



Durham County Council
Chilton Primary School

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Dear Parents

8th September 2017

On behalf of the Governors and staff, I would like to extend a very warm welcome back to you all! We hope that you have had a wonderful Summer break - and that the children are all feeling rested and ready for the new term, excitement and challenges that lie ahead.... A lot of important items in this first newsletter of the year!

Data Collection / Family Contact Details

Data Collection Sheets were sent out to all families on Wednesday. It is **vitaly important** that up to date contacts and indemnities are signed and returned to school as soon as possible.

Following very positive feedback from parents, we are again continuing to use our texting service to contact families this year and it is therefore **essential** that we have correct up-to-date mobile telephone numbers. Thank you for your co-operation.

Uniform (including PE Kit)

As you will be aware, uniform plays an essential part in promoting positive attitudes towards learning and a sense of belonging. Can I remind parents that ties are worn with white shirts in KS2 (Year 3 - Year 6) and that footwear should consist of **solid** black shoes or trainers (no logos, white stripes etc please). Any laces should also be black.

Comfortable, practical clothing is also required for PE. It is strongly advised that you purchase our school kit - which is good quality and suitable for all physical activities (with the exception of swimming). NB - if a solid black trainer is worn as a school shoe, a **second** pair of trainers would be required for the PE kit - as a shoe worn for everyday wear may not be used in our main hall or school gymnasium. Our Uniform Policy is available from the school website.

Holidays taken in Term-time

Unfortunately, due to holidays being taken during the latter part of the summer term, our overall school attendance for 2016-17 dropped below the expected national average. This was disappointing - as since 2011-12 our attendance levels had been very good. As you will know, the Department for Education expects all students in primary schools to have a minimum attendance of 95% and strongly advise against parents/carers taking their children out of school during term-time. As a mainstream school, we are obliged to follow this policy. If you intend to take your child out of school, a holiday form **MUST** be completed - and, preferably, as far in advance of the intended absence as possible. This form is available to download from the school website or from the main school office. Thank you for your co-operation and support.

'Meet the Teacher' Meetings

In order to get the year off to the best start possible, we are holding our annual 'Meet the Teacher' Meetings on Monday 25th September from 3:30 - 6pm. Please ring or e-mail the school office before Wednesday 13 September if you have a preferred time slot. The main office will then issue confirmed appointment times via text once all requests have been collated.

Nursery/Reception staff will also be available during the day; Reception will be open for parents from 2pm onwards for parents to drop in and see the children in their setting - whilst Nursery Afternoon parents are welcome from 2:45 - 3pm to do the same.

If, however, your child attends Nursery and/or Reception - and you would like to have an individual appointment between 3.30pm and 6pm - please either telephone or email the main office to arrange an appointment.

Class Newsletters

All class newsletters will be sent to parents via Parentpay tonight (Friday) and will also be available on the school website; we hope that you find them useful. Please do not hesitate to contact staff should you have any questions or suggestions.

Dates for your Diary

Monday 25th September - 'Meet the Teacher'

Monday 11th September Morning - Green Watch Anti-Litter Campaign / Prince William Award

Thursday 28th September 1:30 - 3pm - Y3 'Fossils' Science Event at Ferryhill Station in conjunction with Durham University

Wednesday 11th - Friday 13th October - Judo Taster Sessions

Harvest Festival St. Aidan's Church - to be agreed

Thursday 19th October - Tempest School Photography

Friday 20th October - School closes at 3:15pm for Autumn Half-Term Holiday

Monday 30th October - School re-opens for teaching purposes at 8:50am

Dinner Money (KS2 students only)

Dinner money should be paid weekly - or monthly in advance via Parent Pay or at the local Pay Point Centre. The cost for a full week is £10.00. Accounts should not be in arrears - if this happens we may have consider withdrawing lunches until the arrears are cleared.

Please do not hesitate to contact school via the main office with any comments, suggestions or queries that you may have.

Very best wishes to you all,

Mrs A Pybus-Coates

Headteacher