



Newsletter

October 2019

MacMillan Coffee Morning

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our Macmillan coffee morning on 27th September. It was great to see so many there and we're delighted to let you know that together we raised **£663.12**. Thank you!



Harvest Collection – Durham Foodbank

We are supporting Durham Food Bank again this year. As you know, the Foodbank helps many people in our area and we can help by donating items from our shopping list to help people in crisis. According to the Durham Foodbank website, the following items are currently in urgent need:

UHT Milk
Instant meals (Kettle foods)
Rice
Coffee
Custard
Sponge puddings
Mens' toiletries



Any other items such as tinned tomatoes, tinned vegetables, tinned rice pudding, fruit juice, cereals, jam, soup and pasta sauces would also be appreciated. Please send any donations to school by Wednesday 23rd October.

Photograph Day – Thursday 10th October

Photograph Day for individual photos is Thursday 10th October. All children will have individual photographs taken and family photos will be taken where requested. We appreciate your help in ensuring this runs smoothly. Please be aware of the following:

- Children can only have their photograph taken in **school uniform**.
- A family photograph can only be taken with **siblings** who are **currently in our school or are pre-school age**. Wider family photos cannot be taken due to time restrictions.
- Family photos with pre-school age children will be taken first. You may need to wait though, so please bring something to entertain your younger child/children.
- Please ensure that **all school children go straight to their classes** when doors open at 8.50am. Staff will collect children from the classes for family/individual photographs when needed. Parents must not go to classes to collect their children.

Clothes Swap Event

As you know from our September newsletter, we are holding our second Clothes Swap in school on 18th October in the hall. We think it's a great way to recycle old clothes and stock up on some different clothes, especially as we move into autumn.

Due to the success of last year, and trying to keep it fair for everyone, this is how it'll run:

- From tomorrow, please send a bag/s of unwanted **WASHED** children's clothes in with your child, with a completed slip (see end of letter). Any clothes (except underwear) appreciated and especially winter coats.
- Prior to the event, teachers will send home a voucher which will say how many tokens you have to 'spend'.
So

1 item – 1 token

2 items – 2 tokens

3 items – 3 tokens

4 items – 4 tokens

5 items – 5 tokens

6 items – 6 tokens

7 items – 7 tokens

8 items – 8 tokens

9 items – 9 tokens

10 items or more – 10 tokens (maximum amount given per child)

We have limited the tokens to no more than 10 per child to try to ensure **all** children take part. Some children may not have bags to bring for a number of reasons, such as being really efficient and having a good clear out in the summer holidays!

- Depending on how many items of clothing we receive, we hope to be able to offer extra tokens at 50p each, either for those who are unable to 'swap' or for those who would like extra items above 10 on the day.
- We also have some used, quality school uniform that we'll put out. You can either use your tokens, or school uniform items can be bought for 20p an item. Ideal to keep for spares!
- Any clothes that are left at the end of the day will be offered to the children in a last chance 'sale' in school the following week, and then taken to the Air Ambulance Charity, as we have nowhere to store the clothes in school.

We do hope you'll support us by sending in clean, unwanted clothing that can be re-used, which will also help us to teach children the importance of recycling and that not everything needs a big price tag!

We hope it'll be a very busy afternoon, so if any parents or family members would be available to help on 18th October, we'd very much appreciate it. We'll be setting up from around 1.30pm so any time from then would be great. Please let the office if you're able to help out.

Many thanks for your generous support.



Attendance

Group	% Attend
Reception	97.7
Year 1	98.4
Year 2	98.5
Year 3	96.1
Year 4	99.3
Year 5	96.0
Year 6	96.6
Totals	97.5

Our attendance target for the school and for every child is 96%. As you can see, we've made a great start, with all classes at least 96% in the first month of the year! Thank you for your support in ensuring your child has good attendance. This gives your child the best opportunities for progress and success in school.

Just a reminder that any request for absence during term time must be completed on the standard 'Leave of Absence' form, available from the office. Absence can only be authorised in **exceptional** circumstances. If you plan to take your child out of school during term time, this form **MUST** be completed, even if you think the absence won't be authorised. If we have not received a 'Leave of Absence' form and we have reason to believe your child is on holiday, medical evidence will be requested. If not received, the absence will be recorded as 'unauthorised'.

Also, if we have a Leave of Absence form but your child is absent immediately before or after a requested holiday, this will be recorded as 'unauthorised' without medical evidence.

We thank you for your support and honesty.

Relationships and Sex Education Policy Consultation

We are reviewing our Relationships and Sex Education Policy this term and are interested in your views. If you would like to take part in this consultation, please come along on Tuesday 15th October at 5pm.

Many thanks

Parent Consultation Meeting

Thank you to those who have expressed an interest in forming a group that we can consult with in order to gather parental views. Our first meeting will take place in school on **6th November at 3.15pm**. Your views on homework would be appreciated at this meeting, as well as future topics for discussion.

Friends of the School Meeting

Thank you if you have volunteered time to support the planning and/or organisation of events in school. The first 'Friends of the School' meeting will take place on **17th October at 3.15pm** in school. It will give the group an opportunity to discuss the year ahead and the best times to meet.

School holidays 2019-2020

Holiday	Closing date	Date re-open for teaching purposes
Autumn half term	Friday 25 th October 2019	Monday 4 th November 2019
Staff Training Day (Friday 22 nd Nov)	Thursday 21 st November 2019	Monday 25 th November 2019
Christmas holidays	Friday 20 th December 2019	Monday 6 th January 2020
Spring half term	Friday 14 th February 2020	Monday 24 th February 2020
Easter holidays	Friday 3 rd April 2020	Monday 20 th April 2020
May Day Friday 8th May	Thursday 7 th May 2020	Monday 11 th May 2020
Summer half term	Friday 22 nd May 2020	Tuesday 2 nd June 2020
Summer holidays	Friday 17 th July	To be confirmed

Dates for your Diary

Please find below a list of dates for your diary. We do try to give parents as much notice for events as possible. However, this means there may be rare occasions when we need to make a change, although we do try to avoid it.

Thursday 10 th October	School Photographs – Individual
Tuesday 15 th October	Relationship and Sex Education Policy – Consultation with parents
Friday 18 th October	Clothes Swap
Monday 21 st – Friday 25 th October	Year 5 Residential visit to Ullswater
28th October – 4th November 2019	HALF TERM
4 th – 8 th November	Year 6 Residential visit to Edinburgh
Tuesday 12 th & Wednesday 13 th November	Parents' Evenings
Thursday 14 th November 2.30pm	Celebration assembly – Year 5 parents invited
Thursday 21 st November	School Disco Reception/KS1 – 3.30pm-4.30pm KS2 – 4.45pm-6.00pm
Friday 22nd November	Staff Training Day – Closed to children
Tuesday 26 th November	Flu vaccinations – more details to follow
Thursday 28 th November 2.30pm	Celebration assembly – Year 4 parents invited
Friday 6 th December	Non-Uniform Day and Year 5 cake sales
Wednesday 11 th December	Christmas Lunch
Thursday 12 th December 10am and 2.15pm	Nativity Performance
Friday 13 th December 10am	Nativity Performance
Tuesday 17 th December (pm)	Whole school visit to pantomime at Gala Theatre
Friday 20 th December	Break up for Christmas
23rd December – 6th January 2020	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
Thursday 16 th January 2.30pm	Celebration assembly – Year 3 parents invited

Thursday 30 th January 2.30pm	Celebration assembly – Year 2 parents invited
Friday 7 th February	Non Uniform day and Year 4 cake sales
Wednesday 12 th February	School Disco
Friday 14 th February	Break for half term
17th February – 24th February 2020	HALF TERM
Friday 6 th March	Witton World Book Day Non-Uniform day – Year 3 cake sales
Monday 9 th March & Tuesday 10 th March	Parents' Evenings Also have RSE resources for parents to view
Thursday 19 th March 2.30pm	Celebration assembly – Year 1 parents invited
Friday 27 th March	Spring Fair and Raffle
Tuesday 31 st March 1.45pm	Easter Egg decorating with families (FS/KS1 only) KS2 decorate eggs in classrooms
Friday 3 rd April	Non uniform and Year 2 cakes Break up for Easter
6th April – 20th April 2019	EASTER HOLIDAYS
Friday 1 st May	Non-Uniform day and Year 1 cake sales
Thursday 7 th May 2.30pm	Celebration assembly – Reception parents invited
Friday 8th May	BANK HOLIDAY
Week beginning 11 th May	Y6 SATs Week
Thursday 21 st May	Sports Day Option 1
Friday 22 nd May	Sports Day Option 2
Friday 22 nd May	Break up for half term
25th May – 2nd June 2019	HALF TERM
Friday 5 th June	Non uniform and Reception cake sales
Week beginning 8 th June	Year 1 Phonics Check
Friday 3 rd July	Non-Uniform Day
Thursday 9 th July 2.00pm and 5.30pm Friday 10 th July 10.00am	KS2 Performance
Thursday 16 th July 1.30pm	Year 6 Leavers' Assembly for Parents
Friday 17 th July	Break for summer holidays
Break up - 17th July	SUMMER HOLIDAYS

Clothes Swap!

Please complete the top 2 lines:

Name of Child: _____

Number of items: _____

School to complete:

Number of tokens _____

Signed: _____