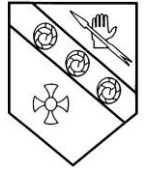


St Hild's C of E Primary School

Newsletter Spring Term January 2023



Dear Parents/Carers,

A warm welcome to the Spring term here at St Hild's, hopefully some 'Spring type' weather isn't too far away! I hope you have all had a lovely Christmas and may I wish you all a very Happy New Year. It is, as always, a busy and fun term ahead with lots to look forward to.

Attendance Reminder

We are all aware of the turbulence caused by the Covid pandemic over the last couple of years and the impact it has had on us all. Prior to Covid, we had worked hard to improve our overall attendance here at St Hild's which had reached 97% (the expected standard) in 2019. Unfortunately, last year, this dropped to 93% and continues to sit at this percentage currently. We have lots of catch up programmes in place to support children's learning following the impact of the pandemic. Please ensure that your child attends school as regularly as possible to access this support and also to promote the overall really good attendance achieved by our children in previous years.

We recognise that there are lots of winter illnesses doing the rounds and know it sometimes can't be helped but we would appreciate your help in ensuring that your child attends as regularly as they can.

We also continue to have an increasing number of children who are regularly late for school. Children start their work at 9am, if they are late, they miss key learning. It is also disruptive to the class teacher who has to ensure this work is then repeated. It is also disruptive to the school office at its busiest time. Please ensure your child is in school just before the gate closes at 9am. Thank you.

Please remember if you are experiencing any difficulties in getting your child to school for whatever reason, please make an appointment to see Siobhan Reilly, our attendance lead for support. Our door is always open.

Exiting the School Site at Home Time

To increase safety, we have made a slight change to our pick up routine following a successful trial in December. Once you have collected your child from the KS2 playground, please walk back along the front of the school building (in front of the Y1 and Y2 windows) then walk up the path to the main school gate. There is increased traffic on the drive at this time so please be mindful of this and keep your children with you at all times.

Here's to an enjoyable half term.

Mrs Ryder 😊

Dates for the Diary

WB 9 th January	Monday Drama Club starts with Mrs Ryder (Y3/4) 3.20pm-4.20pm KS2 Guitar and Brass with Mr Bruinewood
	Tuesday KS2 Choir re-starts with Rev. Tim Year 5 swimming
	Wednesday Multiskills club starts with Durham SSP Y1/Y2/Y3 3.20 -4.20pm
	Thursday Multi Skills PE Club starts (Y4/5/6) 3.20pm-4.20pm
WB 16 th January	Tuesday Y3 Forest School starts
WB 23 rd January	Thursday Y4 Team Building at Maiden Castle
	Friday Y4 PE festival at New College am

**School closes for Half Term on Friday 17th February
and re-opens for all children on Monday 27th February with breakfast club on from 8am**

Spring Term After School Clubs (3.20 – 4.20pm)

Term 2a

Monday	Y3/4 Drama Club
Tuesday	KS2 choir with Reverend Tim
Wednesday	Multiskills PE club with Darren from Durham SSP Y1, Y2 and Y3
Thursday	PE club with AE Coaching Y4, Y5 and Y6

Term 2b

Monday	Y5/6 Drama Club
Tuesday	KS2 Choir with Reverend Tim
Wednesday	
Thursday	PE Club with AE Coaching Y2, Y3 and Y4

Information about the after school clubs we are able to offer will continue to be shared via Dojo and places will continue to be booked via text on a first come first served basis. Most clubs will continue to be free of charge, however, there will be a small charge for some clubs. If you have any suggestions for after school clubs or if you know anyone who would be able to run a club in school, please speak to Miss Luke.

PE

Children should come to school wearing their school PE kit on their class PE day each week.

PE kit = a red t shirt, red school jumper, plain black or blue shorts, joggers or leggings, trainers. Brightly coloured sports clothes **must not** be worn for PE.

PE days during this half term

Please come to school wearing school PE Kit with long hair tied back and **earrings removed**.

Donaldson Class – Wednesday

Rosen Class – Wednesday and Friday

Year 3 – Thursday

Year 4 – Thursday

Year 5 – Tuesday – Swimming

(Y5 children should come to school wearing their normal school T shirt and jumper, but they can wear jogging bottoms or leggings and trainers)

Year 6 – Friday

School Office Opening Times

The office will open from 8.15am and close at 4pm daily. Outside of these times, if you need to contact us, please feel free to email or text us and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

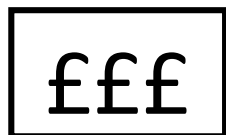
Please note that our school text message service (07786208450) is not connected to a mobile phone. Texts are monitored by school staff Monday-Friday 8.15am-4.00pm during term time only. Text messages sent outside of school hours may not be read/responded to until the next working day.

Emails sent outside of office hours will be responded to the following working day.

Additional Funding for your child

Children Looked After

If your child falls into any of the following categories, we could receive extra money to support them in school:



- If your child is currently looked after (LAC)
- If your child has been adopted
- If your child has been previously looked after (PLAC)
- If your child is subject to a special guardianship arrangement (even if this arrangement has now ended and was only in place for a short time) (SGO)

Forces Children

If either parent has served in any branch of the armed forces, we could receive extra money to support your child in school.

If you believe that your child may qualify for additional funding or if you would like any further information about this additional funding, please make an appointment to speak confidentially with Miss Luke, our Designated Teacher for LAC, or Siobhan, our Positive Futures Worker.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club is £1 per session and runs each morning from 8am. All children from Reception-Year 6 are welcome to attend, no need to book. It has been lovely to see our numbers go back up and children are enjoying lots of different games and activities. If you would like your child to attend, they would be very welcome. The club remains free for children entitled to means tested free school meals.

All children who are attending Breakfast Club must be accompanied by an adult when being dropped off at the main entrance.



Cool Milk - www.coolmilk.com

All children are entitled to free milk at school up to their 5th birthday. Cool Milk provides cartons of milk for each pupil once they have been registered online. If you have a child in Reception or Nursery, please collect a leaflet from your child's class teacher or from the main school office and register as soon as possible.

Once your child is 5 years old, you will need to give your payment details to Cool Milk when registering your child. Please contact the school office for more information.

ParentPay

As a school, we use ParentPay to enable parents/carers to pay online for school lunches, Breakfast Club and other events where payment is required. If you need an activation letter or if you need any help setting up your account, please contact the school office.

School lunches are £2.25 per day (£11.25 per week). Breakfast Club is £1 per session. All ParentPay balances are checked every Friday and we ask that balances are kept up to date. Meals should be paid for in advance.

Meal Pattern Changes

We need 1 weeks' notice if you would like to make any changes to your child's lunch pattern. This helps the kitchen to order stock/reduce waste.

Early Collections

We have Collective Worship every afternoon, if you need to collect your child early from school, please can you arrange this in advance with the office, if you have not arranged this we may not be able help. If possible appointments should not be made in school time.

Contact Information

It is essential we have your current contact details so we can share information with you and contact you urgently in the event of an emergency. If you have any questions or if your details have recently changed, please contact the office.

Pick-Up Lists

If you need to amend your pick-up list please contact the office.

Absence

If your child is unwell, please call, email or text the office by 9.30am to let us know. Please do not use Dojo for absence messages.

Appointments in school time

Wherever possible, please arrange appointments outside of school hours to minimise the impact on your child's learning. We do understand that this is not always possible and if you do have to take your child out of school, please let the office know in advance so we can record this and make sure class teachers are aware. Please sign your child out on the screen in the foyer and back in when they are returning after the appointment.

Parking

Please can all parents/carers be mindful of parking considerately near school. Please do not block residents' drives and access areas. Cars must not be brought into the school grounds.

Parking in the School Car Park

Please can we remind parents not to park in the school car park this is for Safeguarding reasons.

Social Media

We're now on Facebook and Twitter. Please follow us / like us and share our posts!

Twitter = @StHildsCE

Facebook = St Hild's College C of E Aided Primary School, Durham, DH1 2HZ



Mobile Phones

Year 5 & 6 children who have had permission to walk home from school alone can bring a mobile phone to school. This must be switched off and handed to the office for safekeeping in the morning and can be collected from the office at the end of the school day. Children in other classes must not bring mobile phones into school.

Fruit at Break time

For KS2 children a piece of fruit can be brought in from home to eat. This should be fresh or dried fruit only – no fruit bars, cereal bars, biscuits or sweets please. KS1 children receive a piece of fruit in school as part of a government initiative.

Uniform

We continue to have a supply of pre-loved uniform available in school. Please contact the office if you need any items for your child. If you have any items (including coats, shoes and wellies) that your child has outgrown, donations are always gratefully received. Many thanks