



Newsletter

27th September 2019

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

Our Year 6 children experienced a fantastic WW2 Evacuee Day. Thank you to Mr Robinson for organising this event to bring the children's learning to life and to Weardale Railways, Eden Coaches and the Parish Council for supporting the day. Our children in Maple class also had a very informative workshop session led by Isha Shakir when they explored the effects of Islamophobia on individuals. The children are keen to work with Isha again in the future to find out more about Islam. Maple class has also been very busy in computing as they have attended a series of lessons at Staindrop School. Feedback on both their engagement in these sessions and behaviour has been very positive. Maple class has also enjoyed a fun packed 'Believe and Achieve' morning at King James. They took part in a range of activities, all of the children represented the school well and their good behaviour was commented upon. Well done Maple Class!

Blossom special person lunch *Article 24 - every child has the right to nutritious food and clean water*

Thank you very much to those of you who came along to enjoy lunch with your child. The children really enjoyed sharing lunchtime and it was lovely to see so many of you there. Thank you to our kitchen staff too.

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 a number of games and so far are doing well. 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! The children will be in action again next week. Our Handball teams will be in action next week. Let's hope we can report more successes. Children across school took part in a judo taster session. It was clear to see their enjoyment and many displayed good skill too. Thank you to Miss Turner for arranging this session.

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

We actively encourage our children to take on responsibilities in school and to volunteer for clubs and roles which impact positively on our school community. So far, this year, classes have elected children to be Rights Respecting Ambassadors who will be ensuring the rights of children in school are respected. Our children who held the role of Playground Guardian last year have attended their refresher training and are always available to support others with friendships. A number of children applied in school for the position of sports leaders and those appointed will shortly be receiving their training with a view to them supporting active playtimes.

Phoenix champions project *Article 13 - every child has the right to information*

We have been chosen as one of only three schools across Durham to take part in The Phoenix Champions Project. This project has been developed by the fire service as a pro-active education tool to reduce the number of fires started by arson. Our children in Y6 will be actively engaged in this project and we will keep you updated with how they get on. Let's hope they can spread the word about fire safety in our community and we can look to keeping our children safe.

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.

Jewellery *Article 19 - all children have the right to be safe*

We have a number of children wearing jewellery to school. For Health & Safety reasons we discourage the wearing of any form of jewellery in Nursery and School. This is supported by the Government through the Department for Education (DFE) and Local Authority regulations and guidance. We aim to keep all children safe from harm and ask you, as parents, to adhere to this by not allowing your child to come to school wearing

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jewellery. A wrist watch is allowed, but not an interactive watch. A single pair of studs can be worn but **MUST** be removed for PE. All other forms of jewellery including rings, necklaces, bracelets, hoops and dangling earrings must not be worn for school.

Swearing *Article 19 - all children have the right to be safe*

Please remember we do not tolerate the use of inappropriate language (swearing) in school, particularly in front of children. We strive to set a very good example in front of our children and have high expectations of all members of our school community.

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

As some of you are 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*

Our Harvest festival is on Wednesday 9th October at 9:10 am and you are all welcome to join us in the school hall. We are once again collecting harvest gifts for the Durham Food Bank based at The Well. We would be grateful for any donations of tins, packets, dried food etc for our Harvest table. Please send any donations in school from Monday 7th October. 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 96.51%. 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.

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

I have received several holiday requests recently which are all considered on an individual basis. Please remember I can only authorise leave in 'exceptional circumstances' and this does not generally include holidays. Please also be aware that exceptional is 'rare' or a 'one off' and not something that happens year in and year out. Holidays in term time have a huge impact on your child's learning and they miss so much if they are absent for a week or more. It is difficult to catch up and your child can become distressed when they find something tough having missed out on prior learning. Please consider booking holidays in the 13 weeks allocated as school holidays rather than in the time we have dedicated to teaching and learning. Thank you.

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

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

Some of our parents find the presence of dogs in the school grounds stressful, even frightening particularly with younger children. Even well-behaved dogs can behave unpredictably when placed in a busy, noisy and crowded environment. Therefore school policy is that no dogs are allowed on school premises (either on a lead or carried). We would appreciate your co-operation by not bringing your pet to school.

Headlice *Article 24 - you have the right to the best healthcare possible and information to help you stay well*

There have been several cases of head lice in school recently. Would parents please be vigilant and check children's hair on a regular basis. If you notice lice in your child's hair, we request that you keep them off school until they have had the first course of treatment. ***Please send them back to school after the first treatment.*** If we work together we may be able to lessen the occurrence of head lice within our school.

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

Tuesday 1 st October	Y4/5 handball festival
Monday 7 th October	Y5/6 'Show Racism the Red Card' workshops
Wednesday 9 th October	Harvest Festival
Friday 11 th October	Maple class visit Staindrop School
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