

# Byerley Park Primary School Newsletter

## Issue 1

### September 2018



Welcome back to a new academic year at school. We hope that this is another very successful year for us all. We would like to extend a warm welcome to all our new pupils and their families. We hope that all children will settle well and enjoy their days at Byerley Park Primary School.

**There is a lot of information in our First Newsletter for this school year, which you may find helpful.**

**It may be beneficial to keep this Newsletter for future reference.**

For information, all newsletters for the school year are published on our school website, which can be accessed at [www.byerleyparkprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.byerleyparkprimaryschool.co.uk). They are also stored on your ParentPay account under the 'communication' tab.

### Uniform

Our pupils all look very smart in their school uniform. Thank you for your support of our uniform policy. Visitors often comment on how smart our children look. Black school shoes are part of our uniform. We do not allow the wearing of trainers. Children are expected to come to school with a suitable hairstyle. Whilst we encourage individuality, we expect pupils to come to school with an appropriate hairstyle and not, for example, with shaved patterns, stripes, rats' tails or wearing gel. Please keep these styles for the holidays.

Uniform can be ordered at any time throughout the school year from our uniform supplier, Elizabeth's Embroidery. Orders can be made online ([www.elizabethsembroidery.com](http://www.elizabethsembroidery.com)), by telephone, by visit to their shop. The password you need is **Byerley**.

**Please ensure your child's *entire* school uniform/PE kit/plimsolls/outdoor coat etc. is named as this helps enormously if anything goes missing in school.**

### **Supervision Before School**

Parents are reminded that pupils are not supervised by a member of staff on the school playground before 8.50am. Byerley Park cannot be held responsible for any accidents happening to pupils on site before this time. Parents are asked to allow their child onto the school premises at 8.50am and not before.

Please note that pupils are NOT allowed onto the field before school. It is also helpful if parents can keep the area by the KS1 entrance clear for pupils to enter.

Reception children will be able to access school from 8.55am and will finish school a couple of minutes earlier than the rest of the Infant department to avoid congestion. Parents will be able to pick their children up from the main Infant entrance at the rear of the building.

**Information for parents** – Generally, information items and Newsletters are sent **via email** to those parents who have an activated ParentPay Account. When we require a response from Parents, we will send letters out via your child as and when necessary. Please check your child's bag regularly for leaflets etc.

### **Medication**



Byerley Park is happy to administer medicine that has been prescribed for **FOUR** times a day to pupils, provided that a consent form has been signed by the pupil's parent. The medication should be handed to and collected from the school office.

We are not allowed to administer medication purchased at a pharmacy and not prescribed by a doctor. (eg. Calpol, travel sickness tablets, cough mixture).

Please note that cough sweets, strepsils, lozenges etc. are classed as medicine and children should not have them in school.

**Text Messaging to parents** - We use a text messaging service on occasions to inform **one** parent of events, reminders, urgent notifications etc. It is crucial that we have up to date mobile telephone numbers if this service is to be effective. Please remember to notify us as soon as you change your mobile number.

### **Homework**

Homework is an important part of school life as it is used to reinforce areas learnt at school. Homework can also be used to prepare pupils for their learning.

As a school, we do not believe in setting too much homework as this can detract from the enjoyment of school, but we do set some. Reading and spellings are vital as is learning tables etc. Our pupils benefit very much from any input parents, grandparents or older siblings can offer. However, we would always encourage the pupils to do the work; otherwise it is a waste of time.

On a Wednesday evening, all pupils from Y1 right through to Y6 are set a 'talking' task as part of our WOW Writing. The aim of this is to spend a few minutes discussing ideas with someone at home to support the writing process for the following day. The task is not meant to be onerous or involve writing. Pupils often jot a few notes down as they move up the school, which is of great benefit, but it is not a necessity. We hope that you will be able to spend some time with your child on a Wednesday evening, discussing the task that they have to prepare for. Thank you for your support with this.

### **Sickness**



Parents are requested to inform the school office by telephone on **the first day** of their child's absence from school due to ill health, by **9.30am** please. The pupils will require a letter confirming their absence on their return to school.

### **Outdoor Play Equipment**

Over the last few years we have worked hard to raise funds to improve the outdoor play areas.

We now have a trim trail, outdoor gym, tyre park, wall games, ground markings and an outdoor classroom.

Children in school have been instructed on when to use the outdoor play equipment. Please can I ask for your support to ensure that it is **not used by anyone** before or after school, whilst you are waiting for your child to start/finish school.

Thank you.

### **Starting School in 2019**

Do you have a child who will be 5 on or between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020?



If so, you need to complete an on-line application for a school place so that your child can start school in September 2019.

**From 11<sup>th</sup> September 2018** you can apply online at [www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions). You will also be able to access a copy of the guide for parents "Primary School Admissions in County Durham 2018/19" which will contain essential information that will help you in making your application.

If you cannot access the Council's website please contact the School Admissions Team, using the details below, and you will be sent a copy of the guide for parents and an application form.

**Please note that the deadline for applications is midnight on 15 January 2019.**

The School Admissions and Transport Team.  
Telephone 03000 265 896

## Parking

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**



Please consider others when dropping off children and picking them up after school. As you are fully aware, the area is a residential one and parking around the school is restricted. Please do not park on the yellow school lines - they are there for the safety of your child. A few parents still insist on dropping their children off in front of the school gates and then have to reverse onto Staintondale, which is extremely dangerous and gives us grave concern as to the safety of other pedestrians. Please refrain from this practice.

Please be considerate to both residents and pedestrians.

**For safety reasons, please DO NOT drive into the school car park at any time to collect or drop off children.**

WE DO NOT WANT ANY ACCIDENTS TO ANY OF OUR PUPILS.  
PLEASE BE AWARE OF HOW YOU ARE PARKING.



### Parent Pay – New Reception Children

We use 'ParentPay', our e-payment provider, for you to pay electronically for **all** school related items (e.g. clubs, ties, water bottles, trips, charity fundraising activities, dinner money for Junior pupils, etc) using your debit or credit card. ParentPay offers you the freedom to make payments whenever and wherever you like, 24hrs a day, 7 days a week, safe in the knowledge that the technology used is of the highest internet security available. Making a payment is straightforward and ParentPay holds a payment history for you to view at any time.

Activation letters have already been sent out to parents of new Reception children for you to activate your unique Parent Pay account. If you do not have access to the Internet, you will have to pay for school items by cash at a local Paypoint store. Please contact the School Office as soon as possible to let us know so that we can make the necessary arrangements.

### Leave of Absence during school term time

Government Regulations state that Head Teachers are **not allowed** to grant any leave of absence during school term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. The Law says that parents **do not** have the right to take their child out of school for holidays during term time.

In order to avoid any difficult or embarrassing conversations, please do not request permission for leave of absence during term time. If you feel your circumstances are exceptional, then please contact Mrs Gargan to discuss your request.

Please consider these questions **before** deciding whether or not it is appropriate to ask for term-time leave:

1. Is the request for leave of absence due to exceptional circumstances?
2. Does my child have a good attendance record? (above 96%).

You **must** complete an application form for term-time leave at least seven days before the absence is due. Each request will be considered on an individual basis. It is therefore essential that you provide as much information as possible to enable an informed decision to be made.

Any pupil who has unauthorised absences that are of 7 days or more in a rolling 12 week period will be considered as persistently absent and the consequence of this is a school referral to the Attendance Improvement Team. This is likely to result in a fixed penalty notice being issued which carries a fine.

**Please retain for future reference**

**Holidays for the Academic Year 2018-2019**

Holiday	Closing Date	Re-open for Teaching
<b>Summer 2018</b> (6 weeks)	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2018	Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> September ( <b>INSET day</b> for staff on Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sept)
<b>Autumn Half Term 2018</b> (1 week)	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> October 2018	Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> October 2018
<b>INSET day</b>	Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November 2018	Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> November 2018
<b>Christmas 2018</b> (2 weeks)	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> December 2018	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> January 2019
<b>Spring Half-Term 2019</b> (1 week)	Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> February 2019	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> February 2019
<b>INSET day</b>	Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> March 2019	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> March 2019
<b>Easter 2019</b> (2 weeks)	Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> April 2019	Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April 2019
<b>May Day</b> (1 day)	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2019	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> May 2019
<b>Summer Half-Term 2019</b> (1 week)	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2019	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2019
<b>Summer 2019</b> (6 weeks + 1 INSET day)	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July 2019	Tues 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2019 ( <b>INSET day</b> for staff on Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sept)

**Holidays for the Academic Year 2019-2020**

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<b>Autumn Half Term 2019</b> (1 week)	Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October 2019	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November 2019
<b>INSET day</b>	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November 2019	Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> November 2019
<b>Christmas 2019</b> (2 weeks)	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2019	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2020
<b>Spring Half-Term 2020</b> (1 week)	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2020	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2020
<b>Easter 2020</b> (2 weeks + 1 INSET day)	Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April 2020	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> April 2020
<b>May Day</b> (1 day)	Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> May 2020	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2020
<b>Summer Half-Term 2020</b> (1 week)	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2020	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2020
<b>Summer 2020</b> (6 weeks + 1 INSET day)	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July 2020	to be determined