

Leadgate Primary School – Friday Newsletter

Caring, Sharing, Learning Together

Friday, 18th September 2020

This day in history

122 Building begins of Hadrian's Wall

1966 Star Trek appears on TV for the 1st time on NBC



Face Masks

Face masks are not required for children under 12 according to the government guidance. If your child wears a mask to school, we would ask that disposable masks are disposed of in the bin at the door and reusable masks are stored in a plastic ziplock bag until home time and washed everyday.

Welcome Back and local Lock down

May I take this opportunity to welcome everyone back to school and thank you for your patience and understanding in working with our new routines including staggered start and end times. A special welcome to our new Nursery and Reception children, and those that have joined us from other schools.

At present, we are unable to maintain our normal open door policy, but ask that you keep in touch via email or phone should you have any query or concerns so that they can be dealt with immediately.

Given the new requirements of the local lockdown we will be reviewing how the school runs however we have no plan to make changes to the current staggered start and end times until we can fully assess the impact on families and staff families. Any changes will be sent to parents before implementation.

Hand Sanitiser

Hand sanitiser is provided in every classroom and at various other stations throughout school. Children should not bring in hand sanitiser from home. And parents are reminded that this is 70% alcohol.

Bags and Additional Equipment

Please do not send your child to school with bags unless necessary. Additional equipment such as pencil cases should also not be sent in. Everything required is provided for the children in school.

PE Kits

PE kits should be worn to school on the days the children have PE to minimise the number of bags coming in to school. The PE days for each class are listed below

REC – Tuesday and Thursday

Y1 – Tuesday and Wednesday

Y2 – Monday and Thursday

Y3 – Wednesday and Friday

Y4 – Tuesday and Friday

Y5 – Monday and Thursday

Y6 – Tuesday and Wednesday

Until further notice from the County – there will be no swimming lessons for any classes.

Water Bottles

Can we remind parents the children should only have water or sugar free water based drinks in school. No fizzy drinks, energy drinks or milk shakes are allowed. If you are unable to provide a water bottle please contact the office as we have a limited number of water bottles which can be sent home for home to school use.

School Uniform

Should you wish to purchase school uniform, School Uniform is available online from Tots to Teams.

www.totstoteams.com

There is also a link to follow on our school website in the Parent's Section.

School Meals

School meals for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are provided under the Universal free school meals, however the costs for Upper school pupils is £2.10 per day payable on Monday. **Please note the increase in price. Meals for a week will now be £10.50.**

If your circumstances change and you think you may be eligible for free school meals please contact the school office.

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Secondary School Places for September 2021

If your child is in Year 6 and will be transferring to secondary school in September 2021, you must apply for their school place before October 31st 2020. This is done through Durham County Council. Please visit www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions for further information.

When you apply on-line you will receive an acknowledgement and you will be offered a school place for your child by email on 1st March 2021. Late applications may not receive their first choice school. As Consett Academy was oversubscribed last year we would advise you to apply as soon as possible, if this is your first choice.

Reception Places for September 2021

If your child turns 5 between 1st of September 2021 and 31st August 2022 you need to apply for a Reception place for September 2021. This is done through Durham County Council. Please visit www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions for further information. Applications are now open.

You still need to apply for a Reception place even if your child already attends our Nursery.

Flu Vaccinations

The flu vaccinations are due to be delivered in school on 24th November 2020. Consent forms have been sent home with your child today. Please complete the form and return to school by Friday 25th of September 2020.

All children from Reception to Year 6 may have the vaccination. It is free and recommended for children. It is administered via a quick and simple nasal spray.

If you do not complete the form your child will not be able to have the vaccination in school.

Class Dojo

We would like to remind all families to sign up for a parent account on ClassDojo. It is a quick and easy way to communicate with your child's teacher.

You can use it on any device. It's a simple, free mobile app for iOS and Android, and can also be accessed from your computer at classdojo.com.

Grants for School Shoes and Coats

With Winter fast approaching we would like parents to be mindful of the available grant for shoes and coats. Thornhill Primary now administers the School Benevolent Fund on behalf of all schools across County Durham. This is a registered charity which offers a grant towards shoes and coats for school pupils.

A grant of up to £35.00 can be awarded towards a winter coat and up to £35.00 for a pair of shoes depending on parents/guardians meeting a number of criteria.

To apply for the school benevolent fund, go to <http://www.durham.gov.uk/schoolbenevolentfund> download and complete School Benevolent Fund Application Form and return to:

School Benevolent Fund
Thornhill Primary School
Thornhill Gardens
Shildon
County Durham
DL4 1ES Telephone: 01388 772 906

Packed Lunches

If your child has a packed lunch can you please try to use a plastic one as these are easier to wipe down and sanitise. Please ensure lunchboxes are thoroughly washed every day.

Dogs

Durham County Council has a no dogs policy on school sites. Please do not bring your dog on to the school premises. If you bring your dog to school you must wait outside the school gates.

Covid Test Kits

The government has provided schools with a very limited number of kits to be provided in exceptional circumstances. Please contact school if you require further information.

Contact Details

If you have a new telephone number or email address please contact the office as soon as possible to update our records.
Can we remind Nursery and Reception parents to return their contact packs as soon as possible.

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Key dates and Diary dates

Due to our current situation, we have not confirmed any additional activities, visits, assemblies etc that would normally fill a very busy term. However, where possible children and classes will be celebrating some key days like Anti Bullying Day, International Day of Languages, Safer Internet Day and more through the use of virtual assemblies, videos and in class activities. We will keep you updated on these events as they happen.

Annual Term Dates

Please note there will also be inset days the dates of which will be confirmed in next week's newsletter

Holiday	Closing date	Date re-opens
Summer 2020	Monday 20 July 2020	Tuesday 1 September 2020
Autumn half-term 2020	Friday 23 October 2020	Monday 2 November 2020
Christmas 2020	Friday 18 December 2020	Monday 4 January 2021
Spring half-term 2021	Friday 12 February 2021	Monday 22 February 2021
Easter 2021	Friday 26 March 2021	Monday 12 April 2021
May Day 2021	Friday 30 April 2021	Tuesday 4 May 2021
Summer half-term 2021	Friday 28 May 2021	Monday 7 June 2021
Summer 2021	Tuesday 20 July 2021	Wednesday 1 September 2021