

Dear Parents

Road Safety:

I did post this on our School Facebook site last weekend but just a reminder that the bus park and yellow and zig zag lines around school are not to be used for car parking or drop off before and / or after school. We want to keep all our children safe and do all we can to prevent road traffic accidents. In 2022, in Northumberland alone, there were 14 serious road accidents and 48 other road accidents involving school age children; we don't want any child in Allendale to become one of these statistics. Please pass this message on to any family members who may do a school run; considerate road use and parking will help to keep our children safe. We have had a near miss already this term and we don't want another one.

Playground:

Please can we ask that parents don't stand with their children in the line when the teachers come out before school? This will make it easy for staff to see their lines and take them in calmly. At the end of the school day, we ask that parents stand around the edge of the playground so the classes can line up. This way, we can see that the children have been collected safely.

Water Bottles:

All children should have a named water bottle in school. These must not contain juice - school policy is for the children to have water as is healthier than juice which increases sugar intake and risk of dental cavities if drunk throughout the day. Water bottles can be filled up when needed throughout the school day.

School Dinners:

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free school lunch, usually 4 choices a day. The lunch choices can be chosen online; it would be really helpful if lunches are chosen at home rather than leaving it to do at school, so that lessons can start promptly.

Behaviour

For parents who are new to our school, we have 6 Golden Rules that we regularly discuss with the children and expect them to keep. They are:

Golden Rules

We are gentle

We don't hurt others

We are kind and helpful

We don't hurt anybody's feelings

We listen

We don't interrupt

We are honest

We don't cover up the truth

We work hard

We don't waste our own or others' time

We look after property

We don't waste or damage things

To uphold these rules we operate a traffic light system. All children start every day on green and for the vast majority of the time, everyone remains there. However, no one is perfect and there will be times when yellow or red cards are issued. For example, if a child were talking in class and not listening, staff would give a reminder of expected behaviour; if the talking continues after the reminder, this becomes a warning; if the talking still continues after the reminder and warning, this would result in a yellow card and loss of some playtime and reflection on why the yellow card was given. Pipit Class have these rules but we don't have the same system for the Reception and Nursery pupils.

Physical violence and swearing would not result in the reminder, warning procedure. Any instance of this would result in a red card immediately and a written reflection of why the incident happened. Parents will be informed as to why a red card was issued. If a child gets 3 red cards in any half term, we will request a meeting with parents to explore why. We are fortunate that red cards are very few in number as the children know our expectations of behaviour and how we should treat everyone with kindness and respect.

However, we do make adaptations to our behaviour policy for some children who may have difficulties. No behaviour policy can be a one size fits all, or zero tolerance as it is termed, as the children are all very different and require different forms of support.

Parents Feedback:

At the end of the summer term, we asked for some feedback on aspects of school. If we don't know that something is not working, we can't address it. We had 80 responses, thank you. There will be a more detailed feedback to follow but to start with, these were the responses to the 5 specific questions:

Does your child feel safe at school? 94% Yes, 5% Yes but there's a specific issue, 1% no but as we know about this we can address it.

Is your child taught well? 99% Yes, 1% both yes and no

Is your child well looked after? 99% Yes, 1% both yes and no

Is your child making good progress? 99% 1% both yes and no

Would you like more opportunities to look at your child's work, attend workshops etc? 41% Yes, 4% unsure, 55% No

We have lots of comments about what we do well and what we could improve, feedback about which will follow shortly.

Website:

At the end of the end of the summer term our website was updated. You will find information about our classes, the curriculum and term time dates etc.

www.allendaleprimary.northumberland.sch.uk

Attendance:

School attendance has been very widely featured in the news recently. Our overall attendance figure is good but there are some children whose attendance was less than 96% which equates to more than 7 days off school in a year. If you are unsure if

your child is well enough to be in school, the NHS has produced some advice via the link below.

[Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

We obviously cannot have children in school who have been sick or had diarrhoea in the previous 48hrs to them coming to school but for some 'vague unwellness', we think the children should attend. If a child is ill at school, we will always phone parents.

Covid is still with us. If your child has a temperature, they should not be in school, otherwise, if they feel well, they can attend.

Holidays in term time are unauthorised but the school must be notified of an planned absence as if we do not know where a child is, they are missing from education and this may result in a referral to children's Services or the education welfare Officer. There are 13 weeks per year when school is closed where holidays can be taken. It causes disruption to children's learning to take them out mid term.

Residentials:

We are planning to have a Y4/5 residential and a Y6 residential in the summer term. More information will follow this week to parents in Curlew and Kestrel Classes.

Outdoor Classroom:

Very excitingly, the outdoor classroom is finished. It is an amazing resource and we can't wait to show the children this week and start using it.



Some dates for the Autumn Term - so far!:

Open The Book assemblies continue every other Tuesday, delivered by volunteers from the church groups.

Wednesday 20th September - Curlew Class Music service tuition for Autumn term starts

Friday 22nd September - Y4 BikeAbility

Monday 25th September - Y5/6 BikeAbility starts

Friday 29th September - Macillan Coffee Afternoon

Thursday 5th October - Lapwing class "My minute of Listening" workshop

Monday 9th October - Flu immunisations

Monday 16th October - Christmas Card, (yes really!) collection this week. Classes will be starting their designs this week and more information will be sent home shortly.

Friday 20th October - Curlew and Kestrel Classes History / Geography visit to the Sill

Monday 23rd October - Health Week

Tuesday 24th October - Parents Evening

Thursday 26th October - Parents Evening

Friday 27th October - Finish for half term

Monday 6th November - Autumn second half term starts

Monday 13th November - Anti Bullying Week

Sunday 3rd December - Christingle celebration St Cuthbert's Church

Tuesday 12th December - Nativity performance

Thursday 14th December - Nativity performance

Best wishes
Alison Hawkins
Headteacher