



Newsletter

November 2019



Feeding Families

Christmas is fast approaching! We are hoping to make a real difference to local families in Durham and the North East this Christmas by supporting 'Feeding Families', which provides and delivers Christmas hampers to hundreds of families. There is more information on their website at feedingfamilies.org.uk. There are a number of ways to help:

- Contribute to a food collection in school
- Volunteer for packing and delivery teams
- Individual families apply to be matched to a specific family and deliver your hamper directly to them
- Donate a gift of money

As a school, staff are always grateful for the thoughtful presents that children and families kindly give to them at Christmas. However, this year, if you were intending to give a gift to a member of staff, could we ask that instead you contribute an item or two to our 'Feeding Families' collection. If you would prefer to send a gift of money (£1 or £2 pounds) for this charity, please send it in an envelope clearly marked 'Feeding Families' but without your child's name. There is no obligation to contribute at all if you do not wish or feel able to. If your child would still like to give something to their teacher, a homemade card would be lovely.

Throughout this term, our children and families have shown kindness and generosity through support of a number of charities. We hope to continue this as we move towards Christmas, thinking of others and helping where we can.

Attached to this newsletter is our Advent plan for our school collection. Food items are suggested for each day of Advent that we are in school up until 13th December. The items on the calendar are from the specific food list for 'Feeding Families'. **You do not need to contribute items each day** but if there is a day you feel you could send something in, we'd be grateful. Mrs Dubre will deliver the food items towards the end of term and will be involved in packing and delivering items for the charity.

Applications to receive a hamper close on 30th November. So if you are in need of help this Christmas, there is still time to apply. Further details on the Feeding Families website.

Harvest Collection – Durham Foodbank

Thank you so much for all of the Harvest Collection donations, which have gone to Durham Foodbank to help families in times of crisis. It's much appreciated.

Clothes Swap

Thank you also your support with our clothes swap in October!

Clothing that was not swapped has been sent to the North Air Ambulance charity.

Children in Need

We raised £152 for Children in Need, through having a non-uniform 'spotty' day in November.

Thank you for your support.



Congratulations!!

We're delighted to let you know that Mrs Hallatt had a beautiful baby boy, named Hugo, in October. Huge congratulations to Mrs Hallatt and her husband!

Christmas Carol Service



We are holding a Christmas Carol Service for KS2 children on **Thursday 19th December** at 1.30pm at St Michael's Church. Families are welcome but due to very limited space, we ask that only one adult per family comes along if you are able to.

Friends of the School

Thank you to those who have come along to our first 'Friends of the School' meetings. There are some exciting events planned which we'll share nearer to the time. If anyone else would like to be involved in this group, you're more than welcome. Please contact Mrs Dubre in school.

Oxford Reading Buddy

We are delighted to tell you that our school is now using Oxford Reading Buddy. This is a digital reading service to support children's reading development at home and at school. It contains hundreds of digital books and book-quizzes all matched to each child's reading ability. Please log in to Oxford Reading Buddy when your child brings home their sign-in card and encourage them to use it regularly. If you don't have a tablet or PC at home the service works on smartphone as well. For more information go to this address and choose Parent Support: <https://support.oxfordreadingbuddy.com/>



Lateness

The vast majority of our children arrive in time for school every day. However, there are a very small number of families who are regularly late, which impacts on their learning and disrupts the learning of the class. Please remember that children should be in school by **8:55am every day**. The doors open at 8:50am to give children time to hang coats and bags up before entering the classroom.

If your child is late and enters school through the office door, could you please come into school with your child and sign them in. Many thanks for your support.



School holidays 2019-2020

Holiday	Closing date	Date re-open for teaching purposes
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 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 (Nursery, Reception, Y1, Y2)
Friday 13 th December 10am	Nativity Performance (Nursery, Reception, Y1, Y2)
Monday 16 th December PM	Y5/6 Christmas Party
Tuesday 17 th December PM	Whole school visit to pantomime at Gala Theatre
Wednesday 18 th December AM	'Sensational Strings' music performance for children
Wednesday 18 th December PM	Y3/4 Christmas Party
Thursday 19 th December 1.30pm	KS2 Carol Service at St Michael's Church
Thursday 19 th December PM	Y1/2 Christmas Party
Friday 20 th December AM	Reception/Nursery Christmas Party
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 (Reception/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	KS2 Performance
Friday 10 th July 10.00am	
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

December

2019

Feeding Families



FEEDING FAMILIES



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Coffee Tea Part Baked Bread	3 Gravy granules Custard White Sauce	4 Christmas pudding Mince Pies	5 Chocolate Bis. Festive Cakes	6 Chocolate Sweets	7
8	9 UHT juice Squash	10 Breakfast Cereal Pasta Jam, Marmalade, Choc Spread, Peanut Butter	11 Savoury Snacks Cooking Sauce Tinned Tuna Tinned Meat	12 Handwash Shampoo Shower Gel	13 Tinned Vegetables Tinned Soup Baked Beans Tinned Spaghetti	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				