



Wolsingham Primary Newsletter

8th September 2023 Volume 1
www.wolsingham-pri.durham.sch.uk

New Beginnings

Welcome to a new term and a new school year at Wolsingham Primary! We are delighted to welcome all of our new pupils, new parents and to welcome Mrs Dakers, Miss Newman and Miss Wilson.

The staff and children have all made a fantastic start to the year and are already hard at work. There is a lovely quiet and productive atmosphere throughout the school. As always, our aim is to continue to instil in all of the children the need to do everything to the very best of their ability, further developing their learning behaviours, so that they can become increasingly independent and take control of their own learning. The expectations of all of the staff will be very high in all aspects of school life from remembering PE kits to learning weekly spellings and completing homework. We want the children of Wolsingham Primary School to have a thirst for knowledge and know what they need to do to improve. We expect our children to complete every piece of work to the highest standard possible. It should be another exciting year!

Just a reminder that it is essential that all children have their PE kits and water bottles in school at all times. Just a reminder that if your child has had their ears pierced over the summer break, they must be covered for PE sessions until a period of 6 weeks following the piercing and then they **MUST** be removed for PE sessions. If your child is not able to remove their earrings themselves, then we recommend that they do not come to school wearing them on days when they take part in PE sessions (including swimming). For health and safety reasons, all earrings worn in school must be studs only and no bracelets or necklaces should be worn.

If you have not already done so, please ensure that your child has brought back to school any school reading books that they had at home. Thank you.

School Councillors and Team Captains

Voting has taken place to elect our new School Councillors and Team Captains. Those children wishing to take on the roles, put themselves forward and the children voted for who they would like to see in the roles. Congratulations to all of our new School Councillors and Team Captains!

Class 2	Harris Hawksford and George Sanderson
Class 3	Sophia Ashton and Cora Kelly
Class 4	Joe Walker and Willow Saunter
Class 5	Isabella Johnson and Chester Mathwin
Class 6	Gabriel Murray-English and Scarlett Goldsborough

Green Team	Carlton Bushby-Rowley and Millie Hopkins
Blue Team	Gabriel Murray-English and Sebastian Randerson
Yellow Team	Finlay Fearn and Drew Nuzzo
Red Team	Euan Goodfellow and Charlotte Garry



Nuts in School

Please remember that ALL nuts or products containing nuts are not allowed in our school or school visits in the form of snacks or in packed lunches. We do have some children who will have an allergic reaction to nuts in any form and this may cause serious harm to them. Thank you for helping to keep our children safe.

Payments to School

We would like to remind parents that payments for school lunches and wrap around care must be paid via ParentPay on a weekly basis. Invoices not paid on time may result in access to services being removed.

Green Nuggets

You may have been hearing children talking about 'Green Nuggets' upon their return to school. This is a new system we have brought in to reward the children for their good behaviour and manners in the classroom and around the school. Children must work as a class to earn green nuggets which will be placed in their class jar. When they reach each milestone, they will receive a class reward as agreed between them and the class teacher. The children have made a brilliant start to earning them. This system will replace the Green Time that has historically taken place on a Friday afternoon.

Forest School

It was such a shame that Covid got in the way of our Forest School development across the school. Therefore, we are keen to get this up and running again so that each class can experience it across the school year. This year we have a Forest Schools Leader coming into school on a Thursday afternoon to carry out activities with the children. Each class will work with Sarah across a half term starting with the children in Class 3 (Year 2). Parents will be sent further information about any equipment their child might need via email.

After School Activities

We are in the process of organising our After School Activities for this half term and more details and booking links will be sent out via email next week. As our new Reception children get used to coming to school full time and are often tired at the end of the school day, particularly in the Autumn term. After school activities offered in the autumn term are therefore only available for pupils in Year 1 to Year 6 pupils.

Key Stage 2 Choir

This year a singing specialist will be working with us to develop a Key Stage 2 choir. Sessions will take place after school on Mondays from 3.15pm until 4pm starting from Monday 11th September. It is a wonderful opportunity for our children to learn some new songs have a good old sing song! All Key Stage 2 children are welcome to join in. We would be grateful if parents could let us know if their child is interested in joining in by using the following link and we would be grateful if for any reason your child will not be attending a particular session, if you could notify the school office.

<https://forms.office.com/e/19Sd5rVaPL>

Applying for a school place for next year

Applications for primary and secondary places opened on Tuesday 5th September. Applications close at midnight on 15th January 2024 (primary) and 31st October 2023 (secondary). Find out more: <https://www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions>. We will be holding an Open Event for any parents of children due to start primary school in September 2024 later in the half term. Please keep an eye out for more details and encourage anyone you know with children of Nursery age to come along to have a look around and find out more about our school.

Swimming Sessions

Class 6 will be swimming on Tuesday afternoons this term. Children will require a swimming kit consisting of a one piece swim suit or trunks (not shorts), a towel and swimming hat which is essential. Goggles are permitted, but are not essential.

School Lunch Payments

We would like to take this opportunity to remind parents that school lunches this year cost £2.50 per day and should be paid for on the **Monday** of each week or at the beginning of the term if you wish to pay for the whole term at once. A reminder to parents of our Year 3 children that free school lunches are only for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 and therefore lunches for Year 3 children will be charged.

Holidays in Term Time

Regular attendance at school is essential if children are to make good progress in their learning. Any absence from school can have such a huge impact on the progress they make. We would like to take this opportunity to remind parents that holidays in term time **will not** be authorised. Unfortunately, on occasions, parents report their child's absence as illness rather than completing the Pupil Leave of Absence form. If we have reason to believe that an absence has been due to holiday rather than illness, these absences will be recorded as unauthorised. Any case of irregular attendance due to unauthorised leave of absence in term time of **7 school days for more** in a minimum 12 rolling school week period **will** be referred to the Attendance Improvement Team to issue a Fixed Penalty Notice. We would also like to remind parents that non-urgent medical and dental appointments wherever possible should also be made out of school hours.

Changing from Lunchtime Arrangements

As the ingredients for our school lunches are pre-ordered it is important that we have at least one week's notice regarding any children changing from school lunch to packed lunch or vice versa, even following the summer break. We would be grateful if parents could contact the school office to make the necessary arrangements.

Meet the Teacher Night – including information about Statutory Assessments

Parents and carers of children in Years 1-6 are warmly invited to our 'Meet the Teacher Night' on **Monday 18th September at 5.00pm**. Teachers will be explaining class procedures and providing important information where appropriate about statutory assessments such as the Year 1 phonics check, Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check and KS2 SATs. The meeting should last no longer than half an hour and is for **parents and carers only**; please try and attend if you can. We look forward to seeing you!

Dates for your diary...

Year 6 Handball Festival	Tuesday 12 th September
Year 1-Year 6 Meet the Teacher Evening	Monday 18 th September
RWInc. Meeting for Reception Parents	Thursday 21 st September
Year 2 Kurling and Boccia Festival	Tuesday 3 rd October
Class 6 Assembly	Wednesday 11 th October 10.30am
EYFS Halloween Craft Sessions	Thursday 26 th October Nurs am / Rec pm
Halloween Dress Up Day	Friday 27 th October
School Closes	Friday 27 th October
School Opens	Monday 6 th November

S. Kitching

Headteacher

School Holiday and Term Dates 2023/24

Holiday	Closing Date	School Opens
Summer Break	Friday 21 st July 2023	Wednesday 6 th September 2023
Autumn Half-Term	Friday 27 th October 2023	Monday 6 th November 2023
Christmas Break	Tuesday 19 th December 2023	Thursday 4 th January 2024
Spring Half-Term	Friday 16 th February 2024	Monday 26 th February 2024
Easter Break	Thursday 28 th March 2024	Monday 15 th April 2024
May Day	Friday 3 rd May 2024	Tuesday 7 th May 2024
Summer Half-Term	Friday 24 th May 2024	Monday 3 rd June 2024
Summer Break	Friday 19 th July 2024	To be confirmed