



16th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We cannot quite believe that the end of the school year has come around so quickly; it feels very strange to be preparing to say goodbye. It has been so lovely to have had some more of the children back in school for the last months – to see their smiling faces and hear their laughter again has been truly wonderful and very therapeutic for us all. For those of you who did not send their child/ren back to school, this must seem an even more unusual end of term and start to the summer holidays. We all hope that when September comes around we can all begin to feel like things are going back to normal, albeit a new normal, slowly but surely.

Year 6 Class of 2020

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support this year, especially with home learning. It is not the year that we had planned for the children but we are so very proud of how they have matured and coped with such a strange situation. We hope that one day in the future, when all of this is over, they might pop back and see us to get the 'goodbye' hug that they deserve. We wish them all well for a bright and happy future. Our Y6 children this year go off to a wide range of secondary schools - Whickham, Tanfield, Emmanuel, North Durham Academy, St Bedes, St Thomas More and Kingsmeadow.

Hello and goodbye-Staff

On Friday we say goodbye to Mrs Broomhall who is leaving our school after a year working with the Year Six team, we wish her lots of luck for her future endeavours. At the same time as saying goodbye, we are also delighted to be welcoming back Mrs Errington, who is returning from maternity leave to teach Year 5 in September.

Free family wildlife summer activities

Durham Wildlife Trust is offering free family wildlife summer activities at Burnopfield Plantation.

What's happening: Free Wildlife Family Activities with Durham Wildlife Trust

Where: Burnopfield Plantation

When: Three Tuesdays during the school holidays (28th July, 4th August and 18th August)

How to book a session: Visit www.durhamwt.com/family-wildlife or email education@durhamwt.co.uk

What else do I need to know: Booking is essential, family groups are five people maximum, each session lasts an hour, each family receives a goody bag and healthy packed lunch for the kids.





Mobile phones for Y5 and 6

A reminder that only Year 5 and 6 can bring in mobile phones into school. The phones must be signed in and out by the child, turned off and will be kept by the class teacher during the school day. Mobile phones are not permitted to be used on the school premises by children and are for safety when walking to and from school only.

Easing anxiety over September

We know many of you will still have concerns about sending your children back in September. We would like to reassure you that the children who have already returned have coped amazingly well with all the changes to the day and have been happy and settled. We have received overwhelming positive feedback from the parents of the returning children and we are happy to talk to any parents in September who may have concerns about their child returning to school.

Relax kids and wellbeing support

Relax Kids will be offering support for year group bubbles from September. Places are limited and it will be on a first come first served basis, More details will follow in September.

School meals

On Wednesday you were emailed a link to make school meal choices for your child/ren. This is because we have had to make logistical changes to the way we serve lunches. Following feedback from parents, tomorrow you will be emailed a new link where you can say your child does not require lunch on certain days and new Reception parents have received a separate email explaining what to do in the first week when Reception children are not staying for lunch.

Puberty talk year 5 and 6

Current Year 6 will receive some emailed slides around the topic of Growing up from their class teacher. This has been sent from our School Nurse and is to be used at home if you wish to do so. Current Year 5 children should have had their puberty talk in school in Summer Term. The School Nursing Team now hopes to carry this out in Autumn Term.

Google Meet

On Tuesday 1st September which is our Inset Day, your child's new teachers will have a Google Meet session with the class. This will be a 15 minute slot for each year group to clarify start and finish times, entrances and exits, give key reminders and reassurance. The sessions will be at the following times.

12.00 - 12.15	Year 1
12.15 - 12.30	Year 3





12.30 - 12.45	Year 4
12.45 - 1.00	Year 5
1.00 - 1.15	Reception / Year 6
1.15 - 1.30	Year 2

Message from the Chair of Governors - Marie Scott

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the staff on behalf of the Governing body. They have shown unwavering effort and dedication to the school and community, which has been greatly appreciated. Mrs Thompson and Mrs Brunton will continue in their positions as Co Acting Headteachers, providing stability and familiarity to the school as well as continuing to uphold the highest standards of education and care for all children as we rebuild our school community.

We look forward to seeing you all on Wednesday 2nd September. The details of our full reopening and the times for the Google Meet sessions will be sent out again the week before the start of the new term.

Mrs C Thompson and Mrs R Brunton

Acting Co-Head Teachers

