

Attendance

For the first half term (September - October)

	% Attendance	So far this year whole school attendance is 96.1% . It is important the children attend school each day and arrive on time. Arriving just 5 minutes late effects the education your child receives as they miss the start of lessons.
Reception	94.8%	
Year 1	97.7%	
Year 2	93.4%	
Year 3	95.9%	
Year 4	95.6%	
Year 5	97%	
Year 6	95.8%	

Parking

Last month I had a meeting with Councillor Lethbridge and representative from Durham County Council to look at ways we can improve the parking situation. We have been looking at signage in the area and the markings on Murphy Crescent. We will be doing all we can to help the smooth flow of traffic and keep a positive relationship with our neighbours. Thank you, to the parents and carers who are trying to help by walking to school or parking on Coney Avenue.

However we can only do so much - a lot of the problems are due to inconsiderate parking, dangerous driving and disrespectful behaviour. Please pass this message to everyone who picks up or drops off at school.

Please drive **one way** on Murphy Crescent - turn up at the new school sign and past Coney Avenue.

DO NOT STOP OR PARK ON THE ZIG ZAG LINES

DO NOT DOUBLE PARK ON MURPHY CRESCENT

TREAT RESIDENTS AND OTHER DRIVERS WITH RESPECT

TRY TO SET A GOOD EXAMPLE FOR OUR CHILDREN

Children In Need

Friday 15th November - £1 donation per family. Non-uniform day - we're asking everyone to come in Sports clothes as part of the day will be doing fitness activities following 'Joe Wicks Big Morning Move'.



'Christmas Card Free Zone'

As we move closer to Christmas we are asking people **not to send individual Christmas cards** in school **but sign a giant card** (which will be in the hall in December) and give a £1 donation to charity. This year we are raising money for Just One Tree - every pound donated will plant a tree, helping to combat climate change.

Parent Governor Needed

Are you interested in becoming part of our governing body? The Governing Body work alongside the Head teacher and staff, to oversee school life and help develop our school. If you are interested or want more information please contact Miss Sands.

Juice Money Hot Chocolate

In years 1-6 we invite children to bring in 50p juice money each week - they'll get a cup of juice each day and the money is used to buy items for the class. On Fridays we sell Hot Chocolate for 50p, the money collected goes to charitable causes through the year (this Christmas the children will be purchasing World Gifts from CAFOD).

Jewellery

The only jewellery children should wear is a watch. No earrings, bracelets or necklaces.

Chewing Gum

Please make sure your child does not have chewing gum in school. Sadly before half term we had gum stuck to tables and found on the yard.

Snacks / Packed lunches

In school we try to promote healthy living and positive choices. Please think about the snack you send into school and the items in your child's lunchbox. Thank you.

Missing Uniform

Please ensure all your child's clothes are clearly marked with their names. Also if your child brings home another child's clothes please bring them back to school **immediately**.

At least 2 coats have gone missing this term with names on and have not been returned.

PE KITS

All children need a PE kit in school every day - they will have a set day for PE but need the kit every day as well. We may have visiting coaches or active events through the week. All children need a PE in school.

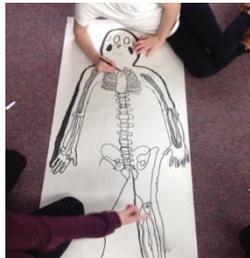
In November We Remember

In the hall we have out 'Trees Of Remembrance' - displaying names of family and friends who have died. We will pray for them through November and into Advent. There are some spare labels in the office if you have names to add.

School Life

Wow, what an amazing day Year 2 had at Blue Reef Aquarium! They learnt all about rock pools and were even given the chance to stroke a starfish and a bearded dragon. They watched the seals jumping, exercising and waving at the crowd. Year 2 loved watching the monkeys and exploring the aquarium. They even spotted some Danios (the same as our class fish). What a lovely day out and a brilliant way to end our English book, The Rainbow Fish.

Well done Year 2, you are superstars!



Year 3

We have had a great first half term in Year 3. We have created some amazing skeletons, and had a visit from Zoolab, where we met lots of interesting animals, like cockroaches, spiders and rats. Year 3 loved pirate week too. We planned our pirate adventures by acting them out in the hall, and then wrote the most amazing stories!

Year 4 visited Binchester Roman Fort as an exciting way to begin our Roman topic this half term. We had a fantastic day looking at the Roman Bathhouse and the recent excavations. We dressed up, created mosaics, tried out an excavation and even made our own clay pot!



Year 5 had an amazing time at the Life Centre in October. We were able to experiment as scientists, use space equipment and furthered our knowledge of our science topic – Earth and Space.

Diary dates

Be aware some dates may change throughout the term. We'll update them every newsletter and by text if needed.

Sunday 10 th November	First Communion Preparation session 9.30 St Mary's Church.
11 th -15 th November	Anti-Bullying Week
Friday 15 th November	Children In Need - £1 donation Wear 'sports clothes'
Friday 22 nd November	Years 3 & 4 'Coffee Show' - coffee afternoon with a performance from the children.
Sunday 24 th November	Family Mass 11am St Mary's Church. All welcome.
26 th & 27 th November	Parents Evening (Years 1-6) Appointment information closer to the time.
Friday 29 th November	2.30 Liturgy in school hall - all welcome
2 nd - 6 th December	Food Bank Collection Week
4 th & 5 th December	Years 1 & 2 Performance
Friday 6 th December	First Steps Performance
Friday 13 th December	Christmas Fayre (in school)
Monday 16 th December	Year 5 & 6 Party
Tuesday 17 th December	Year 3 & 4 Party
Wednesday 18 th December	Year 1 & 2 Party First Steps Christmas Crafts
Friday 20 th December	Last Day of Term Christmas Lunch Christmas Jumper Day
Monday 6 th January 2020	School re-opens for Spring Term