

Weekly Newsletter 11th September 2023



**Right of the Fortnight: Article 8:
The Government should respect your
right to a name, nationality & family.**



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back! We hope that you all had a great summer break, despite the disappointing weather. To those parents/carers who are new to the school, we extend a warm welcome to you. The term started for staff on Monday, 4th September where we spent two days focusing on our Academy Improvement Plan and looking back and **celebrating our successes** from the previous year. We also spent time updating annual **safeguarding training** and looking at mathematics and the computing curriculum development. It was also a great opportunity to welcome all of our new members of staff joining our **Oakdene family**.

It has been really fantastic to welcome the children back to school. Seeing happy and excited parents/carers and children walking through the gates was a wonderful experience. As we walked around school each day, it was brilliant to see our children **actively engaged in their learning** and generally delighted to be back to business.

Attendance will be a continued focus this year as we have a 97% target to achieve. This only allows up to 5 days of absence in the school year. A big thank you to the majority of parents/carers who make sure their children attend school regularly! This school year, our **attendance rewards** will continue. These offer incentives on a weekly, termly and, of course, the chance to win a special treat for 100% attendance for the whole school year. Due to the pressure on school funds, for the next academic year we are currently reviewing the amount to see if £50 is still affordable.

'Weekly Newsletter' will continue to be uploaded to the Newsletter section of the website. Paper copies will not be routinely sent home. **Please keep your phone details up-to-date and please be available should we need to contact you.**

Mrs Farnaby (SENCO) is not classroom-based and has reduced her working week to two days. Mrs Farnaby will be in school on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and will continue to offer **drop-ins** on these mornings.

Congratulations to one of our LSAs, Miss Fleming, who was married in the summer holidays and will now be known as Mrs Prince. Congratulations also to Miss Owens (Y5 TA) who gave birth to a beautiful baby boy on 17th August. Leo weighed 7lbs exactly and was very happy to meet his big sister, Molly.



Have a lovely week!

Mrs E Bramley and Mrs S Osborne

We always like to hear about children's achievements beyond school. This photo shows Joey Marshall, Emily Smith, Indi Chesworth, Daniel Young, Jack Wilks and George Robinson celebrating their end of season for Billingham United Under 9s. The children have shown amazing levels of determination, commitment and, most importantly, outstanding sportsmanship throughout the season. All the parents are very proud of them and the children are looking forward to the next season.



Jack Wilks received runner up for the 'Most Improved Player' in the team. Well done Jack!
George Robinson received Players 'Player and Supporters' Player of the Year ! A fantastic season!

Dates For Your Diary - Autumn Term

**Week Commencing 11th Sept: Y5 Swimming Block 1 Week 1
Pupil Voice Group Elections**



Tues 12th Sept Lingotots Commences for KS2 Pupils
Thurs 14th Sept Yoga Commences for Reception & Y1 Pupils

Week Commencing 18th Sept: Y5 Swimming Block 1 Week 2

Tues 19th Sept 1.30pm Open Afternoon for Parents & Carers of Reception Pupils

Week Commencing 25th Sept: Launch of Extra-curricular Clubs

Tues 26th Sept Celebrate European Day of Languages
Fri 29th Sept Macmillan Coffee Morning

OCTOBER

Mon 3rd Oct Libraries Week
Thurs 5th Oct National Poetry Day
Fri 6th Oct 9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Y6 Pupils

Tues 10th Oct Y6 Pupils Visit Preston Hall Museum
Wed 11th Oct 9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Y1 Pupils

Tues 17th Oct 9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Y5 Pupils
Y6 Pupils Visit Beamish Museum

Wed 25th Oct 9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Y3 Pupils
Fri 27th Oct *Children Break Up for Half-Term*

Mon 30th Oct - Fri 3rd Nov

October Half-Term Break

**Mon 6th Nov PD Day 3 for Staff Training (school closed for pupils)
UK Parliament Week**

Fri 11th Nov Remembrance Day activities

w/c Mon 13th Nov Parent Consultation Evenings (**No Extra-curricular Clubs**)
Mon 13th Nov Phototronics (Individual and Sibling Photos)
Wed 15th Nov Y3 Danelaw Viking Visit
Fri 17th Nov Children In Need Day

Mon 20th Nov Road Safety Week
Wed 22nd Nov 9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Y4 Pupils

Fri 1st Dec 3.30pm Christmas Fair

Tues 12th Dec 2.00pm Nativity Performance
Wed 13th Dec 2.00pm Nativity Performance
Thurs 14th Dec Christmas Lunch
Fri 15th Dec 9.10am Open Morning for Parents & Carers of Nursery Pupils

Mon 18th Dec AM and PM Little Sycamores and Nursery Christmas Parties
PM Reception Christmas Party
PM Y1 & Y2 Christmas Parties

Tues 19th Dec AM Y3 & Y4 Christmas Parties
PM Y5 & Y6 Christmas Parties

Break up for the Christmas Holiday

**Wednesday, 20th December 2023 - Tuesday, 2nd January 2024 school closed to pupils
for in-service day (training) Wednesday, 3rd January 2024**

**Children will return to school on Thursday, 4 January 2024
(More dates will be confirmed shortly)**

Attendance – September 2023

This attendance ladder is a clear visual aid which demonstrates that every day in school really does count.



Support and guidance on attendance is always available and if you have any questions about this, or if you need help to achieve an improvement, then please contact us to discuss this.

Attendance - Holiday Request Reminder

Parents and Carers are required under the Education Act (1996) to ensure children attend school regularly. The Principal of a school has a discretionary power to authorise absence only in exceptional circumstances. **A family holiday is not an exceptional circumstance.**

If you complete a leave of absence request form and the request is declined, (as it will be in the majority of cases) and you still take your child out of school, each parent within your household will be issued with a £60 penalty notice for each child you have taken out of school.

If a penalty notice remains unpaid after 21 days it will increase to £120. If after 28 days it remains unpaid you may be summoned to appear before Magistrates to explain why your child has unauthorised school absences and you may be liable for a fine of up to £1000.

Starting this academic year 2023-2024 (May 2024) and onwards, it has been agreed by Trustees that Oakdene will have a two-week break at May Half-Term and a shorter summer break.



Please take advantage of this opportunity rather than take your children out of school!

Milk and Fruit

Children in Nursery, Reception, Y1 and Y2 receive free fruit each day. This is funded nationally. Children under 5 receive free milk. School funds this for all reception children even once they turn 5 as we feel this is really important to stay healthy.

Children in KS2 may bring in their own **healthy snacks** for break times (fresh or dried fruit/vegetables).

Please ensure your child continues to bring a water bottle filled with water only each day and this stays in their classroom. If they have a packed lunch, please add a separate drink into their packed lunches which stays in the dining hall.