



Shield Row Primary School
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Head: Andrew Knighton
Deputy: Claire Henderson

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Dear Parents / Carers

I hope you all had a great holiday with your children, and on behalf of the staff and Governors I would like to welcome you back to the start of a new year at school - I am sure this will be another exciting year at Shield Row. It was great to see the children this morning, all wearing their school uniform with pride. There was a real buzz of excitement on the yard!

Welcome

We have appointed two new staff and I would like to welcome them to the school. Miss Armstrong will be teaching Reception class whilst Mrs Norman is away on maternity to leave and Mrs Bolton is our new Year 1 teacher. We have wonderful staff who are committed to ensuring the children have the best possible experiences at school.

Thank you!!

I would like to say a huge thank you to Mr Walton, Mrs Hall, Mrs East and Miss Mitchell for their hard work during the summer holidays. Our school looks fantastic and we are proud of the learning environment we are developing. Visitors to the school regularly comment on the fabulous space and facilities we have.



No Smoking

Can I remind parents that Shield Row Primary School operates a strict no smoking policy. Smoking is not permitted in the school buildings or grounds at any time. This includes events outside of school hours. Thank you for your co-operation with this matter.

School Dinners

As part of the Governments drive to improve children's health, all of the infant children (Reception Class, Year 1 and Year 2) are now entitled to a free school meal every day. The cost of a school dinner for our junior children remains £1.95 per day and £9.75 per week. Children attending nursery are able to stay and have their lunch in school. The cost for the lunchtime care is £2.00 if a child brings a packed lunch or £4.00 if they would like a school meal. Dinner money should be brought to school every Monday morning in a clearly marked tin or envelope. The correct money would be greatly appreciated. To ensure our food orders are accurate, we require half a term's notice for any changes from school dinners to packed lunches or vice versa.



Mobile Phone Numbers

If you have changed your mobile phone number recently, I would be grateful if you could let us know so we can update our text messaging service records.

School Uniform / PE Kits

Our school uniform provides a sense of identity within the school community and encourages children to take a pride in their dress and appearance. It is great to see all of the children proudly wearing their uniform. We would now like the children's PE kits to become part of their uniform.



We would like the children to wear a plain coloured T-shirt to represent their house teams and plain black shorts (black tracksuit bottoms and a change of trainers for outdoor PE). The colours are as follows:

Dahl	Blue
Carroll	Green
Lewis	Yellow
Rowling	Red

T-shirts and PE kits with the school logo on are available to order from the office. Coloured T-shirts can also be bought from Asda, Primark, Tesco etc. If you are unsure which colour team your child is part of, then please call into the office. **Please ensure that all school uniform is clearly labelled with your child's name.**

Holidays During Term Time

Can I remind all parents about the Government's 'Holidays in Term Time' policy. The Government have made it clear that Head Teachers may not grant ANY leave of absence during term-time unless there are exceptional circumstances and parents will receive a fixed penalty fine. In cases of unauthorised holidays in term-time relating to more than one child in the same family, the fines are multiple, as each child's absence is classed as a separate offence. **Durham County Council will begin the penalty process once the total number of unauthorised days has exceeded 10 within any rolling 12-month period.** Due to equalities legislation, Fixed Penalty Notices are now issued to all parents who have parental responsibility and can be traced. In practice this means that both Father and Mother will receive separate fines for each affected child.

If you think you will be affected by these changes and are unsure as to whether your circumstances will be judged as 'exceptional' you should still request a Leave of Absence form and this must be returned to school before any requests are considered. We will continue to assess each request on a case-by-case basis.

Congratulations

Miss Drury was married over the summer holidays and has now become Mrs Henderson. On behalf of the children, staff, Governors and everyone connected with the school, I would like to pass on our congratulations to the happy couple

Thank you for your support.

Andrew Knighton
(Headteacher)