



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back

We have had our welcome back assembly this morning and all of the children have welcomed each other. We were especially pleased to see our new Year 6 role models. We were delighted to see how smart everyone was this morning – well done and thank you!

Our assembly included lots of reminders about school routines, behaviour and expectations – many of which are provided here for your information. This newsletter also includes dates we have set for the year – please add these to your diaries – we will keep you updated with additions and changes.

On Friday 5th September at 3:05p.m. you will have the opportunity to meet your child's class teacher (please see additional note for details).

Letters and information sent home will be uploaded to our website, please visit us at www.hesleden.durham.sch.uk
Up-to-date news and photographs will be shared through our X [Twitter] account. Please use this platform to observe learning opportunities and developments. This is the best way for you to keep updated with our developments and it will raise the profile of our lovely school.

Our School Day

- Please support your child to be punctual at the beginning of each school day.
- The doors will continue to be open at 8:40 a.m.
- All children are expected to be in school by **8:55 a.m.**
- Please continue to be considerate where you park, and take care when pulling away.
- The school day will continue to finish at **3:30 p.m. Monday to Thursday, and 3:05p.m. on Friday.**
- For safeguarding purposes, please collect your child from the playground area each day (please remember dogs/pets are not allowed on our school site).

As a school, we promote high expectations

Children have been reminded today:

Uniform is expected to be worn every day.

'School uniforms are important because they promote equality by reducing socioeconomic disparities and peer pressure related to clothing, enhance safety by making it easy to identify students, and improve the learning environment by reducing distractions and fostering a sense of focus and discipline. Additionally, uniforms create a sense of community, school pride, and belonging, and can simplify morning routines for both parents and students.'

We still have a good stock of new and pre-loved uniform in lots of sizes. Please contact our Office Manager Paula Medcalf, if required.

- **Jewellery** (ear-rings; bracelets etc.) is **not allowed in school**. Watches (**not smart watches**) are allowed, however they must be removed for P.E. Children cannot play with/on equipment whilst wearing jewellery (even taped up ear-rings).
- We would prefer all boys and girls to tie up their **long hair**. This helps to prevent the spread of head lice, and is a safety requirement for PE and playing on the outdoor equipment.
- **Mobile** phones are not permitted in classes or lockers. If your child needs to bring a mobile phone to school, please hand it into the school office at the beginning of the day and collect it from Mrs Medcalf at the end of the school day.
- **PE Kits** – We expect children to wear a school t-shirt (collared or round neck), plain black or navy-blue jogging bottoms or shorts and trainers). We would appreciate it if your child did **not wear logo** items to promote equality (as stated above - *school uniform section*).

Please arrive wearing your PE kit on the following days:

- **Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 – Thursday**
- **Year 3 & 4 – Tuesday**

Swimming

Years 5 and 6 will be swimming during the first half term. This will commence next week on **Thursday 11th September** (children will require a swimming cap). Years 3 and 4 will start their swimming lessons in Autumn 2 (after our half term break).

After school clubs

Clubs will commence week beginning 15th September and will continue to run on Tuesday and Thursday each week (*letter to follow*). Clubs will finish at 4:15p.m. Please collect your child from the playground area.

Photographer – A letter to follow

Arbor

We communicate with parents and carers via Arbor (online system). Please ensure you have updated your email and phone numbers if these have changed. This system also allows you book breakfast and after-school provision and make payments for school lunches, wrap around care and educational visits.

2025-26 School holidays

| Holidays – 2025 - 2026 | 1 st day of holiday | Re-open for Teaching Purposes |
|---|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Autumn half-term 2025 | 27 th October | 3 rd November |
| Christmas 2025 | 22 nd December | 5 th January |
| Spring half-term 2026 | 23 rd February | 2 nd March |
| Easter 2026 | Friday 3 rd April (BH) | 20 th April |
| May Day 2025 | Monday 4 th May | Tuesday 5 th May |
| Summer half-term | 25 th May (BH) | 1 st June |
| Summer 2025 | 21 st July | |
| School will be closed for the staff training day: Tuesday 2 nd September; Friday 28 th November; Monday 20 th July; | | |

Parent Consultations

Parent consultations will be **face to face** each term. If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher or Mrs Johnson as soon as possible.

As Acting Head Teacher, I wish to continue to develop positive relationships with all stakeholders including parents and carers. I am so grateful to **all** Parents, Carers, Staff, Governors and Volunteers from our local community (especially Mr Vickers (Ray) and Mr and Mrs Sara (Les and Anita) for supporting me in my role. Details of our summer holiday project will follow. We are very proud of the improvements we have made over the summer holidays.

Together we can *Help our Pupils to Succeed (our school motto)*.

Mrs Johnson

Acting Head Teacher

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