



September 2011 Newsletter

Welcome back

I would like to welcome everyone back to school for the start of the new academic year. We hope that everyone has enjoyed the summer break and return refreshed. We are looking forward to an exciting year ahead. A special welcome is extended to all of our new pupils and their families who join us for the first time.

Welcome new staff

We are pleased to welcome Mr Watson to our year 2 team this year. We also welcome Mr Peel from Northumbria University who will be working alongside Miss Dinning in year 4 for a large part of this year. Mrs Thompson also returns from her maternity leave and will be teaching in year 3.

Baby news

Mr Vincent's second baby is over due as we return to school and could come at any minute! We have Mrs Scrafton on stand by to step into 4V whenever she is needed.

New Carpets

The classrooms and pods have all benefited from new carpet and new vinyl for the toilets in the holidays. This has proven to be a big project which was managed by our relief caretaker Mark Thompson who was covering Mr Malone's absence following an operation. Mark worked extremely hard to ensure that the project was completed before the start of the new term. I hope all of the children enjoy our new look environment and many many thanks to Mr Thompson. We are pleased to welcome back Mr Malone as from today.

Multicultural Arts Week

In order to get the term off to a flying start, we will be welcoming performers from across the world to share some of their culture. We will be experiencing Bollywood dancing and Indian story telling, Chinese lion dancing, gumbooting and African drumming. This is an exciting launch of the new term and is something for the children to really look forward to.

Gardening Club

The members of last year's gardening club should feel very proud of our beautiful flower beds and our bountiful harvest of vegetables from our raised beds. Our Key Stage 2 children did much of the planting in their "Dig For Victory" history topic. We are planning some exciting things to celebrate the harvest later this month and hope to have older members of the community visit and share in our produce.

Lunchtimes

As Mrs Lawton enjoys the start of her retirement, we have had to make changes to our lunchtime supervision. Mr Phipps is looking forward to his new additional role of managing lunchtimes.

School Lunches

For those children who have a school dinner, the charge of £1.95 per day remains unchanged from last term.

Traffic

As the new term begins, please remember to support our endeavours to create a safe environment for everyone travelling to our school. Please do not park on Thornhill Road, as this causes potential problems for pedestrians. Please park in the village car parks which are indicated on the map that we will once again be handing out this week.

Please note that there is no school crossing patrol on North Road however a replacement has been appointed and will take up this post as soon as possible. Please cross North Road with care and supervise your children carefully as you cross.

Maths Workshop for Parents

All parents are invited to a fun-packed evening of maths to understand the way that maths is taught and how to support your child at home. The course will be lead by David Lewis, a maths consultant, who has promised that it will be a memorable evening. This will take place at 6pm - 8pm on Wednesday 21 September in our Key Stage 2 activity street.

Keeping Up With the Kids

We are pleased to be able to offer to parents a literacy-based "Keeping Up With the Kids" course commencing on Wednesday 28 September 1pm - 3pm. This course will run for 8 weeks excluding half term finishing on 23 November. A Cuppa and Chat session will be held one week prior to the commencement of the course on Wednesday 21 September from 2.15pm to 3pm to provide an overview for anyone who is interested in signing up. The course will be run by Carron Whittaker from Family Learning in our community room.

Dates for your diary in Autumn Term 2011

Tuesday 6 September
Wednesday 7 September
W/C 12 September
W/C 19 September
Wednesday 21 September

Friday 30 September
Friday 7 October
Friday 14 October
Tuesday 18 October
Wednesday 19 October

Wednesday 19 October
Friday 21 October

Monday 31 October
Friday 4 November
W/C 14 November

Friday 18 November
W/C 28 November
W/C 5 December
W/C 12 December
Friday 16 December

Autumn Term begins

New Nursery & Reception first intakes begin
Multi-Cultural Arts Activities Week
Clubs will start this week
6-8pm - A fun Numeracy Evening for parents which will explain how we teach numeracy across the school and will give ideas of how this learning can be supported at home.
Year 4 assembly 9.15am
Year 3 assembly 9.15am
Year 2 assembly 9.15am
Parents' Evening
Harvest Festival 9.15am - parents of Reception children and of all children new to the school are invited to attend
Parents' Evening
Training Day - school closed to children
Half term
Back to school
Year 1 assembly 9.15am
Anti-bullying week : This year the theme is "Stop and think - words hurt"
Blue Friday - wear blue (non-uniform) to say "No" to bullying
Last week for clubs
Christmas performances
Christmas parties
End of term

The above dates are those envisaged by the school and may be subject to change

L Blain
Head Teacher
6 September 2011