



Learning to play, discover and achieve together

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Messages from Mrs Adamson, school holiday dates, events for Autumn Term

Holiday	Closing date for pupils	Date re-opens for pupils
Summer 2020	Thursday 16 July 2020	Wednesday 2 September 2020
Autumn half-term 2020	Friday 23 October 2020	Monday 2 November 2020
Christmas 2020	Friday 18 December 2020	Monday 4 January 2021
Spring half-term 2021	Friday 12 February 2021	Tuesday 23 February 2021
Easter 2021	Friday 26 March 2021	Monday 12 April 2021
May Day 2021	Friday 30 April 2021	Tuesday 4 May 2021
Summer half-term 2021	Thursday 27 May 2021	Monday 7 June 2021
Summer 2021	Friday 16 July 2021	Thursday 2 September 2021

Professional Development Days 2020-2021

School is closed for pupils on:

- Tuesday 1 September 2020
- Monday 22 February 2021
- Friday 28 May 2021
- Monday 19 July 2021
- Tuesday 20 July 2021

Due to restrictions in place for 'bubble' groups both Breakfast Club and After School clubs are currently suspended. We hope to offer this service again soon. Thank you for your understanding.

Messages from Mrs Adamson

It has been lovely to welcome back all the children into school. As we are nearing the end of the first month I'd like to thank you all for your support especially in these challenging times.

We have welcomed new Nursery children in September and children who have transferred to our school as they have moved into the area. Please remember if you have any questions I am available to talk to and your office staff Mrs Dunn and Miss Haddow are only a phone call away.

In over 20 years of education I have never experienced a start of the school year quite like this one. In fact 2020 has been a challenging time. I know that many of our families have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and that this has had an impact upon our children. Please rest assured we are looking out for their emotional wellbeing as well as their academic achievements. Despite the restrictions in our every day life we are working hard to make school as 'normal' as possible. We all appreciate the benefits of children coming to school and the children are thriving. They are certainly enjoying the benefits of being back in their classes and I see many smiling faces as I visit classes each day. Our class 'bubbles' are working well and the children have been fabulous at hand washing and maintaining a social distance from other adults and children who are not in their bubble. Our one way system and routines are now firmly established and the school atmosphere is as vibrant as it was before COVID-19. We are quickly filling any gaps in learning and the children have shown great resilience and determination in completing tasks set by staff.

Due to COVID-19 and the restrictions in place the normal events that I would inform you about at this time of year will have to be different this year.

Absences



You MUST telephone the school office 01207 520 243 to report a school absence. Please make sure you let us know why your child is absent from school. If it is COVID related we need to know if they are symptomatic, awaiting a test or a test result or if someone else in the household is symptomatic. It is REALLY important that you share this information with us as soon as possible.

If you or your child develop any of the following symptoms you MUST arrange a COVID-19 test.

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back or have a temperature of more than 37.8 degrees Celsius
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different from normal

Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms.

If your child has a runny nose or a sore throat and DOES NOT have any of the symptoms above they can attend school.

If you need a test please visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

You might find the following link helpful too

<https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19>

Harvest 2020

Instead of a Harvest Festival at the Chapel or held in school we will be having Harvest/Autumn activities in classes. We will still have an element of performance but also include practical activities. We would also still like to collect for the PACT House Foodbank in Stanley. Any donations can be brought into school by your child and stored in their classroom. This year we will produce a video to share Harvest & Autumn experiences with you, unfortunately parents are not allowed to enter the building unless there is an emergency. We plan on recording the activities and the performances on **Wednesday October 14th**. It will then be available for parents to view before half term. I will send home a separate consent letter to any family who has not given general consent to photographs/video. I will be using the footage on social media as well as our school website so if you would prefer your child not to be filmed on this occasion, please contact the school office. If restrictions are in place leading up to Christmas we will look to see how we can use technology to share experiences. Hopefully, the COVID-19 situation will improve before Christmas.



Parent/Teacher Consultations



We are planning to have telephone consultations with parents instead of face to face **parents meetings** later in the Autumn term. This will be towards the October holidays to give children plenty of opportunity to settle in.



ClassDojo

We have a great uptake of parents who use this app. During lockdown it was the most reliable method of getting messages out to parents. Many parents prefer Dojo to receiving paper copies of newsletters and letters. Whilst we are not yet at the stage of becoming a paper free school, by signing up to the app you will get important school information quickly. It also allows you to message staff directly, which can be a really efficient way of staying in touch. If you need details or help with how to do this please call the school office who will be happy to help.

Starting Reception Class in 2021 - Important message for Nursery Parents

Do you have a child who will be **5** on or between **1 September 2021 and 31st August 2022**?

If so, you need to complete an online application for a school place so that your child can start school in 2021. A place in our Nursery does not guarantee a school place. From 14th September 2020 you can apply online at www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions

If you can not access the website please call the School Admissions team on 03000 265 896

Deadline for applications for a Primary School Place is midnight on 15 January 2021