



January 2024

Esh Winning Primary School NEWSLETTER

Welcome back and a Happy New Year!

It has been lovely to welcome the children back into school and, although it has been a shock to the system for many (children and adults!) to be up and ready so early in the morning, it has been great to get back into a routine so quickly into the new year.

I did an assembly with the children yesterday where we talked about New Year's Resolutions and the fact that 4 out of 5 adults break their resolutions before the end of January! We have decided that we will have our "ins" and "outs, where we can choose those things that we want to do more of (ins) and those that we want to do less of (outs). We have also decided, as a school, that we will make 2024 the year when we all do something to make our world a little bit lighter, a little bit brighter, for everyone. We have a KINDNESS "in" – whenever we receive a kindness, we make a promise to pay it forward. It could be as simple as helping someone with their work, standing up against bullying, or even lending a hand to repaint a wall.

We know that one small act can lead to a cascade of positivity, transforming not just our lives but the lives of those around us and this is our focus at Esh Winning Primary School as we start this New Year. On this note, we all wish a very warm welcome to Mrs Graham who joins us as the Deputy Headteacher of our school and one of the Year 4 teachers.

Mrs Hodgson (Headteacher)

Cream Teas! Cream teas, hot drinks and biscuits are available every Tuesday afternoon during term time between 2.00-4.00pm in the community / library foyer entrance. Please pop in and support this local service

The school runs savings accounts for pupils through NE First C U Savings. Children get a piggy bank once they have saved for 5 weeks. If interested, contact the office.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE INFORMATION Thank you to everyone who came to our Christmas Fayre, we raised an amazing £1200 for school funds!

IMPORTANT DATES	
January 2024	
3rd	School resumes (Wednesday)
February	
15th	Break up for half term holidays
16th	INSET Day, school closed
26th	School resumes
March	
28th	School breaks up for Easter
April	
15th	School resumes (Monday)
May	
6th	Bank Holiday
13th	Year 6 SATS week
24th	School breaks up for half term
June	
3rd	INSET Day, school closed
4th	School resumes (Tuesday)
July	
23rd	Break up for the summer holidays

It is vitally important to check our Arbor App and emails daily. All school information is sent home via the App. Please also follow our Facebook page.

This year SATS WEEK is Monday 13th–Friday 17th May 2024.
It is most important that all year 6 pupils attend school during this week.

Reminder to parents.
If you are arranging for someone different to collect your child from school, please write a note to the class teacher that morning explaining who will be collecting your child. **If there is a last minute change, please ring the school office before 2.30pm. Thank you.**

Please note, young adults MUST be 16 year old or above to pick up pupils from our school.

Jewellery Thank you for supporting our "No Jewellery" policy. For Health and Safety reasons pupils should **not wear earrings or any other jewellery for school.** A sensible watch is permitted. Nail varnish is not school policy



Smile... and greet your child.
Please put your mobile phone away.
Thank you.

Mobile phones in the school Grounds.
Please try and greet your child with a smile, not a mobile.

We would also ask for safeguarding reasons, that parents do not take photographs with any other children in the background while in the school grounds. Thank you!

ATTENDANCE FOR THE AUTUMN TERM 2023

Well done to **Year 2** for being at the top of our leader board with **94.5%**
We had **324 late marks** at school this term!

Please remember the importance of your child arriving to school on time as missing the first part of any lesson can be disruptive and unsettling, both for children and for the rest of the class.

Place Class Percentages

1st Year 2 with 94.5%, **2nd** Reception Class with 94.1%, **3rd** Year 5 with 94%, **4th** Year 4 with 93.4%
5th Year 3 with 93.1%, **6th** Year 1 with 90.5% and **7th** Year 6 with 89.2%

Late

We still have some pupils arriving late. Please remember school starts at 8.50am. It is extremely important your child arrives at school on time as work has been set for them to complete. Being 15 minutes late every morning for a week adds up to 1 hour and 15 minutes of school time lost, over a half term this is 7 and a half hours! This is more than a whole school day. Please ensure your child arrives on time and is ready to work.

Attendance

Please remember your child **must** attend school unless they are ill or have permission from the headteacher. Please remember to phone on the first day your child is absent before 9.30am. If we have not heard from you by 9.30am then you will be contacted by the school office. If we can't contact you, a member of staff may come to your house to check everything is okay. If we are still concerned and still not had any contact, we will ring First Contact as this potentially is a safeguarding concern. As a school we must ensure our pupils access the best possible opportunities available in relation to their education and life long learning therefore all pupils must attend school unless they are ill. If your child is absent and the school believes this is not an authorised absence, we will contact the Education Welfare Officer to discuss your child's absence percentage.

Leave of Absence Forms

Thank you to those parents/carers who have followed the correct procedures in relation to requesting a leave of absence due to exceptional circumstances. When completing the leave of absence form for Mrs Hodgson please remember to state when, how long for and **why** you are requesting to take your child out of school during term time. The School Governors have recently reviewed the system in place and some changes have been agreed to 'exceptional circumstances'. Once Mrs Hodgson has received your form you will be sent a letter and a copy of the signed form stating whether the absence will be authorised or un-authorised and we may request more information from yourself or employers.

Durham County Council's Fixed Penalty Notice Protocol acknowledges that regular and punctual attendance at school is both a legal requirement and essential for pupils to maximise their educational opportunities. Circumstances where a Penalty Notice might be issued include unauthorised leave of absence in term time, or other parentally condoned absence where the absence amounts to **seven school days or more in a minimum twelve rolling school week period**. You can be prosecuted if you receive a fixed penalty notice and it is not paid.

Dental/Medical Appointments

If your child has a dental/medical appointment, please remember they must come to school first if at all possible. Pupils do not need to be absent from school all day for an appointment which may only take half an hour. If they come to school first they will get their mark, even if this is only for a short period of time.

Sickness Absence

If your child is ill and unable to come to school, please inform the school office daily before 9.30am. It may be possible for work to be completed at home. They may be well enough to undertake some tasks set by their class teacher. This will ensure they do not miss too much school work and on their return have an understanding of current topics discussed in class. If you feel your child is well enough to complete work at home please contact school.