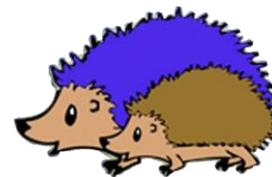


PITTINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Hallgarth Lane, Pittington, Durham, DH6 1AF

Headteacher: Mrs C Lee
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Website: www.pittington.durham.sch.uk



23rd September 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome

Welcome to the start of the new term. We have had a very smooth start to the autumn term with all 30 reception children having settled well into school. Almost all the new nursery children have started nursery and they too have settle in extremely well.



We have also welcomed a new member of staff, Miss Pattison, who is the class teacher for Year 1 whilst Mrs Rowell is on maternity leave. Miss Pattison was a final year student with us throughout the whole of last year and so she knows the school routines and children very well. We hope she enjoys her time with us this year.

Governors

We have a Governing Body made up of 12 governors who are actively involved in school. We currently have a vacancy for a governor.

Mr David Atkinson - Chair
Mrs Denise Harland - Vice Chair
Mr Richard Curry
Ms Rachel Boll
Mr Andrew Wright
Mrs Barbara Buddle
Mr Jonathan Wills
Mrs Lucy Catchpole
Mr Mark Fox
Mrs Jenny Collins
Mrs Cathy Lee

House Captains

The children from Year 1 to Year 6 have voted in their House Captains for the coming year. Congratulations go to Rosalind, Will, Sam, Isabelle, Heidi, Liam, Ella, Tabitha and Aaron.

School Lunches

We would respectfully ask parents/carers to pay for school lunches by the end of each week via Parent Pay. Should the amount accrue to £50 then we will ask you to provide a packed lunch for your child until the debt is paid. This is in line with County Durham policy.

If you think that your child may qualify for free school means then please call into the school office to see Mrs Garcia on either Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. She will be able to provide you with the necessary information for a check to be made on your behalf.

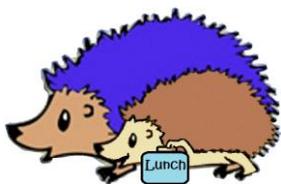


Packed Lunches

If you prefer to send your child to school with a packed lunch then we would like to draw your attention to our packed lunch policy which is on the school website. We do not encourage any fizzy drinks or sweets in packed lunches.

We would also request that items containing nuts are not included in packed lunches. We have a number of children with nut allergies and we would like to reduce the risk of a reaction as much as possible. Thank you.

If your child has grapes in their packed lunches could you please ensure that the grapes are sliced into half to reduce the risk of choking. Thank you.



Water Bottles

Please ensure that your child has a water bottle in school each day. We have machines around school for them to refill their bottles.



Please don't use flavoured water or watered down juice in these bottles.

Attendance

We would really like your help to improve the attendance of our children in school. The figure set for high attendance is 96% and this is a target set for schools in Durham.

Our attendance over the past three years is creeping closer to the national figure. We have consistently been above the national figure until 2019:

2017 - 96.8%

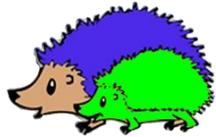
2018 - 96.7%

2019 - 96.0%

Attendance is closely monitored by the school and the attendance team within the County. If your child's attendance is below 90% then they are deemed to be 'persistently absent' and this will trigger the attendance management procedures within school and the County.



We appreciate that children are poorly from time to time and this may lead to your child being absent for 2 or even 3 days but these absences can be highlighted when parents/carers request leave of absence for a holiday. Please bear this in mind if you decide to book a holiday in school time.



Our+ target this year is set for 97% so that we can confidently state that we are above the national average.

You will receive information on your child's attendance at the end of each term including attendance for your child's year group and the school figure. This will enable you to compare your child's absence figures against Pittington data.

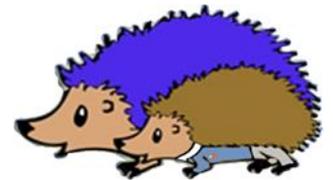
We are here to support your child's attendance at school and so if you wish to talk with a member of staff or school nurse then please don't hesitate to contact us.

School Uniform

Believe it or not, our school Lost Property is already full with items of unnamed uniform. Can we please urge you to name everything.....including PE kits.

At the end of each half term the children are given an opportunity to look through the Lost Property Box and claim any items that may belong to them. We also put these items on the yard for home time for parents/carers to claim.

Any unclaimed items are washed and are then available for parents to purchase for a small donation to our school fund. We currently have a wide selection of items available if you wish to have a look.



If you have any items of uniform that your children has grown out of then please donate them to school for us to offer to parents and carers. Thank you.

PE Kits

We have a number of children who regularly do not have a PE kit in school and have to borrow one from the school office.

Each class PE days are listed below:

Year 1: Wednesday, Thursday

Year 2: Tuesday, Friday

Year 3: Tuesday, Thursday

Year 4: Wednesday, Thursday

Year 5: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

Year 6: Monday, Thursday

It would be most helpful if your child could have a PE kit in school every day of the week but particularly on their PE days. Thank you.



Jewellery

In line with County Policy, jewellery is not permitted in school.

If your child has their ears pierced then they are unable to take part in PE activities, swimming or after school sport clubs until the earrings can be removed.

If the ears have been pierced recently then they must be covered by tape at all times until the earrings can be removed. Thank you for your co-operation with this.

McMillan Coffee Morning



On Friday 27th September the children will have an opportunity to enjoy a drink of juice and a biscuit in aid of McMillan Cancer Support.

We would like all children to take part in the event for a donation that we will send to McMillan on behalf of Pittington Primary School. Thank you.

Harvest

The children will be walking up to St Laurence's Church to take part in our Harvest Festival Assembly. Although originally arranged for this week, we have changed the date to coincide with the church's Harvest week. We are now hosting the assembly on Thursday 3rd October.



We would appreciate a donation of tin of food that we will give to a local food bank from Pittington Primary School.

Village Christmas Tree

Pittington Village have been successful in gaining permission to put up a large Christmas Tree in the middle of village in December.

Members of the village are busy raising money to buy the tree and we thought that it would be good to support them.

On **Wednesday 23rd October** the children can wear their favourite jumper to school in exchange for a donation for the cause. They can even wear a Christmas Jumper if they like! Christmas can come early to Pittington.

Outdoor Classroom

The area behind the staff car park is finally complete. Out thanks must go to T Jefford who completed the work for us following the children's design brief.

We now need to purchase seating and planters so that the children can use the area to support and extend the learning in the classroom as well as being a relaxing area to spend time in.

The area is not accessible to children without a member of staff being present as there is a large pond incorporated into the design. It still needs further work but this will happen in time and as school finances allow.

Birthday Treats

We would like to thank those parents/carers and children in the past who have brought in birthday cakes to share with the class to celebrate a child's birthday. It really is a lovely idea but we have a number of children across the school who have allergies and food intolerances which exclude them from having birthday cake.

Could we please therefore politely request that you do not send in cake or treats so that no child is excluded from this? I hope you understand and appreciate the sentiment behind our request in our efforts to include all children. Thank you.

Diary Dates

You should have received a paper copy of the diary dates for the coming year. A copy is also included on the website for your information.

Mrs Cathy Lee
Head Teacher

News hot off the press!

Congratulations go to Mrs Rowell who has had a baby boy. Our very best wishes go to Mr and Mrs Rowell and their new addition to the family.