

Dates For Your Diary

Monday 6th January 2025- Children return to school

Wednesday 12th-Friday 14th February 2025- Yr5/6 residential at Derwent Hill

Thursday 20th February 2025- Children break up for half term holiday

Friday 21st February 2025- School closed for PD Day

Monday 3rd March 2025- Children return to school

Friday 11th April 2025- Children break up for easter holiday

Monday 28th April 2025- Children return to school

Monday 5th May 2025- School closed for bank holiday

Monday 12th - Thursday 15th May 2025- Year 6 SATs week

Friday 23rd May 2025- Children break up for half term holiday

Monday 2nd June 2025- Children return to school

Monday 2nd June- Friday 13th June 2025- Year 4 multiplication check

Monday 9th June- Friday 13th June 2025- Year 1 phonics screening check

Friday 18th July 2025- Children break up for summer holiday

Happy Birthday



to pupils celebrating their birthday during December

Abdulbaset Aurora Mayowa Nadia Georgia Harley KJ Borys Jeremiah Kirsty Cruz



December Highlights

Big Sing-

On Friday 6th December, Year 5 and 6 attended Durham Music Service's 'Big Sing' event at Ushaw College. The children sang lots of Christmas songs with a live band.

Dogs Trust-

On Tuesday 10th December, we had a special visitor from the Dogs Trust. They led a workshop for every class. We now know how to read the body language of dogs and know when they may need some space. We were able to ask a range of questions to develop our understanding.

Pantomime-

On Wednesday 11th December, Reception – Year 6 went to Darlington Hippodrome to watch Sleeping Beauty. Nursery (3-year-olds) went to Darlington Hullabaloo to watch Cloud Man. We had a great time and even had our own celebrity as Heidi (Year 5) was invited up on stage to perform alongside one of the actors. Well done Heidi- you were amazing!

Nativity-

On Friday 13th December, nursery and reception performed their nativities. The children all sang beautifully and spoke clearly. They were all super brave to stand up in front of an audience. Well done everyone!

Christmas Tree Decorations-

On Tuesday 17th December, some of Year 3,4,5 and 6 visited Lindisfarne Care Home to make Christmas tree decorations alongside the residents. The children had a great time and particularly enjoyed using the glitter!

Carol Singing-

On Tuesday 17th December, some of Year 3,4,5 and 6 visited Rose Lodge Care Home to sing Christmas carols for the residents. The children sang beautifully and the residents enjoyed singing along.







Attendance

Children are required to be at school by 9am as our core subject lessons (English and Maths) begin immediately after registration.

Appointments should be made out of school time where possible please.

Holidays should be taken outside of term time.

The Department for Education deems that if a child's attendance drops below 90%, they become known as a Persistent Absentee. All absences are monitored thoroughly.

To celebrate great attendance, children with 100% in a week receive 10 dojos on a Friday. The class with the highest percentage will also receive 10 dojos per child.

Below are the percentages of attendance for each class for December:

Matthew (Nursery/Reception) -88%

Mark (Year 1/2) - 93%

Luke (Year 3/4) - 95%

John (Year 5/6) - 92%

The government's target for attendance for primary school pupils is at least 95%.

Our whole school attendance for December was 92%.

A child is classed as late if they arrive at school after 9.20am.

0.8% of our pupils arrived late in December.

A child is classed as unauthorised absence is they arrive at school after 9.30am.

1.7% of our pupils had unauthorised absences in December.



Uniform

School uniform promotes a sense of pride in the school and makes children feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance.

If your child is not in correct school uniform, we will ask for correct uniform to be brought in for your child to change into.

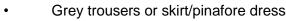
Our uniform is:

Red sweatshirt or sweat cardigan



White polo shirt







Sensible, plain black leather shoes/ trainers





Jeans and leggings are not permitted. Skirts and trousers should be grey not black.

Homework

Homework reinforces and helps your child to retain information taught in the classroom. It also develops study habits and independent learning.

For Year 1 to Year 6, we kindly ask that your child is listened to reading daily and their reading record is signed. Your child will receive a dojo for each signature in their record.

For Year 1 to Year 6, your child will also receive maths and spelling homework each Friday to be handed back in by the following Thursday.

Times tables are extremely important for children in Year 3 to Year 6. In Year 4, children take a times tables test. Every child has log in details for Times Tables Rockstars - https://ttrockstars.com/ We would greatly appreciate it if your child could regularly practise their times tables at home.

READING EVERY DAY...

..CREATES lifelong readers.

...TEACHES children to find adventure, ideas, and answers through books.

...STRENGTHENS relationships and creates memories as a family activity.

...OPENS DOORS through which children can learn about themselves.

...BUILDS a diverse vocabulary and strengthens fluency in reading.

...ALLOWS a child's imagination and creativity to blossom. ...GIVES children the tools needed to become

successful students.
...TAKES the "scary" out of reading in the classroom.

...HELPS children make connections to new places, people, and concepts.

... AWAKENS children to the world around them.



PΕ

On PE days, children are to come to school dressed in their PE kit.

Mark (Year 1/2)- Monday

Luke (Year 3/4)- Monday

John (Year 5/6)- Monday

Our PE uniform is:

Plain white T-shirt with no branding or logos from professional sports teams



Plain black shorts or tracksuit bottoms with no branding or logos from professional

sports teams



Red sweatshirt or sweat cardigan or hoodie







• Suitable black trainers



If your child comes to school in PE kit on a day which is not their PE day, we will ask for uniform to be brought in for your child to change into.

Jewellery and Hairstyles

Wrist watches are permitted but not smart watches.

Piercings (including earrings) are not permitted.

Pupils with long hair must ensure that this does not impede their vision, cover their face or provide a health and safety risk. Long hair must be tied up during practical lessons, e.g. PE.

The following hairstyles are not considered appropriate for school:

brightly coloured, dyed hair, headwear with bold patterns or colours, excessive hair accessories.

St. Joseph's Community Café

You are warmly invited for

coffee, cake and conversation

every last Friday of the month

from 2:30pm until 3.15pm

in the school hall.



Love Is Brewing!