



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to school! This half-term is 5 weeks long and runs until Good Friday. Please find below useful and important information.

Reminders from information given before half-term:

- **KS2 Moor House Residential**

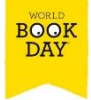
We will be holding an information meeting on Monday 4 March at 3pm in the hall. Please do your best to attend as there are forms to complete and information to receive.

- **School Photos – Monday 4 March**

The school photographer will be in school on Monday 4 March to take individual and family group photos. This will be arranged during the morning for children in school, however if you have pre-school children who you would like to join a family group, please bring them to school at 9am, and Mrs Medcalf will make the arrangements.

- **World Book Day**

We will be marking World Book Day on Friday 8th March (WBD is the Thursday, but this is a PE day with coaches due in school) and **children are invited to come to school dressed as a book character, or in pyjamas ready for storytime!** Mrs Johnson will create a timetable of activities, including our 'Masked Reader' competition!



- **Comic Relief – Friday 15 March**

This year we will be selling Red Noses during the week of Comic Relief (w/c 11 March). We have enough for every child (Reception – Y6) to buy one each. Noses cost £2 and money should be sent in from 11 March and noses will be given out on the day, so that all children have them for our activities. On Friday 15 March, children can come to school in **RED** and donations can be sent on the day.



- **Home-time change for Classes 1 and 2** - C1 & C2 will be swapping the order in which they come out of school at 3pm. Class 1 will leave first, as there are fewer children. Class 2 will come out after. The pickup point remains unchanged.

Other news – this half-term:

After-school clubs

After-school clubs will start again this week and last for the 5-week half-term. Letters have been sent home to confirm places.

Year 6 Booster club

Mr Smith will be running Y6 club on Wednesdays this half term (there are 4 sessions). There will also be a **meeting for parents** to learn a little more about SATs, what they are, how they are managed etc. This will take place on **Tuesday 5 March at 3pm in Class 4.**

Parent Consultations

This term, teachers will be making telephone calls to parents to share progress information about children. If you are not available, messages will be left, or repeat calls will be made, so please don't worry about calling back. We will also be sending an electronic link to our annual parent survey which can be completed on your mobile devices. The survey will only take minutes to complete and we would appreciate your feedback.

Personal Items from Home

Can we please remind you that children should not bring any items into school from home. This includes toys such as cars, bears or games.

There may be times when children are asked to bring in things that relate to their learning, and some children bring in awards for us to celebrate in assemblies, but nothing else should be brought in.

Morning Drop-off

Can we please remind you to please not make u-turns or drops offs on the corner at the top of the school drive. We appreciate your support in helping us to keep all children safe.

Request for donations

"One person's rubbish is another person's treasure"

We are looking to supplement our **'loose parts'** outdoor resources. If you have anything that you are getting rid of that you might think our children can make use of, please let us know (or ask if you're not sure!), some ideas include:

- Buckets
- Cardboard boxes
- Crates
- Wood - tree stumps, decking, planks, sticks and poles.
- Kitchen items such as old pots and pans, spoons, baking tins, jugs, bowls, rolling pins, whisks
- Bicycle wheels
- Musical equipment
- Tents
- Piping / guttering
- Plastic garden pots
- Suitcases
- Rugs
- Sledges
- Tarpaulin
- Traffic cones
- Wind breakers
- Wire Reels

Our **Early Years** are also looking for donations of prams or pushchairs for their outdoor space. We would be grateful for anything we can reuse or recycle.

Finally, we hope to have a **giant Easter raffle** – all children will receive a free ticket, and further tickets will be on sale towards the end of term. If you can, and are willing, we would appreciate donations of prizes. These could include Easter eggs, small sweet treats, Easter crafts etc.

Parent Governor Vacancy

We still have a vacancy for a parent and a co-opted governor. Please see previous newsletters for information, or 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).

① Length of the school day – changes ①

Earlier this year we told you that, from September 2024, the Government expects all schools to be open to children for a minimum of 32.5 hours (1950 minutes) per week. Our current opening times fall short of this, and changes to our school day will mean longer days for all. Through consultation with staff and governors, we have decided that the following opening times will come into place:

4 Longer days & 1 Shorter day [1950 minutes]

Monday – Thursday: 8:55-15:30 = 1580

Friday: 8:55-15:05 = 370

We have decided to keep the start time the same as it currently is, with doors opening at 8.40am.

We have also decided to implement this for the second half of the summer term (from Monday 3rd June 2024), so that we can trial different ways of using the extended hours, ready for timetabling and planning for September 2024.

If you have any comments or questions, please get in touch with us at school.

2023-2024 Holidays

Holiday	Closing Date	Re-open for Teaching Purposes
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

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