



Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back! I hope that you have had a lovely summer break and have managed to enjoy it even despite the British weather!! Of course now that September has arrived, so has the sunshine but it makes it nice for the children to get back to school and be able to spend time outdoors.

It was lovely to welcome the children back to school and hear all about what they have been up to over the summer. Despite some back to school nerves, all of the children have settled in well and are already working hard. From next week our extra curricular activities will begin again - information on the activities on offer is attached (enrolment is now complete for this half term). Please note Y3 multi-skills does not start until Thursday 14 September (not 7 September as previously advised).

Every September brings with it new beginnings. This year there are many! We have officially become part of the Cheviot Learning Trust which is another exciting chapter for the school and we are very much looking forward to working with a larger network of schools and professionals. Alongside this we will shortly be launching our new website - we will update you on this when we are ready to go live.

As you know I took on the executive role across Wylam and Prudhoe Castle First Schools at the end of February. We are now in a position to implement our leadership structure with a number of staff members taking on cross-school roles. Jill Dodds is now out of class and has taken on her Executive Deputy Headteacher position. Aimee Todd has now taken on the role of SENCO across the schools. Jake Chapman (who works at Prudhoe Castle) has taken on the lead role in teaching and learning development across the schools, and Kerry Baxter is leading on Early Years.

We also welcome a number of new staff to Wylam First School. Mrs Myers, who worked with us last year, is our new Nursery Teacher. Ms Fixter is our new Y1 Teacher. Mrs Stockley is a new teacher working alongside Mrs Long in Y3 and Ms Thompson is working in our Nursery as a Teaching Assistant. We are very excited to have them on board.

Apologies for the short notice but next week we are holding our 'New to' meetings for Y1-Y4. Parents are invited into school to meet the class teacher and find out about the expectations and term ahead in the new class. The meetings will be held first thing in the morning, after drop off. Don't worry if you are unable to attend, we will send the powerpoint home which will contain all of the key information. The meeting dates are as follows:

Year 1	Tuesday 12th September
Year 2	Thursday 14th September
Year 3	Wednesday 13th September
Year 4	Monday 11th September

The meetings will take place in the classrooms so please wait outside the external classroom door. The meeting is for parents only. Children will work in the hall or will be outside while the meeting takes place.

Class newsletters, curriculum letters and homework challenges will be sent out after the meeting.

## News

### **Outdoor Classroom**

Last year our PTA was set the challenge of raising funds for an outdoor classroom/quiet space from our Student Council. As you can see this has now been built and it's amazing! Thank you to Mr Tolchard and his team.

### **Letter from the King!**

You may remember that as part of our Coronation celebrations, Mrs Greener organised for the children to make a celebration card that was sent to the King. During the summer we received a letter from the palace thanking the children of Wylam First School for their card and kind wishes.

## Information

### **Attendance and Punctuality**

It is widely known that a child who attends school regularly, and on time, is more likely to perform better, is more likely to establish good friendships and is more likely to fulfil their full potential. To ensure that your child has good school attendance please make sure that your child is at school, on time, every day unless they are unwell and are unable to come to school. Please try to arrange appointments outside of school hours wherever possible and avoid taking extended holidays during term time.

In school we track attendance using colour coded attendance zones. The expectation is that all children will achieve Gold or Green. When attendance falls below 95% we begin to track attendance and will work with parents to ensure that attendance is improved. Once attendance falls below 92% an onward referral to the Education Welfare Officer may be necessary.

Gold	100%
Green	99%-96%
Amber	95%-92%
Red	Below 92%

It is essential to start good habits of attendance from an early age. Most children who truant from school as teenagers or who become 'school refusers' have had a history of poor attendance during their early education.

### **Holiday requests in term time**

Holidays taken in term time will be recorded as unauthorised unless there are 'special circumstances' which have been explained in a letter to the attendance lead, Ms Dodds, with evidence from employers if appropriate.

Thank you, in advance, for your support with this matter. If you have any concerns about your child's school attendance and would like some support then please contact Ms Dodds.

### **PE in school**

All children will take part in an indoor PE session which will consist of dance, gymnastics and fitness and an outdoor PE session, with Amy Hargrave from NUFC Foundation. A reminder that children come to school in their PE kit on PE days. The PE timetable is as follows:

PE Timetable		
Class	Indoor	Outdoor
EYFS	Tuesday	Wednesday
Y1	Tuesday	Wednesday
Y2	Monday	Thursday
Y3	Tuesday	Wednesday
Y4	Swimming Wednesday	Thursday

**Indoor PE kit** = white, plain t-shirt and navy blue shorts or tight blue leggings. Tracksuit bottoms can be a trip or slip hazard in the hall. In the colder months your child can wear their indoor shorts under their outdoor tracksuit. Indoor PE is completed barefoot so there is no requirement to have sand shoes or plimsolls.

**Outdoor PE kit** = white, plain t-shirt and navy blue shorts or navy blue tight leggings/jogging bottoms, a navy hoodie or sweatshirt and trainers.

Football kits are not part of the uniform and should not be worn.

#### **Y4 Swimming**

Y4 children will take part in swimming lessons this term. Further information on this will follow.

#### **Rocksteady**

Rocksteady begins again on Friday 15 September. If you would like your child to be part of Rocksteady you can find all of the information required here: <https://www.rocksteadymusicschool.com/info-for-parents>

#### **Reading Workshop**

On **Wednesday 20th September** at 9am, Ms Dodds will be holding a parent workshop to talk about our phonics scheme, how we teach reading across the school and how you can help your child at home. Once the workshop is over you will then be able to go into your child's class to take part in a reading lesson with your child.

#### **Maths Workshop**

On **Thursday 9th November** at 9am, Mr Chapman will be holding a parent workshop to talk about how we teach maths at Wylam and how you can help your child at home. Once the workshop is over you will then be able to go into your child's class to take part in a maths lesson with your child.

#### **Wild About Adventure**

Mr Mordue will be working with Y4 children this term. Their focus will be preparing for the Harvest Festival and achieving some of the objectives in the Wild Passport. Please remember that children will need wellies in school and warm, outdoor clothing. This takes place on a Tuesday afternoon.

## Reminders

#### **Jackets in School**

Please remember to send your child to school with a warm, preferably showerproof jacket, even if it is warm and sunny in the morning. At this time of year the weather can be changable and as we spend a lot of time outdoors it is important that the children have the option of putting on a jacket.

### **Healthy Snacks In School**

Children in Early Years and KS1 receive a piece of fruit each day. Children in KS2 are encouraged to bring in their own piece of fruit for their break time snack. Please do not send in cereal bars or fruit based sweets as an alternative.

All children are asked to bring a water bottle, containing water only, to school each day. This can be refilled throughout the day.

Until the term they turn 5, children also receive free milk. There is the option to purchase milk after that point - orders are taken a term in advance.

### **Packed Lunches**

Just a reminder that we are a 'nut free' school. We have a number of children in school who have nut allergies so it is really important that there are no nut based products in packed lunches, including things like Nutella.

### **Head Lice**

The return to school always means the possible return of head lice. To try to combat the spread of head lice please can we ask that all long hair is tied up for school and that hair is checked regularly. If head lice are spotted please treat the hair immediately. Once hair is treated the child can come into school. If we spot head lice in school we will ask you to collect your child to treat their hair. They can return to school as soon as this is done. Thank you for your support with this.

## **School Calendar**

Friday 15 September	Rocksteady begins
Week beginning 11th September	Extra curricular activities begin
Monday 11th September	Y4 'New to' meeting
Tuesday 12th September	Y1 'New to' meeting
Tuesday 12th September	Wild About Adventure begins - Y4
Wednesday 13th September	Y3 'New to' meeting
Thursday 14th September	Y2 'New to' meeting
Wednesday 13th September	Y4 Swimming begins
Wednesday 20th September	Parents reading workshop
Thursday 21st September	Trumpet tuition begins
Friday 29th September	Macmillan Bake Sale after school
Tuesday 17th October	Harvest Festival 1:30pm (parents invited)
Wednesday 18th October	Parents evening
Thursday 19th October	Parents evening

Thursday 26th October	Last day of ½ term Break the Rules Day
Friday 27th October	Teacher training day
Monday 6th November	Back to school
Thursday 9th November	Maths workshop at 9am
<b>Christmas 2023</b>	
Monday 11th December	KS1 Christmas Performance 9:30am EYFS Christmas Performance 1:45pm
Tuesday 12th December	EYFS Christmas Performance 9:30am KS2 Christmas performance 1:45pm
Wednesday 13th December	KS2 Christmas performance 9:30am KS1 Christmas Performance 1:45pm
Friday 15th December	Christmas Lunch + Christmas Jumper Day
Monday 19th December	EYFS Christmas Party
Tuesday 19th December	KS1 Christmas Party
Wednesday 20th December	KS2 Christmas Party
Friday 22nd December	End of term Christmas Service 1:30pm Last day of term
Monday 8th January	Teacher training day
Tuesday 9th January	Back to school