swimming kit on Tuesday.

Attendance, arriving to school on time and Leave of Absence requests

Attendance is crucial to your child's progress. I was so pleased with this week's attendance (97.6%) with 5 classes having every child in. Thank you in supporting us with this.

Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow		
100% Attendance	0 weeks of learning missed	Best chance of success.
95% Attendance	1 week and 4 days of learning missed	Well done.
90% Attendance	3 weeks and 4 days of learning missed	Poor attendance, we are worried.
85% Attendance	5 weeks and 3 days of learning missed	

80% Attendance	7 weeks and 3 days of learning missed	Very poor attendance, we are seriously concerned.
75% Attendance	9 weeks and 1 day of learning missed	

Arriving at school on time is also really important. Lessons start immediately and if your child is late they are missing out on important learning time. Please endeavour to arrive at school on time every day.

Children should arrive in school between 8:40 and 8:50. Registration takes place at 8:50 and registers close at 9:00. Anyone arriving between 8:50 and 9:00 will be marked as late on the register. Any children arriving after 9:00 will be recorded as a U which means that they are late after the register has closed and they lose their attendance mark for that morning.



We reward good attendance weekly, celebrating both class and individual attendance. If we become concerned about your child’s attendance, we will speak to you about this. You may also receive a warning letter or be invited in to school to meet with our School Attendance Officer.

Please Note: We encourage parents to take their children on holiday during school holiday times and inform you of our holiday periods well in advance. We also usually try to plan our Teacher Training days to support parents in accessing cheaper holiday options. We have two training days in November. This year they are the Thursday 21st and Friday 22nd November. This gives you an opportunity to book to go away, hopefully accessing cheaper holidays. **We usually arrange Teacher Training Days in May but unfortunately this year Durham County Council have only allowed 2 teacher training days to be taken in term-time, so there are no Teacher Training Days in May this year.**

Schools can only authorise **Leave of Absence** for children in exceptional circumstances and so Leave of Absence is rarely authorised. If you do take your child out of school during school time then it will impact on their success as well as, potentially, their emotional well-being. It could also result in a fine for both parents. Please try to avoid doing this.



For more information on our attendance procedures, please see our Attendance Policy which can be found on the school website.

CnS After School Clubs and After School Care

CnS offer Child Care at the end of the day which is available for all children from Reception upwards. The CnS after-school sports clubs are currently for Y1 upwards. Reception will be able to attend these clubs from January 2025. Please use the links below for more information and to book places.

Booking Link – <https://cns-sports-stars.classforkids.io/camp/169>

CnS Sports Clubs run from the end of the school day and now finish at 4:30 p.m. Cost £3.50 per session. If you book for the week, it is £17.50. After School Child Care runs from the end of the day and costs £3.50 up until 4:30 and £8.00 if a late pick up is required (any time from 4:30 until 5:25).

As the Sports Clubs are now running until 4:30 parents pick up from the Lower School. Access will be through the Staff Car Park. Ideally if you can come by foot, parking on the main road, and collect your child from the fire exit doors into the Lower School Hall. For anyone who has paid for a late pick up, please drive in as usual.

Any queries regarding either the After-School Childcare or the After-School Sport Clubs, please email Chris Hughes on chris@cnsportsstars.co.uk . For any issues on the day, please contact Mr Ashman on 07427471782.

