

Stonewall Champion School *Article 14 - all children have the right to think and believe what they want*

We have recently taken part in anti-bullying training and are now a Stonewall Champion School. We are very proud of this as it is very much in keeping with our wellbeing agenda and our Rights Respecting School ethos.



Visits and Visitors *Article 28 - every child has the right to an education*

Beech Class have visited St Helen's Church and enjoyed celebrating a Christening led by Fr McTeer. The children were keen to ask lots of questions and find out all about the church. Fr McTeer commented on how well behaved our children were and how they represented our school well. Dave from Skip2Bfit has been into school to work with our sports leaders and they have developed a bank of games and activities to keep everyone active at playtime. We look forward to learning more of their fitness routines over the coming weeks!

Sporting events *Article 15 - every child has the right to join groups*

Our tag rugby team has been in action this half term. They have played several games and so far are sitting quite close to the top of the leaderboard. The children represent our school well and show great teamwork. Thank you to Miss Turner and Mrs Lowrie for overseeing our tag rugby team and for coaching them well! Our Handball teams played in the local festival at St John's last week. I am proud to report that both teams left the competition as unbeaten champions! Well done to all of those children who took part.

Children's roles of responsibility *Article 12 - every child has the right to an opinion*

Our Rights Respecting Ambassadors have been working hard to develop some children's school aims which will be present in all of our new school policies. They will be involved in monitoring rights in action in class and around school over the next couple of weeks. Dave from Skip2Bfit has been into school to work with our sports leaders and they have developed a bank of games and activities to keep everyone active at playtime. We look forward to learning more of their fitness routines over the coming weeks!

Parent drop in sessions *Article 3 - the best interests of the child should be top priority*

Our drop in sessions are proving to be quite popular. If there are any issues you want to raise, please feel free to pop along on a Wednesday between 9:00am and 10:00am for a confidential meeting with Miss O'Neil.

Nut allergies and packed lunches *Article 19 - all children have the right to be safe*

As you will be aware we have some children in our school who suffer severe reactions to nuts. We would request that all our parents be extra vigilant about packed lunches and snacks that may contain nuts or nut products. Please ensure no sandwich fillings have nuts or traces of nut. If packed lunches include processed/ packaged items, please check ingredients and do not include Nutella, Bueno, peanut butter etc. If your child is diagnosed with a nut allergy (or any allergy that could affect your child's health and well-being in school) please inform the SENCo, Miss O'Neil. Thank you so much for your support, helping to assure the safety of all our children in school.

Harvest festival *Article 24 - every child has the right to nutritious food and clean water*

Thank you very much to those of you who joined us this week for our Harvest Festival, it was lovely to see so many of you there. We are grateful for all of your contributions to the harvest table. Together we collected a substantial amount of harvest gifts to donate to the Durham Food Bank based at The Well. Our Year 5 and 6 children proudly delivered these items on Wednesday this week. Thank you.

Attendance *Article 28 - every child has the right to an education*

Our overall attendance today stands at 94.6%. Please make a huge effort to help improve our school attendance and put your class at the top of the leaderboard. Currently Maple is winning with a class attendance of 96.71%. Your child's attendance is important and we will contact parents of children where attendance is causing concern to offer further advice and support. We are monitored closely by the local authority; low attendance could trigger their intervention and persistent absence can lead to parents being issued a fine or further enforcement action.

Safeguarding - Are your contact details up to date? *Article 19 - all children have the right to be safe*

It is important that we have up to date contact details for all children here on file at school. Please drop us a note if you think we may not have your current contact number: home, work or mobile. For safeguarding purposes we must also be informed of any changes to your child's home address/living arrangements as soon as possible.

Reading at Oakley Cross *Article 28 - every child has the right to an education*

Mrs Collier will continue to lead our school book club this year. We have new books on offer to browse, buy and read at home. We will be holding a school book club later this term and Mrs Collier will be continuing the savings club so children can save in advance. Children can save a small amount each week or fortnight and will have their very own savings card to keep a record of their savings. This money can then be used at the school book fair. Reading is important to us and we want your child to be the best they can be. We really appreciate your support by taking time to hear your child read at home and 10 minutes each day. This has a very significant impact on improving their fluency and comprehension.

Governor Vacancy *Article 28 - every child has the right to an education*

We currently have a vacancy for a parent governor on our school governing body. If you are interested in this role or would like more information, please pop in to school.

Parent Mail *Article 17 - you have the right to get information that is important to you*

Thank you to everyone who has now registered with Parent Mail to receive all our school letters and bulletins. If you have registered but not downloaded the FREE app please do so. Parents who have, tell us this makes receiving our messages so much easier than relying on email alone as you will receive a notification alert.

Nursery Places *Article 28 - every child has the right to an education*

We still have places available in our nursery. If you are interested in a place or would like more information, please pop in to school and we will be happy to show you round and provide you with an application form.

Messy Play Sessions *Article 31 - all children have the right to play*

This term we will have Messy Play Sessions running in school. These are led by 'Little L's Mess-a-Lot' and are open to anyone interested. The sessions are suitable for babies sitting up unaided through to children of 5. Sessions are in our school hall on a Tuesday morning at 10:00am and cost £5 per session. This includes coffee for adults, a drink and snack for children and time to explore and play. Our session dates are as follows:

15th October

22nd October

5th November

12th November

19th November

26th November

3rd December

Litter *Article 19 - all children have the right to a clean and safe environment*

It has been brought to our attention that there is an increased amount of litter outside of school. Please help us to keep our local area clean and tidy. Please do not drop litter, encourage your child to put any litter in the bin or in their pocket until they are near a bin. Thank you

Term Dates 2019/20

AUTUMN HALF TERM	Friday 25 th October 19	Monday 4 th November 19
CHRISTMAS 18	Friday 20 th December 19	Tuesday 7 th January 20
SPRING HALF TERM	Friday 14 th February 20	Monday 24 th February 20
EASTER 19	Friday 3 rd April 20	Monday 20 th April 20
MAY DAY	Thursday 7 th May 20	Monday 11 th May 20
SUMMER HALF TERM	Friday 22 nd May 20	Tuesday 2 nd June 20
SUMMER 19	Friday 17 th July 20	TBC

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 23 rd October	Halloween Disco 4.30-6pm
Friday 25 th October	Break up for half term
Monday 4 th November	School re-opens
Tuesday 5 th November	Flu vaccines - more information to follow
Wednesday 6 th November	Y5/6 football league begins
Monday 11 th November	Sycamore Class Remembrance Assembly
Wednesday 13 th November	Y5 and Y6 to Dukeshouse Wood
Wednesday 13 th November	Beech Class 'Special Person' Lunch
Week beginning Monday 18 th November	Parent and teacher meetings this week
Tuesday 19 th November	Y2 kurling and boccia festival
Thursday 28 th November	Y5/6 boccia school games event

IMPORTANT DATES

We have a number of statutory assessments to complete within school and it is very important that children are in school during these periods:

11th May to 14th May 2020 - KS2 SATs - all of Maple Class (Y6 children) must be in school

18th May to 22nd May 2020 - KS1 SATs - all of Pine Class (Y2 children) must be in school

8th June to 12th June 2020 - Y1 Phonics Check - all of Beech Class (Y1 children) must be in school

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with school if you want to put forward a suggestion or discuss anything.

Thank you.

R Brannan