



# Wylam First School

Rocketing to success

**Newsletter 1**  
**07.09.22**

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back! I hope that you have had a lovely summer break and enjoyed the sunshine. It was lovely to welcome the children back yesterday and hear all about what they have been up to over the summer. Despite some back to school nerves, all of the children have settled in well and are already working hard. From next week our extra curricular activities will begin again. Information on the activities on offer will follow shortly.

Just prior to the summer we moved to a different MIS system in school. Unfortunately we are having a number of technical issues with this currently, meaning that Parentmail is not working correctly for all year groups. Our IT teams are working on this and are hoping to get things up and running as soon as possible. Apologies for the inconvenience.

We are heading into very challenging times as a community and also a school. The cost of living crisis is having a significant impact on everyone. Prior to the summer break we had seen a huge increase in transportation costs which in turn is having an impact on the overall cost of school trips. We are very conscious that money is becoming tighter and tighter for everyone so we will try to reduce the cost of extra curricular activities as much as we possibly can. If costs are proving to be unreasonable then in the future we may have to limit the amount of school trips we provide.

## News

### **Work during the holidays**

Unfortunately not all of the work we had planned was completed over the summer holidays. Due to issues in the supply chain we are still awaiting delivery of our new playground equipment. We are hoping that this work will be completed this half term. We will keep you posted!

### **Letter from the Queen!**

You may remember that as part of our Jubilee celebrations, Mr Daly-Brand organised for the children to make a celebration card that was sent to the Queen. During the summer holidays we received a letter from her Lady in Waiting (Susan Hussey) thanking the children of Wylam First School for their card and kind wishes. We also received a card of thanks.

## Information

### **Attendance and Punctuality**

It is widely known that a child who attends school regularly, and on time, is more likely to perform better, is more likely to establish good friendships and is more likely to fulfil their full potential. To ensure that your child has good school attendance please make sure that your child is at school, on time, every day unless they are unwell and are unable to come to school. Please try to arrange appointments outside of school hours wherever possible and avoid taking extended holidays during term time.

In school we track attendance using colour coded attendance zones. The expectation is that all children will achieve Gold or Green. When attendance falls below 95% we begin to track attendance and will work with parents to ensure that attendance is improved. Once attendance falls below 92% an onward referral to the Education Welfare Officer may be necessary.

Gold	100%
Green	99%-96%
Amber	95%-92%
Red	Below 92%

It is essential to start good habits of attendance from an early age. Most children who truant from school as teenagers or who become 'school refusers' have had a history of poor attendance during their early education.

### **Holiday requests in term time**

Holidays taken in term time will be recorded as unauthorised unless there are 'special circumstances' which have been explained in a letter to the attendance lead, Ms Dodds, with evidence from employers if appropriate.

Thank you, in advance, for your support with this matter. If you have any concerns about your child's school attendance and would like some support then please contact Ms Dodds.

### **PE in school**

All children will take part in outdoor PE lessons with Amy Hargraves from NUFC Foundation. This will take place on **Thursdays**. Alongside this all children will also take part in an indoor PE session which will be timetabled across the week. PE sessions are as follows.

<b>Indoor PE timetable</b>	
<b>Monday</b>	Y1
<b>Tuesday</b>	EYFS + Y2
<b>Wednesday</b>	Y3 *Y4 swimming

\*This term Y4 have swimming lessons in place of indoor PE.

On your child's PE day they are to come to school in their PE kit. This worked really well last year. It means that children spend more time participating in the PE lesson rather than getting changed. It also means that we don't have issues with storage of PE kits or lost property.

Indoor PE will focus on dance, gymnastics and fitness so ideally an indoor PE kit consisting of a white t-shirt and blue shorts or tight blue leggings should be worn. Tracksuit bottoms can be a trip or slip hazard in the hall. In the colder months your child can wear their indoor shorts under their outdoor tracksuit. For full information of the PE kit please see our website.

### **Y4 swimming**

Y4 swimming lessons will begin next Wednesday. Y4 parents will receive a letter shortly with all of the required information.

### **Rocksteady**

Rocksteady begins again on Friday 9th September.

### **Reading Workshop**

On Thursday 29th September Ms Dodds will be holding a parent workshop to talk about our new phonics scheme, how we teach reading across the school and how you can help your child at home. Once the

workshop is over you will then be able to go into your child's class to take part in a reading lesson with your child.

## Reminders

### **September Meetings Y1-Y4**

Just a reminder that we are holding new to year group meetings next week.

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>
9:15am Y1	9:15am Y3
10am Y2	10am Y4

The purpose of the meeting is for you to meet with your child's new class teacher and to find out all you need to know about the term/year ahead. Don't worry if you are unable to attend the meeting. All of the information will be shared via the class newsletter and our website.

The meetings will take place in the classrooms so please wait outside the external classroom door. The meeting is for parents only. Children will work in the hall or will be outside while the meeting takes place.

### **Jackets in School**

Please remember to send your child to school with a warm, preferably showerproof jacket, even if it is warm and sunny in the morning. At this time of year the weather can be changable and as we spend a lot of time outdoors it is important that the children have the option of putting on a jacket.

### **Healthy Snacks In School**

Children in Early Years and KS1 receive a piece of fruit each day. Children in KS2 are encouraged to bring in their own piece of fruit for their break time snack. Please do not send in cereal bars or fruit based sweets as an alternative.

All children are asked to bring a water bottle, containing water only, to school each day. This can be refilled throughout the day.

Until the term they turn 5, children also receive free milk. There is the option to purchase milk after that point - orders are taken a term in advance.

### **Packed Lunches**

Just a reminder that we are a 'nut free' school. We have a number of children in school who have nut allergies so it is really important that there are no nut based products in packed lunches, including things like Nutella.

### **Head Lice**

The return to school always means the possible return of head lice. To try to combat the spread of head lice please can we ask that all long hair is tied up for school and that hair is checked regularly. If head lice are spotted please treat the hair immediately. Once hair is treated the child can come into school. If we spot head lice in school we will ask you to collect your child to treat their hair. They can return to school as soon as this is done. Thank you for your support with this.

## School Calendar

Monday 5th September

Teacher training day

Tuesday 6th September	First day of the new school year
Friday 9th September	Rocksteady begins
Week beginning 12th September	Extra curricular activities begin
Monday 12th September	KS1 'New to' meetings
Tuesday 13th September	KS2 'New to' meetings
Tuesday 13th September	Y4 Wild About Adventure begins
Wednesday 14th September	Y4 Swimming begins
Thursday 22nd September	Trumpet tuition begins
Thursday 29th September	Reading parents workshop
Friday 30th September	Y1 trip to Theatre Royal - The Tiger That Came To Tea
Friday 30th September	Macmillan Bake Sale after school
Tuesday 18th October	Harvest Festival 1:30pm (parents invited)
Thursday 20th October	Last day of ½ term
Friday 21st October	Teacher training day
Monday 31st October	Back to school
Tuesday 1st November	Parents Evening
Thursday 3rd November	Parents Evening
Wednesday 9th November	Maths parent workshop
<b>Christmas 2022</b>	
Monday 12th December	KS2 Christmas performance 9:30am KS1 Christmas performance 1:45pm
Tuesday 13th December	EYFS Christmas performance 9:30am
Wednesday 14th December	KS1 Christmas performance 9:30am EYFS Christmas performance 1:45pm
Thursday 15th December	KS2 Christmas performance 1:45pm
Friday 16th December	Christmas Lunch + Christmas Jumper Day
Monday 19th December	EYFS Christmas Party
Tuesday 20th December	KS1 Christmas Party
Wednesday 21st December	KS2 Christmas Party

Friday 23rd December	End of term Christmas Service 1:30pm Last day of term
Monday 9th January	Teacher training day
Tuesday 10th January	Back to school