



22nd May 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

I have felt so proud of our Year 6 children last week. All of our children did their very best during their tests, showing great resilience and determination. We are all so proud of them. We can now look forward to their final few weeks together, before they all start their Secondary Schools. I'm sure that they will enjoy all of the wonderful activities planned for them.

Last week was a beautiful week of fine weather. It was lovely to see all of the children enjoying playing on the field. There is so much work still to do this year and the next few weeks are very important. Our Year 2 children will be completing their 'special jobs' this week, while the rest of the school continue to work hard towards their formal assessments which are carried out in June. Please also remember, that Year 1 will be having their Phonics Screening Check during the week beginning Monday 10th June.

During the second half of the Summer term, we do like to give the children a variety of things to look forward to. Year 5 have their one night 'camp out' at Moor House, Years Rec, 1, 2, 3 and 4 are looking forward to orienteering at the park and Year 5 and Year 6 are looking forward to their visit to Eden Camp.

I hope that you all enjoy the half term break and hopefully some lovely weather.

Kindest wishes,

K. Harrison-Brown

K. Harrison-Brown
Head Teacher

Noah's Ark Nursery

Our Nursery continues to grow and this is the busiest term that we have had to date. Our Nursery opened in September 2016 with 12 children and now currently has 52 children, who access either free-funded 15-hour or 30-hour provision. Extra sessions are also available for our 15-hour provision children. We also offer 'Rising 3' places, which means that children can attend Nursery as soon as they are three years old. Nursery children are also able to attend our breakfast club which opens from 7.30 a.m. and our tea club which closes at 5.30 p.m. In addition, many of our 15-hour Nursery children enjoy staying for a school dinner. We still have places for Nursery in September. Please contact our Nursery Manager, Mrs Sleeman, for more details or if you'd like to visit us.

Breakfast and Tea Club

Our breakfast and tea clubs continue to be very successful. We have just finished planning some exciting activities for next half term. At tea club, children can access:

	<u>Monday</u> <u>Gardening</u>	<u>Tuesday</u> <u>Arts & Crafts</u>	<u>Wednesday</u> <u>Cooking</u>	<u>Thursday</u> <u>Games</u>	<u>Friday</u> <u>Indoor/Outdoor</u> <u>Play</u>
Week 1 Birds	Bird feeders	Hand print birds	Nest cakes	Construction	Bird watch
Week 2 Father's Day/Grandad's Day	Planting flower tubs	Stone painting	Medal cookies	Board games	Rounders
Week 3 Colourful Rainbows	Planting sunflowers	Rainbow bubble painting	Fruit kebabs	Traditional games	Parachute
Week 4 Under the Sea	Cress heads	Jelly fish paper planes	Frozen yoghurt lollies	Bingo	Skipping games
Week 5 Seaside Fun	Garden Maintenance	Windmills	Blueberry muffins	Charades	Traditional games
Week 6 Minibeasts	Bug Hotel	Bow pasta butterfly pictures	Ladybird biscuits	Beetle drive	Mini Sports Day
Week 7 Minibeasts	Bug Hotel	Mini beast masks	Spider buns	Game design & jigsaws	Mini beast hunt

A sporting activity, time for homework and a free play session is also offered in addition to the above planned activities. A healthy snack is served before 4.15 p.m. If you would like any information about breakfast or tea club, please contact Mrs James in the school office.

Schools in Bloom Project

Mrs Wood and Mrs Settrey's Class are enjoying working with Mrs Garnham from OASES (Outdoor and Sustainability Education Specialists) to plan and make special fruit, vegetable, herbs and edible flower planters for displaying within school and in Durham City. The planters will be installed in the Durham City Centre as part of the RHS Britain in Bloom 2019. During a whole school assembly, the children learned about the health benefits of fresh fruit and vegetables and about both the RHS Britain in Bloom Campaign and the Durham in Bloom Floral Trail.

Durham Cathedral Music Outreach Project

Mrs Camsell's class is looking forward to participating in the Outreach Project, which will culminate with the Outreach Celebration service in Durham Cathedral on Wednesday 26th June, when the children will have the chance to sing together in the magnificent Cathedral in front of family and friends. The children are busy rehearsing and this week they will sing with the Cathedral Choristers.

Parent Teacher Association

Our PTA has been very busy raising money to enhance our outdoor areas, for the children to enjoy during lesson time and at playtime and lunchtime. We are looking forward to planning our new outdoor spaces which will include: an area for den building, performance area, wheels zone, large construction area and a small world area.

Attendance

Our whole school attendance is 96.8% which is above the National average. We currently have 13 pupils across the school who are classed as Persistent Absentees (with 90% attendance or lower). This equates to 4.85% of our pupils. At this time of year, one of the main barriers to attendance is pupils taking holidays during term time. Government guidelines state that time off during term time, can only be authorised in exceptional circumstances and holidays are not deemed as an exceptional circumstance. Also, it is worth noting that any holidays taken that last for 7 days or more, and have not been authorised, may be subject to a fixed penalty notice from the Local Authority, which starts at £60 per parent, per child.

New Flower Bed

Please can I kindly ask, that you remind your children, not to walk on the new flower bed that has been re-designed and re-planted at the main entrance. Thank you.

Murals

Mrs Warlock (Artist in the Community) has made two fantastic new murals for school. One mural reflects our Durham mining heritage and the other is a mural of some of the Northern Saints; Bede, Oswald, Cuthbert and Aidan. Please do have a look at them, next time that you are in school.

Wedding Bells

We wish Miss Ward all the very best for her wedding during the holiday. We hope that she and her husband have a very happy day. We will welcome Mrs Christie back to school after the holiday.

Building Work

The heating refurbishment work in the Dove building will begin during the holiday. This project will be completed by the end of the summer holiday. We are looking forward to a warmer Winter!

DIARY DATES

Friday 24th May	School closes for half term
Tuesday 4th June	School re-opens Year 5/6 Athletics competition – Maiden Castle Year 4 Wharton Park Visit
Wednesday 5 th June	Year 5/6 Eden Camp Visit – Bus will leave at 8.15 a.m. and return at approx. 4.15 p.m.
Thursday 6 th June	Disco – Rec & Year 1/2 3.30 p.m. – 5.00 p.m. Year 3/4/5/6 5.00 p.m. – 6.30 p.m.
Friday 7 th June	Heights & Weights – Reception & Year 6 Year 1/2 Hardwick Park Visit
Week beginning Monday 10th June	Year 1/2 Phonics Screening Tests
Tuesday 11 th June	Year 3 Wharton Park Visit
Wednesday 12 th June	Year 6 Leavers Service Durham Cathedral New Reception Parents Meeting – 6.00 p.m.
Thursday 13 th June	Open the Book Worship Reception Trip to Hardwick Park Full Governor Body Meeting
Friday 14 th June	Father's Day Stay & Play EYFS (Nursery and Reception) 1.45 p.m. – 3.00 p.m.
Monday 17 th June	Nursery Open Evening for September starters 3.45 – 4.30 p.m.
Tuesday 18 th June	Year 6 transition visit to St. Leonards
Wednesday 19 th June	Nursery visit to Hall Hill Farm Music Concert Performance
Thursday 20 th June	Art Competition Winners to visit Library
Thursday 20 th – Friday 21 st June	Year 5 Moor House Residential
Tuesday 25 th June	Year 3/4 Quadkids Competition – Maiden Castle KS1 Half Day Cycle and Scooter - PM
Wednesday 26 th June	New starters visit to Reception
Thursday 27 th June	Year 2 Family Worship Dove Hall – coffee/tea to be served from 2.30 p.m.
Friday 28 th June	Summer Fair 3.30 p.m.
Monday 1 st July	Moving up morning to new classes KS1 and KS2 Sports Day 1.30 p.m.
Tuesday 2 nd July	Year 6 transition visit to St Leonards
Wednesday 3 rd July	Year 6 transition visit to Framwellgate School Reception Festival at Sherburn Primary
Thursday 4 th July	New Starters Visit to Reception
Thursday 4 th – Friday 5 th July	Year 6 Transition Days at Belmont Community School
Friday 5 th July	EYFS(Nursery and Reception) Sports Day 1.30 p.m.
Monday 8 th July	KS1 and KS2 Reserve Sports Day 1.30 p.m.
Wednesday 10 th July	Prayer Space at St. Mary's – Year 5/6
Thursday 11 th July	Open the Book Worship
Friday 12 th July	Reports home EYFS (Nursery and Reception) Reserve Sports Day 1.30 p.m.
Monday 15 th July	Year 6 Afternoon Tea
Tuesday 16 th July	Year 6 Leavers Performance – 1.45 p.m. in Dove Hall
Wednesday 17 th July	Team Treat – Water Fun Day
Thursday 18 th July	Whole School Teddy Bear's Picnic/Picnic lunch
Friday 19th July	Whole School Belmont's Got Talent School closes for Summer holiday

School will re-open on Wednesday 4th September 2019