

Shotley Bridge Primary School

Benfieldside Road Site	Snows Green Road Site
Shotley Bridge	Shotley Bridge
County Durham	County Durham
DH8 0SQ	DH8 0ES
(Yr R to Yr 2)	(Yr 3 to Yr 6)



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Headteacher: Mr M. C. Bell

Autumn Term 2015 Newsletter 1

Welcome

Welcome to the beginning of academic year 2015 to 2016 and welcome to the first Shotley Bridge Primary School newsletter. We are really excited about becoming Shotley Bridge Primary School and are well under way with sharing the best practices from each site whilst retaining the routines and practices that need to be different for your Reception children, Key Stage 1 children and Key Stage 2 children. Our aim is to ensure that every child from Reception to Year 6 has an outstanding education and that we are all proud to be stakeholders in Shotley Bridge Primary School.

School communication

School will contact you by newsletter throughout the year to celebrate the successes we are having in school, to share news and to inform you of up and coming events. Important dates will be added to newsletters once confirmed.

School will also regularly contact you by letter to keep you informed of events or details about things that are important about your child's class or about your child as an individual.

School will sometimes contact you by text as a reminder of certain events or if we have to give you information at short notice.

We will also communicate a wealth of information via the school's website. Our new Shotley Bridge Primary School website will be ready shortly and this will replace the existing Infant and Junior websites.

Parents can communicate with school by emailing shotleybridgeprimary@durhamlearning.net Our current email addresses will also direct you to this address.

Our new telephone number is 01207 260444. A message will ask whether you wish to be connected to site 1, Hilary Storey, or site 2, Claire Coombe and Steve Tonge. Once through to the office staff they can connect you to any phone in either site to enable you to speak to the right person.

You can of course communicate by visiting either office and speaking to Hilary, Claire or Steve.

Parents can communicate with teachers in many ways: by writing a note in your Reading Record booklet \ Homework Diary, by chatting to your teacher on the yard, by ringing school, by emailing school, or by visiting either site's office.

When contacting school to make appointments about your child that are not office related please in the first instance communicate with your class teacher. If this does not resolve your needs then in the next instance communicate with the relevant Deputy Head, Mrs Lamb or Mrs Brett then myself as Head if relevant after this.

School Events

We will continue to hold most events for Reception (Class 1 and 2) Year 1 (Class 3 and 4) and Year 3 (Class 5 and 6) in the Benfieldside Road site. Key Stage 2 children: Year 3 (Class 7 and 8) Year 4 (Class 9 and 10) and Years 5 and 6 (Classes 11, 12 and 13) will continue to mainly have events in the Snows Green Road site. Merit assemblies and Good News assemblies will continue in each site at current times. Class assemblies, where parents are invited to attend, will take place in your child's building (This year Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will also perform class assemblies).

We will also extend the number of events that our younger and older children can share and experience together like last year's Disney choir performance, whole school assemblies, Spanish brass band performance, Summer Fair and Sports Day. This year, Year 6 pupils will run Children in Need activities for each class to visit at the Snows Green Road site. At Christmas the whole school will meet up to enjoy the Consett Empire Theatre pantomime. Children will be expertly supervised by staff on occasions when walking between sites. Whole school events will take place on the most suitable site for each activity.

This term we will have our first parents evening for all classes in the Snows Green Road site. This will enable families with children in both buildings to meet their teachers more easily and to enable teachers to share information more effectively.

We will inform you of confirmed dates for events in each newsletter and these will be updated in subsequent newsletters.

We will of course give you full details of events in letters nearer to the time.

Timings in the school day

All timings in the Benfieldside Road site remain as they were in July with staff on duty from 8:50 am to allow parents to leave children in their care. Prior to 8:50 the care of children is the responsibility of parents. The school day starts at 8:55 and ends at 3:15.

Main timings in the Snows Green Road site remain the same. Staff are on duty from 8:45. Prior to 8:45 the care of children is the responsibility of parents. Staff are on duty 5 minutes earlier than at the Benfieldside Road site to enable parents with younger children to get to Benfieldside Road before 8:55. The school day begins at 9:00 in Snows Green Road. The school day ends at 3:30.

Lunch time at Snows Green Road is still one hour but has moved from 12:00 to 12:15 to enable us to teach our morning curriculum more effectively.

Key Stage 1 children still get a 10 minute mid-afternoon break at the Benfieldside Road site. Key Stage 2 children get a mid-afternoon break from work but this is no longer a break on the school yard. This change has been made in order to meet the demands of the new curriculum and to maximize learning time to raise standards across Key stage 2.

Children throughout the Primary School can still visit the toilet and drink from their waterbottles whenever they need to.

Parents Evenings

This term's parents evenings take place on Wednesday 30th September and Thursday 1st October in the Snows Green Road site. Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 teachers will be in the school hall. Year 3,4,5 and 6 teachers will be in classrooms. Someone will greet you to let you know which room to visit. Please see teachers on each yard to sign up for appointments or ring your children's office to arrange appointments.

Uniform

Thank you to every child in school for beginning the year in smart, school uniform and adhering to policy on ear rings and jewelry. Please remember that children are welcome to wear our new uniform or their older red or green uniforms until such time as these need to be replaced. Please ensure items of clothing are labelled with your child's name, regardless of what year they are in, to aid lost items being returned to rightful owners.

Money to schools in envelopes please

Please can all money being sent into school come in envelopes with the child's name, class, the amount and what the money is for. Also could dinner money please arrive on Monday mornings.

Water bottles

Please bring filled water bottles to school every day. Children can refill water bottles in school whenever they require.

Reading Records \ Homework Diaries

Children need to bring Records \ Diaries and reading book in to school every day even if they have not finished their book.

Swimming

Year's 3 and 4 now receive swimming lessons all year in the new pool in Consett. This half term Year 3 are swimming. Year 4 will swim next half term and back to Year 3 after Xmas. Our new swimming time is 9:15 on a Tuesday morning. Our bus leaves promptly at 9:00am to get us to the pool. Please can swimmers have their swimming outfits on under their uniform to save time and of course remember to pack underwear for changing into after the session.

Absences

Shotley Bridge Primary School currently has overall attendance of over 95%. Attendance rates have a direct impact on children's education and this year there are changes at national level to encourage good attendance for those families who are not ensuring children have good attendance.

The threshold for Durham County Council issuing warnings and fining families for having unauthorized absences has changed from 10 days to 7 days. This does not apply to absences authorized by schools but does include unauthorized holiday absences where families will be fined once their child reaches 7 days unauthorized holiday absence.

The threshold for what Durham County Council class as Persistent Absenteeism has also changed. Now any attendance of less than 90% is classed as persistent absenteeism. This includes any absences whether authorized or unauthorized. We will inform families of their child's attendance at the end of each term and will work with individual families who need support in this area.

Welcome to new staff

We are pleased to welcome Miss Risebrough who has joined the team of Teaching Assistants teaching our Year 5 and 6 children. We also welcome Miss Blyth who is teaching Year 1, Class 4. Miss Blyth was an outstanding university student with us 2 years ago and is an excellent addition to the team. Miss Thorpe has moved to Year 3, Class 7. Mrs Dempsey is now teaching Year 5\6, Class 12 and Mrs Choudhury Bancroft is teaching in Year 2, Class 6. All other staff are as they were in July.



Shotley Bridge Primary School Dates for Academic Year 2015/2016



When?	What?	Where?	Who?
September	1 st INSET	SCHOOL CLOSED TO CHILDREN	
	2 nd INSET	SCHOOL CLOSED TO CHILDREN	
	10 th Pedestrian Training	Snows Green Road Site	Year 3
	17 th Pedestrian Training	Snows Green Road Site	Year 3
	22 nd School Photographer	Benfieldside Road Site	Year R,1,2 (plus siblings if requested)
	22 nd Year 6 Primary Liason event	Consett Academy	Year 6
	24 th Pedestrian Training	Snows Green Road Site	Year 3
	25 th AM McMillan Coffee Morning	Snows Green Road Site	Year 3,4,5,6 plus families
	25 th AM McMillan Coffee Afternoon	Benfieldside Road Site	Year R,1,2 plus families
	30 th Parents Evening	Snows Green Road Site	All parents
October	1 st Parents Evening –	Snows Green Road Site	All parents
	9 th Year R and KS1 Harvest Festival - 2.15pm	St Cuthbert's Church	Year R, 1, 2 plus families
	14 th Class 7 Assembly	Snows Green Road Site	Class 7 parents
	15 th Year 5 Rugby Tournament	Consett Rugby Club	Year 5
	21 st Class 12 Assembly	Snows Green Road Site	Class 12 parents
	23 rd INSET	SCHOOL CLOSED TO CHILDREN	
	Half-term Holiday 26 th – 30 th inclusive		
November	13 th Children in Need Dress Up Day	Both sites	All children
	20 th School photographer	Snows Green Road Site	Year 3,4,5,6
	20 th Year 2 Bake Sale	Benfieldside Road Site	Year 2 plus parents
	25 th Class 9 Assembly	Snows Green Road Site	Class 9 parents
	28 th Choir sing at Christmas Fair	St Cuthbert's Church	All welcome
December	8 th KS2 Christmas Service 2.15pm	St Cuthbert's Church	Year 3,4,5,6 plus parents
	10 th Year R and KS1 Christmas Plays (1.30 and 2.15pm)	Benfieldside Road Site	Year R,1,2 plus parents
	11 th Year R and KS1 Christmas Plays (1.30 and 2.15pm)	Benfieldside Road Site	Year R,1,2 plus parents
	14 th Whole school Pantomime	Consett Empire	ALL children
	15 th am Year 2 Christmas Party	Benfieldside Road Site	Year 2 children
	15 th pm Year 1 Christmas Party	Benfieldside Road Site	Year 1 children
	15 th Year 3 and 4 Christmas Party	Snows Green Road Site	Year 3,4 children
	16 th School Christmas Lunch	Both sites	All children
	17 th am Children sing at Golden Acre	Benfieldside Road Site	Year 2 children
	17 th pm Year R Christmas Party/	Benfieldside Road Site	Year R children
	17 th pm Year 5 and 6 Christmas Party	Snows Green Road Site	Year 5,6 children
	Holiday December 21 st – January 4 th inclusive		
January	4 th INSET	SCHOOL CLOSED TO CHILDREN	
	10 th Class 3 Assembly	Benfieldside Road Site	Class 5 Parents
	27 th Class 5 Assembly	Benfieldside Road Site	Class 3 Parents
February	Half-term Holiday 15 th – 19 th inclusive		
March	4 th Year 1 Bake Sale	Benfieldside Road Site	Year 1 Parents
	16 th Class 13 Assembly	Snows Green Road Site	Class 13 Parents
	23 rd Class 6 Assembly	Benfieldside Road Site	Class 6 Parents
	Easter Holiday Friday 25 th March – Friday 8 th April inclusive		
April	TBC		
May	11 th Class 8 Assembly	Snows Green Road Site	Class 8 Parents
	18 th Class 4 Assembly	Benfieldside Road Site	Class 4 Parents

	25 th Class 10 Assembly	Snows Green Road Site	Class 10 Parents
	26 th Year 3 Rugby Tournament	Consett Rugby Club	Year 3
	27 th Year R Bake Sale	Benfieldside Road Site	Year R Parents
	Half-term holiday Monday 30 th May – Friday 3 rd June inclusive		
June	22 nd Year R Assembly	Benfieldside Road Site	Year R Parents
July	1 st INSET	SCHOOL CLOSED TO CHILDREN	
	20 th Last day of Summer Term		