



St Anne's CE Primary School & Nursery



NEWSLETTER

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!

We are delighted to welcome pupils back to St. Anne's. They have returned as happy as ever, displaying enthusiasm, resilience and a real sense of purpose, with exceptional standards of behaviour and outstanding attitudes to learning across all cohorts.

Please be assured that all measures outlined in the Risk Assessment have been rigorously carried out to our Health and Safety and safeguarding measures. In this way, the return to school has gone calmly and to plan, which is invaluable for the children's sense of wellbeing. Entry and egress have been smooth and all parents who requested it have access to breakfast club. To briefly summarise, we have put into place the following actions:

- Continuation of the one-way-system around school for morning drop offs and pick ups
- High levels of cleanliness and ventilation around school maintained
- Classes have separate breaktimes. At lunchtime, children have returned to the main hall to eat. Each class sits together and are supervised by one lunchtime supervisor. Once the tables have been used, they are thoroughly cleaned before use of the next class.
- All staff are voluntarily taking twice weekly lateral flow tests

I would like to thank staff at all levels- teaching, learning support, pastoral, admin, site management, cleaning, kitchen and lunchtime supervision- for playing their part in keeping our children safe and for overcoming unforeseen barriers on our journey towards regaining normality. Thanks also to parents /carers for supporting us in adhering to the guidelines, despite the undoubted inconvenience this must cause and for bearing with us, as we adapt our established procedures to accommodate the 'new normal'.

Moving forward, we intend to follow the traditional St. Anne's calendar of events, but with creative adjustments to ensure compliance with both Health and Safety guidelines and the school Risk Assessment.

In the meantime, to maintain our continuous self-evaluation, please don't hesitate to contact me at l.sixsmith100@durhamlearning.net or via alternative communication routes, if you have any concerns or queries.

Mrs. Lynne Sixsmith (Head Teacher)



Welcome - Reception Class

Thank you for choosing St Anne's Primary School, we are delighted to welcome you and child to our school family. We are very proud of our setting and the journey we are about to begin together. Unfortunately, due to the recent global pandemic we have been unable to offer our usual transition arrangements but hope that you feel confident that you have the information that you need. If you require any additional support, we are available to answer queries this week in the afternoon and following that please either catch myself or Mrs Davidson at the end of the day or call the school office to make an appointment to speak to us.

This term focuses on welcoming your child not only to Reception Class but also to St Anne's as a larger community. Very soon, your child will be invited to eat in the dining hall and attend Collective Worship which will involve spending time with new members of staff and children from other classes. We want your child to feel safe, secure and above all happy to be here and hope that they are as excited as we are to start their first year of school.

First Parent's Evening – Your child's first Parent's Evening will take place in the second Autumn Half term and will involve a 10-minute phone call with your class teacher. The first Parent's meeting is a two-way process and is focussed on how your child has settled into daily school life. If you have any questions, it is a good idea to come prepared as the 10-minute meeting tends to fly by very quickly. If you require a longer meeting or would like to discuss additional educational needs, please telephone the school office to make an appointment.

Introduction to Phonics and reading – Phonics is the system by which children learn to read and write. They learn letters by the sounds they make rather than their names for example 'a' is said 'ah' not 'ay'. The sounds are introduced in a fixed order starting with the ones that are most commonly used. Phonemes (sounds) – there are 44 phonemes in total, some are single letter sounds and some are made up of more than one sound such as 'sh' or 'igh'. Once children have mastered the sounds they learn how they are combined or blended to make words. If you have any questions about Phonics or learning to read please do not hesitate to ask but as the term progresses we will be sending information to help you support your child at home. We like your child to have made a good start with phonics before they are given a reading book so that they have the foundations for learning to read, although we firmly encourage you to read and share books with your child at home.

Maths Mastery – Here at St Anne's we use the Maths Mastery approach in Reception, it involves specific learning strategies such as using concrete objects (Lego, counters, Numicon etc) and an emphasis on learning key maths facts by heart, such as number bonds and eventually times tables. It can be helpful to support your child's mathematical journey at home by encouraging counting, sorting and estimating in daily life and routines.

PE – This term we will be using a specialist sports coach to teach the children about staying healthy and keeping fit. This session will take place on a Wednesday and in the interim we would ask that your child comes dressed in school PE kit on this day only and wears full uniform the rest of the week. As the term progresses, we will start to change from uniform to PE Kit in school but will notify you in advance when this change is going to take place. To support your child with their independence please encourage them to dress and undress at home. It is very important that they can dress and undress themselves and take off and put on their own shoes independently. Please label ALL clothing, shoes, trousers, skirts, coats, hats, wellies, bags, water bottles etc. It is very easy for children to lose or mix up their belongings when starting school and it is much easier for staff to return labelled items.

Suitable clothing – We aim to explore the outdoor environment in all weathers and would ask that you provide your child with suitable outerwear according to the weather. Please provide your child with a pair of wellies that can be left in school as we enjoy exploring the outdoor space as much as possible. We will notify you by text and on the school social media about extreme weather e.g., to wear sun cream or clothes suitable for a snowy day.

We hope this will be the beginning of a happy, secure and successful time for you and your child and aim to develop a supportive partnership where we can all work together. We understand that starting school is an important milestone and we want to make this memory as special as possible.

Miss Taylor and Mrs Davidson



Welcome - Year 1

A very warm welcome to Year One, we are looking forward to working with you to make this year really successful.

Last year, in Reception, the children worked hard on developing their independent learning skills and self-reliance and now are ready to accept and meet the challenges of being in Year One. One of the principle ways that you can help them is with encouraging your child to help to pack their school bag, know what is in the PE kit bag and how to best to hang up their coat. This will make the morning routines easier for them.

It would be very helpful if **reading books could be brought to school every day**, even if they have not been read/ finished. We will pop them into a plastic toolkit which can be stored easily in the classroom. That way we shouldn't need bulky school bags in our freshly redecorated cloakroom area.

We would like the children to have access to **water** as and when they need it. A water bottle per child should be brought to school daily so that your child can have drinks throughout the day. If you choose to send a different water bottle, please ensure it has a "sports type" top which locks so that spillages can be kept to a minimum.

Children should have their **PE kit** in school **at all times**. This can hang on their peg and will be sent home at half term. Please encourage your child in independent dressing and undressing to speed up PE changing times. We would prefer long hair to be tied back, especially for PE. May we politely remind you that we prefer children not to wear earrings as stated in our Uniform and Appearance Policy.

The children will be given a Homework Journal with a selection of different homework tasks for the children to complete all related to the central theme that half - term. There will be a hand-in date for marking homework in the Journal. Alternatively, you make wish to upload your child's homework onto our Db site. Children may also receive some spelling and maths homework when it is appropriate. Reading books are being issued and a little reading each night, along with discussion about the content, would be beneficial if possible.

It would be helpful at home time if the adult collecting your child could give us a little wave. This will help to speed things up when matching children with the correct adult! Thank you for your support in this matter. If there is a change to the usual adult please contact the school and let us know.

Please read the school weekly newsletter and discuss events with your child. Studies show that parental involvement in a child's education is one of the strongest indicators of student achievement. If you have any questions or concerns, or would like advice on how to support your child, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Many thanks for your continued support, we're really looking forward to having a fun- filled and successful year,

Mrs Shields, Mrs Peairs, Mrs Bell and Mrs Foster.

Welcome - Year 2

During the first half term, the children will be learning about living things and their habitats. Our class text will be 'Wild' by Emily Hughes. Also, we will be reading 'The Enchanted Wood' by Enid Blyton to develop the children's comprehension skills.

Homework and spellings will be sent home on a Friday and should be returned to school the following Thursday.

Please ensure your child's reading book is in school every day so it can be changed promptly. Please continue to listen to your child read on a regular basis. It is also important that you read to your child as this will introduce a wide range of vocabulary and build your child's enjoyment of reading.

P.E. will be on a Tuesday and Thursday. Please ensure your child has the correct P.E. kit in school on these days.

Feel free to contact me with any questions. I am more than happy to contact you by phone at any point during the year if you are unable to come into school.

c.wilkinson103@durhamlearning.net

Best wishes,

Mrs Laidler and Miss English



Head Teacher: Mrs L Sixsmith

Minds to learn hearts to care.

Welcome - Year 3

Welcome back to school and Year 3! Your children will be working alongside myself and our TA, Miss Turnbull. Here are a few things to note about what happens in Class 3.

New routines

The children in Class 3 will arrive between 8.45 and 9am on a morning and leave at 3.25pm. They will enter/leave through the outside classroom door following the one way system around school. They will have morning play time and dinner time on a designated part of the school yard. Pencil cases and equipment will be provided but the children can now bring a school bag and PE kit which can be stored in the new cloakroom. Reading bags and books can now be brought in to class and changed more frequently in the Library.

Children will continue to wash hands frequently, use hand sanitizer and be encouraged to keep socially distanced from the other classes.

PE- We do PE each week and it is led by Mr Bland on a Monday afternoon. Children no longer need to come to school dressed in PE kit. The children can change before the lesson and should keep their PE bag in school all week to ensure they are always able to fully participate in any additional lessons. Please ensure your child has appropriate indoor/outdoor kit and trainers/plimsolls so they are able to join in safely. Kits can be taken home over the weekend for washing. Tag Rugby will take place in Autumn term.

Swimming- Children will hopefully begin their swimming lessons in Year 3. The lessons are planned to start after Christmas (Fridays) and you will receive information about this nearer the time.

Water/Snack- Please send your child with a named water bottle and fruit snack (if required) each day. Free fruit is not provided for the Junior classes.

Star of the Week- A certificate will be sent home on Fridays with the class 'Star of the Week'. The school newsletter will provide further information.

Brachi the Dinosaur is our class mascot. Each Friday, Brachi will go home with someone for a visit. This is an opportunity for your child to share the things they enjoy doing at the weekend with the rest of the class and we ask that your child writes something in Brachi's diary about the things they have done together. They may include photos etc in the diary if they wish. Please return Brachi to school at the start of the week so we can read his diary and get him ready to go back out with the next person later that week.

Show and Tell: On Friday afternoons the children have the opportunity to bring something in to share with the rest of the class. Celebration Assemblies are also back on Fridays, so they may wish to share a particular achievement (eg. swimming certificate) with the whole school.

Homework

Reading- Please encourage your child to read at home and if possible ask them questions about what they are reading. This will help to check their understanding and will be useful for those doing a quiz on Accelerated Reader. It is really important that children bring their book to school every day so that they can develop their reading skills during our daily reading sessions.

English/Maths- Each week, children will be given one piece of English or Maths to complete in their homework books. Please use pencil and encourage your child to present their work neatly and carefully. Thank you. Homework will be given out each Friday and should be returned by the following Wednesday.

Spellings will be given out each week and will be tested on a Monday. Later in the year, we will focus on Times tables and will revisit the 2x, 5x and 10x tables then learn and practise the 3x, 4x and 8x tables. Please help your child to learn and practise their spellings/tables facts. Thank you.

Homework Grid activity- The grid will be found in the front of the English homework book and children can pick from a range of activities and complete one activity per fortnight.

If you have any questions, concerns or wish to share any information about your child, please feel free to speak to us after school or email e.bennet301@durhamlearning.net n.turnbull300@durhamlearning.net

Many thanks for your support,

Mrs Bennett & Miss Turnbull



Head Teacher: Mrs L Sixsmith

Minds to learn hearts to care.

Welcome - Year 4

I hope the children are well rested after their sunny summer holiday break. Just a few housekeeping notes to ensure a smooth start to the year!

School drop off is between 8:45-9:00 and children will continue to follow the one-way system to their classroom entrance. For year 4, school finishes at **3:25** and the children will exit via the rear fire door into the school yard. Please wave to acknowledge them so they, and I, can see you. Please telephone the office if someone other than the usual adult is collecting your child. If you are running late, the children must wait inside school until you arrive.

Children may bring a bag to school which they can place on their peg. Please allow your child to have a water bottle in school at all times.

PE

The year 4 children will undertake swimming every **Friday afternoon throughout the autumn term** and will need a swimming hat as well as costume and towel. Should you wish to collect your child from the swimming baths at 3 o'clock, please contact the school office confirming who will collect him/her.

Ukulele

This year, the children will learn to play the ukulele! Mrs Coulls, from Durham Music Service will visit each week commencing 13th September. If your child has their own ukulele at home and they would like to use it, they may bring it to stay in school. Otherwise, they will be provided with a ukulele to use.

Homework will be given each week as follows:

English/Maths- One piece of either English or Maths to be completed on DB Primary. Homework will be set each Thursday. In addition, children should choose a task from the homework grid **each fortnight**.

Times table practice will form part of our weekly routine. Please support your child in learning these at home.

Times table tests will take place weekly in school. Children in year 4 learn all times tables up to 12 x 12, in and out of order, in the format 1 x 6 = 6, 2 x 6 = 12 etc

Reading- An opportunity for reading happens every day in school and your child will choose a book from the appropriate level. They will also bring a reading book home in order that you can listen to them read. This will help to advance their learning. Please encourage your child to read to you and ask questions to confirm their understanding. Please sign the reading record or place a comment with regards to their reading then return the book to school when it needs to be changed.

Kevin -Kevin is our class mascot. Every Thursday, Kevin goes home with someone for a visit and we ask that your child writes something in his diary about the things they have done together. This is not meant to be a huge chore for parents but simply an opportunity for your child to share with the class the things they enjoy doing at the weekend. They may include photos/pictures/stickers in the diary but do not feel under pressure to do this. Please return Kevin to school by Tuesday each week so we can read his diary and get him ready to go back out with the next person.

Feel free to speak to me before school, if you have any concerns or wish to share any information about your child. You can also email me on l.johnson202@durhamlearning.net

Many thanks for your continued support,

Mrs. L. Johnson



Welcome - Year 5

I hope you have all had a lovely holiday and have managed to make the most of your time together. I am hopeful that the children are ready to get stuck into some exciting and challenging new learning! There are bound to be a few questions about returning given the six weeks away from school and the lack of a transition day but please be reassured that, as a school, we are ready and prepared to help your child slip back into their routine. That said, should there be any concerns regarding this, then please do come and see me.

The school day and routines may appear slightly different to what they had become used to last year but we have all learned how children adapt remarkably well and with very little fuss when faced with such things. I'm sure the same will be true for the start of this new academic year. Although 'mingling' of year groups will still be on a reduced level, we are no longer bound by the stringent measures as had previously been the case.

Our first topic in year 5 is 'What happened after the Romans left?' which focuses on the Anglo Saxon invasion of Britain. I'm sure the children will enjoy getting to grips with this topic and that they will gain much from the different activities that we do. Over the next half term the children's main creative homework is an 'Anglo Saxon' project and not the creative grid they have had previously. The children can create a model, PowerPoint presentation, an information booklet etc. In fact their only limit is their imagination! They have the full half term to complete the project and they will form part of our class displays. If you have any questions regarding this piece of work please don't hesitate to contact me but I will also explain in detail to the children.

I will also send weekly Maths or English work for your child to complete. This will be provided via DB Primary and will be set on a Friday for completion by the following Thursday. If your child has issues/difficulties accessing the online homework, I will also provide opportunities in school for them to complete. I thank you in advance for your support – I really do appreciate it.

Your child will also have a weekly times table and spelling test. I encourage you continue to revise times tables with your child (using Times Tables Rockstars, Hit the Button etc.) – as if they are not constantly reinforced they are easily forgotten. The tests will take place every Friday and, in the case of the times tables, if they complete a level they will progress onto the next.

A key focus in Year 5 is reading and it is something that I'd really like your support with. Children will bring a book home to read along with a reading diary. I would be really grateful if you could help your child in reading at least three times a week and that their reading records are signed by an adult. I'll collect the diaries in on a Friday so that I can sign them too once I've looked at them. Your child can also read their own books that they have at home should they wish (alongside the one brought home from school), but again please record this in their diary. Our main focus is getting the children reading with regularity and fostering a love of it.

P.E. will take place on Mondays and Thursdays with Mr Bland. Children should come in their normal school uniform on these days and will change into their PE kit for the lesson. Can I please ask that children wear the correct school PE kit consisting of blue t-shirt and maroon shorts and not just general 'sportswear'(although tracksuit bottoms and tops can be worn for the lesson if the weather requires so). PE lessons will primarily take place outside so please ensure your child is dressed appropriately as we approach Autumn and Winter.

We are always available to chat about any issues or concerns that may occur over the year, so if you feel there is something that we should be made aware of then please do get in touch.

Many thanks in advance for your support,

Mr. Browell and Mrs. Parry



Welcome - Year 6

Hello and welcome to the start of what is undoubtedly an important school year here at St Anne's for your child/children. Year 6 is important for many reasons, whether it is because it is the final year of your child's primary education or the year in which they prepare themselves for moving up into secondary school, or even because of the SATS. Please be assured that we at St. Anne's want the best for each and every child and we will endeavour to ensure that they all reach their potential, whatever it may be.

With this in mind, Y6 will once again be supported by Mrs Colman, for five mornings a week, plus one afternoon. She will be responsible for providing targeted teaching to various small groups of children in Maths and English in the areas they require. We are extremely fortunate to be able to call upon her experience and knowledge of KS2 and she, without doubt, will be a major asset to our Year 6 provision.

Now just a few housekeeping notes to ensure a smooth start to the year!

PE – Your child will have a PE lesson on a Wednesday afternoon but I would be grateful if you could ensure a full school PE kit is in school each day so if an opportunity for PE arises the children will have their kit.

Water bottles - Please allow your child to have a water bottle in school at all times. School water bottles can be purchased from the school office at a small cost.

Homework will be given each week as follows:

We will mainly focus on Maths and English. The work that is sent home on a Friday will reinforce the class teaching from that week and it is expected that this will be completed and returned for the following Wednesday. It will be mainly sent on DB Primary, however, a paper copy may be given occasionally if this suits the task better. In addition to the weekly homework, spellings will also be given out on a Friday and tested the following week.

Behind this weekly homework there is an expectation that the children read regularly using the books from the reading scheme at school. It is vital that your child reads regularly and that they complete tests on a regular basis. This home reading will be complimented with daily reading sessions in school, where children will be able to complete tests and school staff can listen to smaller groups read.

Throughout the year your child will become a 'Buddy' to one of our new starters in Reception. This scheme has proved a great success over the years and it has been very rewarding for the older pupils to see the difference that they have made to a small child starting at St. Anne's. We spend the first few weeks pairing the children up and ensure as best we can that the children are matched appropriately. There will hopefully be a Buddy Assembly within this period so that the 'Buddies' can formally introduce themselves to their little friend down in Reception.

Finally, there is no getting away from the fact that Year 6 is the SATS year! This can be a stressful time for the children (and me), but we do our best to prepare the children so that they can tackle them with confidence. This said, we will endeavour to make the first term leading up to Christmas, as 'normal' as possible and whilst there is an appreciation that the work they are doing is for SATS, we will try extremely hard not overly burden them with concerns for SATS at this point. In the following terms, increasing emphasis will be put on SATS, but this will be done in a sensitive and responsible way.

Thank you for your support,

Mrs. S. Millar



Stars of the Week awarded on 10 September 2021

Year 2: Ava for a fantastic start to Year 2. Charlie for working really hard in all lessons.

Year 3: Whole class for settling into Year 3

Year 4: All of the class for a super start to Year 4

Year 5: Rebecca for an enthusiastic start to Year 5

Year 6: All of the class for settling into Year 6 with a smile

Children's certificates will be laminated before being sent home



Entry

8.45-9am is the drop-off window. The footpath gates will not be opened until 8.45am, please do not arrive before this time. You should continue to enter school via the main drive and follow the path past Nursery and Reception to gain access to the main yard, leaving your child/children at his/her new classroom door, where staff attached to that cohort will greet them. Please leave immediately to avoid congestion, following the route past Year 6 classroom to exit via the main pedestrian path. Pupils entering the site unaccompanied should follow the same route and staff will be on duty at various points for safeguarding purposes.

Breakfast Club

Before school care is available from 8 to 8.45am. Children attending Breakfast Club should enter via the pedestrian path, through the main front entrance and past the admin office to the hall, where breakfast will be provided from our school cook, with supervision by support staff. (Children must arrive by 8.30am at the latest, if they wish to access breakfast.) Although new guidance allows for 'mingling', those attending will nevertheless be seated in class groups on separate tables. At 8.45am, your child will be directed or accompanied to his/her respective classroom, so there is no break in supervision.

Exit

3.15 pm: school ends for Reception children, once they are attending for the full day.

3.20 pm: school ends for Years 1 and 2

3.25 pm: school ends for Years 3 and 4

3.30 pm: school ends for Years 5 and 6



If you are collecting your child/children, please enter and exit the site via the same route as that described above. He/she will be ready at the classroom door. Those parents with children in different cohorts should collect at the later of the above time slots, or contact the school with any particular issues. Parents of Years 5 and 6 pupils who wish them to walk home unaccompanied should contact the office, so that the necessary permissions are in place.

Parent Consultation Week w/c 8 November 2021

Individual and family photographs will be taken on 10 November 2021

Flu nasal spray 1 December 2021

