

Newsletter
Spring Term (2a)
January 2024

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. It was lovely to see you all at our events at the end of term, thank you for your support.

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.

Please see dates below for your information and as always keep an eye out on dojo for regular updates.

Mrs Ryder 😊

Dates for the Diary

Term 2a

Friday 26 th January	Y4 SSP Problem Solving Festival at NCD am
Tuesday 30 th January	Y3 Multisport Festival at Maiden Castle

We close for half term on Friday 16th February and reopen on Tuesday 27th February.

St Hild's Miners' Gala – an invitation!

This term, our whole school topic is Dig! Dig! Dig! and all classes will be finding out about our local mining heritage. To celebrate our work, we would like to invite all parents/carers and families to our St Hild's Miners' Gala on Thursday 28th March at 12 o'clock. Children will parade their mining work before we have a picnic on the KS2 field. Hope to see you there.

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/football kits **must not** be worn for PE.

PE days Term 2a

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

Year 1	Friday
Year 2	Thursday
Year 3	Wednesday
Year 4	Thursday
Year 5	Tuesday – Swimming (we must have caps) (Y5 children should come to school wearing their normal school T shirt and jumper, but they can wear jogging bottoms or leggings and trainers every Tuesday)
Year 6	Friday

School Office Opening Times

The office will open from 8.15am and close at 4pm daily (3.45pm Friday). 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 (3.45pm Friday) 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

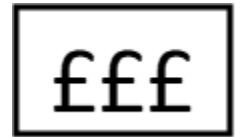
If your child falls into any of the following categories, we could receive extra money to support them in school:

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 continues to be £1.50 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 £2.41 per day (£12.05 per week). Breakfast Club is £1.50 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 ask for 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.

Pick up Lists / Home time

We appreciate your continued patience at home time. Sometimes it takes a couple of minutes for staff to hand children over at home time as they have to ensure that the person collecting each child is on the pick up list. If you know in advance that someone different will be picking your child up, please contact the office in advance so we can let classroom staff know. If someone comes to collect your child and they are not on the pick up list, your child will not be handed over until we have spoken to a parent/carer. Thanks for your cooperation.