



# Newsletter

*September 2022*



## *Welcome Back!*

Children have made a great start to the new school year. There is a positive attitude to learning and children have enjoyed playing with all their friends again.

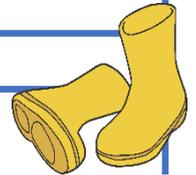
It was very busy in school over the summer break, with electrical rewiring taking place throughout most of the school. Prior to our return, staff worked incredibly hard to unpack boxes and move furniture back so that classrooms were ready for the children. The majority of the school has now been rewired, except for the kitchen, which will be next summer. You may notice further work currently happening in the staff car park. Durham County are installing a temporary boiler until they can fully replace the boiler and heating system.

## *School Uniform*

The children have returned to school looking extremely smart in their school uniforms and black shoes. Thank you to parents for supporting our school uniform policy.

Just a reminder - please label all items of uniform!

## *Wellies*



Could we please remind all children to bring in wellies to keep in the welly shed. We want children to access all areas of play outside, but they will not be allowed on the field without wellies. Thank you for your support.

## *Jewellery Reminder*

Could we please remind everyone that the only jewellery children are allowed is:

- **A plain watch** (no apple/smart watches, fitbits etc)
- **One small pair of studded earrings (no hoops)**

Please remember that all earrings must be removed before PE lessons, swimming or before physical activities in breakfast and after school clubs. Children must be able to remove these themselves as staff cannot take them out. Alternatively, parents can remove them at home and put them back in at the end of the day.

## ***Lunchtimes***

You may be aware that the County school meals provider has changed from Taylor Shaw to Chartwell's. This means slight changes to the menus. Please talk to your children about meal choices when booking on ParentPay as they may not be familiar with some of the meals initially.

### **Knives and Forks**

Many children struggle to use a knife and fork to eat their lunch. We are asking parents to support children at home to hold a knife and fork correctly and use it to eat their meal. We also continue to encourage children in school and provide support at lunchtimes.

## ***Packed Lunch***

The majority of our children have a school meal each day. Mrs Bradbury prepares tasty and nutritious meals that meet strict nutritious government guidelines and ensure that children receive a healthy meal every day.

Where children bring a packed lunch to school, we ask that parents adhere to our Healthy Packed Lunch Policy so that ALL children receive a healthy meal at lunch time. A healthy lunch helps children to concentrate in the afternoon, supports positive behaviour and creates healthy eating habits for the future. An extract from the policy is as follows:

Children's packed lunches should be based on the 'Eatwell Guide' model above which shows the 5 main food groups (Food Standards Agency).

#### **Bread, Rice, Potatoes, Pasta**

These starchy foods are a healthy source of energy. Packed lunches should include **1 or 2 portions**.

#### **Fruit and Vegetables**

These foods provide vitamins, minerals and fibre. Lunches should include at least **1 portion** of fruit and **1 portion** of vegetables / salad, or more.

#### **Milk and Dairy foods or alternatives**

These foods provide calcium for healthy bones and teeth. Include **1 portion** at lunch.

#### **Meat, Fish, Eggs, Beans**

These foods provide protein for growth. Packed lunches should include **1 portion** of these foods

#### **Foods and drinks high in fat and / or sugar**

It is important not to fill up on too many foods that are high in fat and / or sugar at the expense of other more nutritious foods. Limiting high fat and sugar foods will help protect young people from becoming overweight as well as helping prevent tooth decay, heart disease, stroke, and diabetes. This is why sweets, chocolate, crisps, cereal bars, fruit bars, toffee/salted popcorn, squash and fizzy drinks are no longer available in schools. To ensure consistency and to keep packed lunches in line with food standards for school meals, **please support school by not including these items in a packed lunch:**

X Chocolate bars / sweets / confectionary

X Chocolate spread as a filling for sandwiches

X Cereal bars

X Chewing gum

X Sugared / toffee and salted popcorn

X Crisps

X Snacks that are high in salt and fat. Many packets advertise clearly that they are lower in fat, however the salt content remains fairly well hidden. Please check the labels for content, comparing the per 100g measure. Low salt would be classed 0.3g or less per 100g (or 0.1g sodium) and **high is more than 1.5g salt per 100g (or 0.6g sodium)** Please do not include snacks that exceed the 1.5g per 100g measure.

X Nuts

**Drinks** – Children have access to fresh, cold water at lunchtime and throughout the day. **Only water or milk are allowed in packed lunches.**

### ***Pick up/Drop Off Times***

Just a reminder that all children must arrive at school between **8.45am and 8.55am**. Gates will be locked at 8.55am.

The school day ends at 3.15pm. In order to try to avoid overcrowding on the main yard, we will dismiss Year 3 and Year 4 first at the end of the day. Years 5 and 6 will follow afterwards.

### ***Parking***

Could we ask all parents to park considerately when dropping off and picking up. We have already received complaints that local residents are unable to access their drives. I'm sure you will appreciate, this is unacceptable. Please support us to be good neighbours and respect those who live close to the school.

Also, a reminder to avoid parking in the Community Centre car park on a Monday or Tuesday. These are very busy days for Cooper Hall and those who use it need access to the car park. We hope to continue to work together with the Community Centre and thank you in anticipation of your support.

## ***Equipment in School***

Children are provided with all the equipment they need in school. Please do not allow children to bring in their own pens, pencils etc as this can cause issues in the classroom.

We also encourage children to look after their school equipment and are happy to say that the vast majority of our children do this. However, last year there were a very small minority of children who purposely damaged or broke a number of pens, pencils, rulers etc. Whilst we understand that accidents happen, it is not acceptable to purposely destroy school property. Therefore, if staff are aware that equipment has been deliberately damaged, we will ask parents for a contribution towards replacement. For example, 50p for a pen, pencil or ruler. We hope you will support us and help children understand the importance of looking after resources so they can benefit all children and school funds do not have to be wasted needlessly.



## ***Witton Gilbert History Exhibition in School Hall – 01.10.22***

We are delighted to host an exhibition of Witton Gilbert history on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022 in the school hall, from 10am-3pm.

Mr John Geddes has an incredible collection of artefacts, photographs and information about the history of Witton Gilbert, which will be exhibited. He shared a small part of his collection with our children last term which was fantastic. Mr Geddes' knowledge of the village history is vast.

We would encourage you to drop into the school hall (access through the main yard from green gate opposite allotments) on 1<sup>st</sup> October to have a look at the exhibition. We know many of our children would appreciate a visit and it's open to all.

Lights refreshments will also be available at a small cost.

## ***Holiday Clubs***

We are planning to hold holiday clubs on the following dates this year:

**Easter Holidays** – 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> April

**Summer Holidays** – 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> July

Holiday clubs are open to all children from Reception to Year 6. Costs will be kept as low as possible. Details of activities will be shared in the spring term.

## After School Clubs – Autumn Term 2022

Further to feedback from our Parent Survey, we are working on increasing our offer of after school clubs.

Below is a summary of clubs this term. We hope to add further activities for KS1 soon.

	<b>Lunchtime (No cost)</b>	<b>After School 3.15pm-4.15pm (Cost £2.75 for each activity offered)</b>	<b>After School 4.15pm – 5.30pm (Cost £3.75 – includes light tea. For both early and later sessions please just book late after school club on ParentPay for a total cost of £6.50)</b>
<b>Every day</b>		<b>Childcare</b> (Open to all children every day - games, craft, outdoor play, movies etc)	<b>Childcare</b> (Open to all children every day - games, craft, outdoor play, movies etc)
Monday	Homework club (Open to KS2 – In Y4 classroom from 26.09.22)	Football (Rec, Y1, Y2)  Gardening Club (From 03.10.22 – letters to follow)	
Tuesday	Chess club (Open to Y5 & Y6 in Y6 classroom from 04.10.22)	Dodgeball (All ages)	
Wednesday		Multi-skills eg cricket, basketball, hockey etc (All ages)  Friendship ambassadors (no cost - 2 children from each KS2 class through an application process)	
Thursday		Dance (All ages)  Cookery Club (Year 3 initially from 07.10.22 – letters to follow)	
Friday	Warhammer club (Open to Y5 in Y5 classroom from 07.10.22)	Apparatus/Gymnastics (All ages)	

Please note, for sports clubs, just book via ParentPay and all children interested will be able to come along (subject to specified ages).

For other after school clubs (excluding Childcare), numbers will be limited and further communication will be sent out from staff running these sessions.

## School holidays 2022-23

Holiday	Closing date	Date re-open for teaching purposes
Autumn half term	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> October 2022	Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2022
Staff Training Day Mon 28 <sup>th</sup> November	Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> November 2022	Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> November 2022
Christmas 2022	Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2023
Spring half term 2023	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> February 2023	Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> February 2023
Easter 2023	Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2023	Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> April 2023
May Day 2023	Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> April 2023	Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2023
Summer Half Term 2023	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> May 2023	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> June 2023
Summer 2023	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> July	TBC