



Rich fields of learning



## Newsletter 1 - September 2021

### **Welcome back!**

We would like to warmly welcome all our existing and new pupils and parents to the new school year.

We are pleased to be back in school and the children are getting used to being back together as a whole school, enjoying being together at playtime and lunchtime.

### **Play and Stay**

Play and stay will be on Friday afternoons starting from 10<sup>th</sup> September 2-3pm and will be held outside until half term, in the event of bad weather it will be cancelled. Facemasks are optional. Please contact the school to book a place either by phone or by email. Each session costs £1 which goes towards refreshments and resources.

### **Y6 - Application for a School Place September 2022**

If your child is in Y6 you will have been sent an e-mail with information about how to apply for a secondary school place. The application process will open on 6 September 2021. You will need to read the Parent's Guide "Primary and Secondary School Admission Guide in County Durham 2022/23", as it contains essential information that will help you in making your child's application. The guide is available on our website [www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions). The closing date for receipt of on-line/paper application forms is 31 October 2021.

### **Blackbirds class (Nursery and Reception)**

- If you haven't already brought into school spare clothes please could you send them in a bag with your child's name on as soon as possible.
- Blackbirds will be having PE on a Thursday and a Friday afternoon this half term, so please can children come to school in their PE kits with jogging bottoms and trainers.

### **Owls class: (Year 1 and 2 Children) notices:**

- This year in Owls class there will be Mrs Harmer, Mrs Charlton and Miss Weir (Fridays).
- Owls will be having PE every Tuesday and Friday afternoon up until half term. Please ensure that they come to school wearing their PE kits and jogging bottoms.

- Please label your child's uniform and items.
- Homework will be sent home half termly along with weekly phonics activities which will be put onto class dojos.
- Reading books have been sent home and need to come back to school once they have been read so that they can be changed.

### **Robins Class (Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6) notices**

- Robins can bring in a healthy snack to have at morning break if they would like to.
- Our PE will be on a Monday and Thursday, please come to school ready for PE with joggers and trainers.

### **Bikeability Cycle Training – Y4, Y5, Y6**

Bikeability cycle training will take place in school on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> September. The aim of the course is to improve skills and road craft. All bikes must be in safe and roadworthy condition and a cycle helmet must be worn during training. Parents will have received a consent form which needs to be returned to school if you would like your child to take part.

### **After School and Breakfast Clubs this term:**

If you would like your child to attend breakfast or after school club this term please remember to book them in in advance using the booking form.

### **Earrings**

If possible, no jewellery to be worn on days when there is PE for health and safety reasons. Any jewellery that cannot be removed will need to be taped. Long hair should also be tied back. Please can we remind parents that we do have a school PE kit and where possible this should be worn.

### **Great North Run**

Harley- James' Mum is doing the Great North Run on Sunday for the Great North Air Ambulance.

If you would like to sponsor Charlotte please follow the just giving link below or you can send cash or a cheque into school in a named envelope and we will pass it on.

[https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/charlotte-hardy8?utm\\_source=sms](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/charlotte-hardy8?utm_source=sms)



### School Council

This week we have nominated our School council reps All of year 6 with a representative from year R-5 will meet regularly to discuss issues and plan events that could be held in school.

### School lunches

Due to distribution issues with the suppliers to Taylor Shaw, Lynn in the kitchen might have to change some of the menu to fit with what she has available and apologises for the disruption.

### Year 6 Open Evening - Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 - 5pm – 8pm

Teesdale School are holding their annual Year 6 Open Evening on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021. Due to Covid, they will run the evening this year as a ticketed event and details of how to obtain tickets are included in the email that all year 6 parents should have received - the date for obtaining tickets starts, Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 9am.

### Active 30

The school has signed up for the active 30 initiative for all children to take part in at least 30 mins of exercise per day at school. If you would like to participate at home you can access the active 30 website for further information and ideas. [www.countydurhamsport.com/young-people/active-30/](http://www.countydurhamsport.com/young-people/active-30/)

### Robins



Robins have started their history project about Ancient Egypt and civilisations and placed these on a timeline.

### Owls

Owls read a book called *Rabbitness* by Jo Empson in English and then we used the

illustrator's technique to create our own rabbit pictures.

We also had a venture down to the forest school area and spotted some

butterflies who were sunbathing.



### Blackbirds



In Blackbirds class this week, we have brought the beach to the outdoor classroom! The children have loved exploring the sand and water tray, investigating the different rocks, shells and seaweed.

If any parents have an old microwave, a kettle, pots, pans or kitchen-utensils that they no longer need could we ask them to bring them along to Blackbirds class for the children to play with in our mud kitchen. Any donations would be greatly appreciated.

### New Starters

The Mercury will be in school on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September to take a photograph of our new Reception children.