

Dear Parents

Welcome back to a busy Summer term.

Last summer we asked for parental feedback about various aspects of school life which we have acted on and continue to look at. There were some requests to increase the number of school clubs; this year there has been art , sports leaders, chess, lego, history, singing, quiet colouring, tennis, gymnastic, netball, gardening, and yoga in addition to the activities run by the anti bullying ambassadors such as booter club, (bike / scooter) and planned clubs such as litter picking and computer. These clubs run for different year groups but hopefully provides a range of activities to choose from.

**Kestrel and Curlew Classes:**

Congratulations to Miss Honeyman, who is due to have a baby at the end of the summer. She will hopefully be in school until the end of term; we are currently advertising for a teacher to cover from September 2023.

The Y6 SATs have been put back a day due to the King's Coronation and will take place from **Tuesday 9th May to Friday 12th May** as Monday 8th May is now a bank holiday.

Y5 will be taught as a class every morning by Mrs Cleet for 4 weeks to enable the Y6s to do some revision. Y4 will stay in Curlew Class with Mr Vincent.

On **Monday 24th April**, Y5 and Y6 will be going to Hexham Race Course for a maths activity day.

Curlew and Kestrel Classes have been taking part in the Beneath Your Feet project, researching mining in the area. We have an artist in residence starting at the beginning of May who will be running 3 art / textile workshops with each class.

Swimming starts for those children in Y4/5/6 who are eligible on **Monday 15th May.**The swimming instructors will only take older pupils for school swimming lessons which is why we cannot send our younger children as we did pre covid.

On **Wednesday 21st June**, Curlew and Kestrel classes will be going to the Vertu Motors arena in Newcastle for the Big Gig - Back to the 80s. We have started to learn the songs which are proving to be very popular! For fans of 80s music they have chosen a good selection.

There are a number of sporting activities coming up this term. On **Thursday 20th April,**Y2/3/4 have a triathlon taster session with a view to an after school club starting.

From **Monday 24th April**, Skylark and Lapwing have tennis coaching.

From **Tuesday 25th April**, Curlew have Golf coaching.

**Skylark Class:**

Skylark Class will be going to the Hexham Book Festival on the afternoon of **Friday 28th** **April**to see a Philip Ardagh workshop.

**Parents events:**

We are holding an information session for parents of Reception, Y1, Y2 and Y3 children regarding phonics teaching and reading. This will be held straight after school, on **Tuesday 25th April at 3.45pm.** Please come along, children are welcome, as the session will show you how we teach phonics and reading.

Work on the outdoor classroom is underway and if this is completed before the end of term we will invite all parents and friends to come and see it in the wildlife garden.

We will be inviting parents to come and experience our playtimes. We encourage the children to be active and creative at playtimes and are always looking at new areas to develop or donated equipment which the children can put to good use. We would love for some parents to volunteer their time or ideas so that we can keep developing playtimes. There will be some further information coming up regarding how families or the community can help.

Walk to school Week, (cycle or scoot) runs from **15th - 19th May**; we encourage as many families as possible to take part.

**King's Coronation:**

We successfully bid for some community funding to hold a coronation celebration which will be held at school on the afternoon of **Friday 5th May.**We are just finalising arrangements and will send more information out once this is done.

**Book Fair:**

Y6 will be organising and running a school Book fair in June. All classes will be invited to browse the book selection and take part in activities. We also run before and after school book fair sessions where parents can attend with their child.

**Uniform:**

I know this is traditionally a time of the year when the children have sudden growth spurts and their uniform no longer fits. We have a selection of pre loved uniform and PE kits which will be available to browse after school this week - we just ask for a small donation.

All children must have a school PE kit - navy shorts, navy polo shirt and navy hoody. If children do not have the Allendale Primary School kit then they must have plain navy blue polo shirt, shorts and hoody - no logos.

Please note, we do not allow the children to wear jewellery in school.

**Holidays in term time:**

No holidays are authorised during term time and may result in a fixed penalty. If you do intend on taking an unauthorised holiday them a leave of absence form must be completed; these are available on our website or from the office. During the summer term in May and June, there are national statutory assessments that Y1, Y2 ,Y4 and Y6 must take and when children are absent this makes administration of these disruptive to classes.

**Strike Action:**

All teacher unions have rejected the government's pay offer. We have been fortunate that previous strike action has not affected our school. However, going forward teaching unions are to re ballot their members and this may result in more unions taking strike action which in turn may affect our school.

I can assure you that no one at Allendale Primary School wants to take industrial action; however, we also want to protect the school budget as any pay increase for staff has to be funded by the school.

**Term Dates:**

Just a reminder that **Monday 1st May and Monday 8th May** are bank holidays and school will not be open. the first half term ends on **Friday 26th May**and the second half of the summer term runs from **Monday 5th June to Friday 21st July.**The 23-24 academic year starts on **Tuesday 5th September 2023.**

Regards

Mrs Alison Hawkins

Headteacher