

Hesleden Primary School – Newsletter [Jan 2024]



Happy New Year and welcome back to school – we hope you all had a relaxing break.

After-school clubs

After-school clubs will start again this week and last for the 6-week half-term. Letters have been sent home to confirm places.

Family Fridays

Our first Family Fridays in October were very well attended and enjoyed by staff and children. We hope you were impressed with the standard of work and activities you were able to be involved in. Future sessions will continue to run from 9.00am-9.30am and are as follows:

| | | |
|---------------|----------------|------------|
| Classes 1 & 3 | Fri 26 January | Fri 10 May |
| Classes 2 & 4 | Fri 9 February | Fri 3 May |

Family Fridays will run in the alternate half-term to parent consultations so that you have an opportunity every half-term to speak to teachers. **Parent consultations** this term will be held towards the end of March (before the Easter break) and will be by telephone call.

Events for children – Spring 1st half

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Th 11 Jan | C3 - We Eat Elephants (problem solving sessions) x5 weeks |
| Th 25 Jan | KS2 enterprise morning with Sarah McAllister |
| Th 1 Feb | KS1 enterprise morning with Sarah McAllister |
| Tu 6/Wed 7 Feb | Adam Bushnell writing workshops |

These are the events which are already confirmed. Any others will be shared with you as soon as details become available. Family Fridays (dates above) are currently our only 'audience' events this half-term.

2023-2024 Holidays

| Holiday | Closing Date | Re-open for Teaching Purposes |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Spring half-term 2024 | Friday 16 February 2024 | Monday 26 February 2024 |
| Easter 2024 | Thursday 28 March 2024 | Monday 15 April 2024 |
| May Day 2024 | Friday 3 May 2024 | Tuesday 7 May 2024 |
| Summer half-term 2024 | Thursday 23 May 2024 | Monday 3 June 2024 |
| Summer 2024 | Tuesday 23 July 2024 | |

School will be closed for the following staff training day: Fri 24 May 2024

Reception Class - Applications for Sept 2024

Parents who have children in Nursery, and who were born between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020 must apply for a place in a Reception class so that they can start school in September 2024. *Just because they attend our Nursery does not automatically give them a place in Reception.* **The deadline for this application is Monday, 15th January.** If you have not yet made your application, or are unsure how, please speak to Mrs Medcalf and she will help. If you need access to the internet, we can help with that too:

<https://www.durham.gov.uk/article/2189/Apply-now-for-a-primary-school-place-deadline-15-January-2023>

Winter Illnesses

Although we are aware of the importance of regular attendance at school, we are also concerned with keeping everyone, staff and children, as well as we can. You can download the parent app at: <https://www.nenc-healthiertogether.nhs.uk/> for help if you are worried about your child. Please keep children at home if they are unwell.

Health & Safety

We are in the half-term which is usually very wet and cold, so please ensure children are coming to school in winter coats and sensible shoes (no Crocs, please). Wellies are used by all children outdoors (all children have wellies in school) for playtimes. We often lend children water-proof bottoms if they are playing on the field.

Children should have a school jumper/cardigan or other warm top over their t-shirt as non-uniform hoodies and coats are not allowed in classrooms; jumpers can be removed if children become too hot.

Jewellery – there are an increasing number of bracelets being worn in school – **bracelets are not allowed** and children will be told to remove them. This includes friendship bracelets, as well as those which are more expensive! We occasionally make an exception (i.e. poppy appeal bands, but these are for time-limited periods).

Drop-off – Can we please remind you that **parents and carers are not allowed into school on a morning**, unless it is Family Friday. Any messages should be passed on at the gate, medicines etc. can be handed in at the office. There are always adults available to help younger children into school if required.

Parent Governor Vacancy

Being a parent governor is an invaluable way to help support and improve our school. You have the opportunity to get 'behind the scenes' and see how we operate and why we make the decisions we do. We currently have a Parent vacancy on our Governing body. Please consider this opportunity to support our school.

Parent governors play an important role as members of the governing body. This involves several main responsibilities (acting as a 'group'):

- plan the school's future direction
- be accountable for the overall performance of the school
- ensure that the school makes appropriate provision for all its pupils
- ensure that the school actively promotes the pupils' spiritual, moral and cultural development
- have strategic oversight of the school's budget and staffing
- ensure financial probity

The term of office for parent governors as determined by the governing body is 4 years. The school has high expectations of the time and commitment required from its governors in order to effectively fulfil their roles.

All parents of children at the school are eligible to stand. This includes:

- parents of children attending nursery, either full-time or part-time
- any person who is not a natural parent but has parental responsibility, or who has care of the child (Education Act 1996, Section 576)

Parents who are employed at the school for more than 500 hours per year are NOT eligible to stand for election as Parent Governors.

If you are interested in becoming a Governor and would like to know more, please contact the school to speak to Mrs Dunn or Laura Jamieson (Chair of Governors).

We look forward to seeing you in school later this half-term, and thank you for your ongoing support.

Mrs Dunn

Letters and information sent home are uploaded to our website at least half-termly, visit us at www.hesleden.durham.sch.uk; Up-to-date news and pictures are shared through our Twitter account, including home learning opportunities and other useful links, follow us at www.twitter.com/hesledenprimary



Twitter.com



School website