

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)



Telephone: 01207 260444

E-mail: shotleybridgeprimary@durhamlearning.net

Headteacher: Mr M. C. Bell

Autumn Term 2016 Newsletter 1

Welcome

Welcome to the beginning of academic year 2016 to 2017. Staff are already incredibly impressed by the start all children have made to the school year. The behaviour, work ethic, enthusiasm and friendliness of all of our children has been a joy to see. Our new Reception children have particularly impressed us and all Year Groups have made the transition to their new classes look effortless. Thank you to all children, staff and parents for the hard work put into transition before and after the holidays to ensure such a great start.

School/Parent communication

School will continue to 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.

Parents can communicate with school by emailing shotleybridgeprimary@durhamlearning.net

School's telephone number is 01207 260444. A message will ask which site you wish to be connected to. Once through to Mrs Parker, Mr Tonge or Mrs Coombe 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. To discuss anything about your child that is not office related please in the first instance communicate with your class teacher. Parents can communicate with teachers in many ways: by chatting to your teacher on the yard at the start and end of the day, by writing a note in your Reading Record booklet \ Homework Diary, by ringing, emailing or visiting the school office to arrange a time to meet with your class teacher. If communicating with your class teacher does not resolve your needs then in the next instance communicate with Deputy Head, Mrs Lamb regarding Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 or Assistant Head, Mr Patterson regarding Years 3 to 6. If this does not resolve your needs then of course contact me, as Head, if relevant after this.

School Events

We will continue to hold most events for Reception, Year 1 and 2 in the Benfieldside Road site. Key Stage 2 children: Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 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. There will also be opportunities and events where our younger and older children will be together. Last year we got together for choir performances, whole school assemblies, whole school singing, Children in Need activities, World Book Day activities, Durham Brass Band Festival performance, Summer Fair and Sports Day. Children are expertly supervised by staff on occasions when walking between sites and whole school events take place on the most suitable site for each activity. We will inform you of confirmed dates for events that you can attend 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.

Summer building works

This summer holidays saw huge building projects in each school site. Our Benfieldside Road site underwent a total rewire and a renewal of ceilings throughout the building. Durham County Council were able to complete these works on time and the appearance of school is much improved and all electrics are far more suitable. At our Snows Green Road site our new classroom to accommodate school's growing numbers and to allow us to have two-form entry from Reception to Year 6 was completed. There have also been extensive works to the Snows Green Site's entrance, offices, library, adult toilets and central heating systems. The site now has a secure entrance that allows visitors to speak with office staff easily and efficiently in a safe and calm entrance lobby. Disability access to the building is now much improved with level access to the school offices and adult toilets when necessary. As part of the works the building's heating system was completely overhauled and children, staff and visitors will be far warmer this winter. Sadly, DCC contractors did not complete these works on time and myself and Mr McBride were forced to delay the opening of school for Year 3 to 6 children. This decision was not made lightly and was made solely regarding the safeguarding of Year 3 to 6 children. Works had been scheduled to be completed by the Tuesday of the last week of the Summer holidays. For legitimate reasons DCC did not make this deadline. At an emergency meeting on the final Thursday of the holidays DCC were confident that the works would be complete and the building would be safe to open for children on Tuesday 6th September as planned. At a site meeting at 5pm on Sunday 4th September it was clear the site would still not be safe for children to attend. Mr McBride and I apologise for the inconvenience this will have caused families and we greatly appreciate the supportive comments that many parents have made regarding the safety of their children. School was able to open on Thursday 8th September and we are now very pleased with the improvements to the Snows Green Road site.

Polling Station at Snows Green Road

I am pleased to tell you that after considerable discussions with Durham County Council our Snows Green Road site will no longer be used as a polling station. This means school will not have to close for KS2 children at vital times of the school year from now on. My thanks go to the team that have researched viable alternatives to allow us to remain open for education.

Reminder about changes to timings of the school day

All timings in the Benfieldside Road site remain as they were in July. The school day starts at 8:55 and ends at 3:15. Staff are on duty on the yard 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. Please can parents keep children away from the wooden play areas at the start of the day as we encourage a calm, ready to work atmosphere when the bell rings at 8:55.

The school day also starts at 8:55 at the Snows Green Road site. Staff are on duty on the Snows Green Road yard from 8:45 to enable parents with younger children to get to Benfieldside Road by 8:55. The school day at Snows Green Road now ends at 3:20 and the school gates are unlocked once children are on the yard for a safe handover to parents. We will of course look after all children until parents can arrive safely.

Merit Assemblies at Snows Green Road

Now that we have a new secure entrance at Snows Green Road please can family members arriving to attend Merit Assembly wait outside of the school entrance until doors are opened at 8:55. Please can the entrance be kept clear for visitors to the office.

Congestion at Snows Green Road site at the end of the school day

At present we still only have one gate to enter and leave the Snows Green Road site school yard as the rear, wooden gates are inaccessible due to the summer's building works. Once we are able to unlock both sets of gates at the end of the day the current congestion will be resolved. Again, we understand the inconvenience the building works are causing to collecting children at the end of the school day and we much appreciate everyone's patience. Your children have been incredibly understanding and adaptable and are a credit to school and yourselves.

Swimming

Year's 3 and 4 receive swimming lessons all year in the new pool in Consett. This half term Year 4 are swimming. Year 3 will swim next half term and back to Year 4 after Xmas. Our swimming bus leaves promptly at 9:00am to get us to the pool for our lesson at 9:15. 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.

Parents' Evenings

This term's parents' evenings for all children take place on Wednesday 12th October and Thursday 13th October in the Benfieldside Road site. Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 teachers will be in their classrooms. Year 3,4,5 and 6 teachers will be in the school hall. 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, closer to the time.

Charities and other fundraising events

During the Full Governing Body meeting in June it was decided that school would limit the number of charities supported each year. This Autumn Term we will support Children in Need. In Spring Term we will support Comic Relief and in Summer we will support a different charity, which this Summer Term will be the NSPCC.

Friends of Shotley Bridge Primary School

Parents who are able to give any time to the Friends of Shotley Bridge Primary School are a vital part of school life. The 'Friends' help to organize and give support to events throughout the school year such as; school discos, charity and fundraising events, raffles, sports days, the Summer Fair etc...

The next meeting for anyone able to attend is at 9:15 on Thursday October 6th in our new classroom at Snows Green Road. New and previous members are very welcome to attend where and when they can. Mrs Wolstenholme is the teacher to liaise with regarding 'Friends.'

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 ensure items of clothing are labelled with your child's name, regardless of what age they are, to aid lost items being returned to rightful owners

Absences

Shotley Bridge Primary School currently has overall attendance of over 96%. It is proven that attendance rates have a direct impact on children's education and any attendance of less than 90% is classed as persistent absenteeism. This includes any absences whether authorized or unauthorized.

The threshold for Durham County Council issuing warnings and fining families for having unauthorized absences is 7 days. This does not apply to absences authorized by schools but does include unauthorized absences where no adequate reason has been given for the absence. This also includes unauthorized holiday absences. Please always inform the office of any absences.

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.

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.

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.

Welcome to new staff

We are pleased to welcome Miss Smith to our teaching team. Miss Smith is teaching Year 5, Class 11. Mrs Kelly is continuing to cover Mrs Dippers maternity leave and is teaching in Year 2, Class 5. Congratulations to Mrs Ord, formerly Miss Beacall, who married this summer.

	Event	Venue	Involving
September	16 th Y6 to Robinwood		
	20 th Y6 Consett Academy taster day	Consett Academy	Year 6
	22 nd Y6 (and interested Y4) Academy open evening	Consett Academy	Year 6 (and Y4)
October	4 th Early Years Curriculum Evening 5:30	Snows Green Road Site	Year R parents
	12 th Y5/6 Visit Centre 4 Life	C4Life	Year 5 and 6
	12 th Parents Evening	Snows Green Road Site	All parents
	13 th Parents Evening	Snows Green Road Site	All parents
	(7 th TBC) Year R and KS1 Harvest Festival - 2.15pm	St Cuthbert's Church	Year R, 1, 2 plus families
	17 th Y3 Trip to Killhope	Killhope	Year 3
	19 th Hallowe'en Discos	Both Sites	All children
	21 st INSET	SCHOOL CLOSED TO CHILDREN	
	Half-term Holiday 24 th – 30 th inclusive		
November	7 th Y6 trip to Nissan Sunderland	Year 6	Nissan
	18 th Children in Need Dress Up Day	Both sites	All children
	25 th School photographer	Both sites	All children
December	12 th YR and KS1 Christmas Plays (1.30 and 2.15pm)	Benfieldside Road Site	Year R,1,2 plus parents
	13 th YR and KS1 Christmas Plays (1.30 and 2.15pm)	Benfieldside Road Site	Year R,1,2 plus parents
	(14 th TBC) KS2 Christmas Performance	St Cuthbert's Church	KS2 children plus parents.
	14 th am Year R Christmas Party	Benfieldside Road Site	Year R children
	15 th pm Y1 Christmas Party	Benfieldside Road Site	Year 1 children
	15 th Y3 and 4 Christmas Party	Snows Green Road Site	Year 3,4 children
	15 th School Christmas Lunch	Both sites	All children
	16 th pm Y2 Christmas Party	Benfieldside Road Site	Year 2 children
	16 th pm Y5 and 6 Christmas Party	Snows Green Road Site	Year 5,6 children
January	Dec19 th -Jan2 nd Holiday. 3 rd INSET Term starts Jan 4 th	SCHOOL CLOSED TO CHILDREN	
	18 th Class 12 Assembly	Snows Green Road Site	Class 13 Parents
	25 th Class 6 Assembly	Benfieldside Road Site	Class 6 Parents
February	1 st Class 12 Assembly	Snows Green Road Site	Class 12 Parents
	8 th Class 3 Assembly	Benfieldside Road Site	Class 3 Parents
	14 th Valentine's Discos	Both Sites	All children
	15 th Class 9 Assembly	Snows Green Road Site	Class 9 Parents
	Half-term Holiday 20 th – 24 th inclusive	SCHOOL CLOSED TO CHILDREN	
March	2 nd World Book Day	Both sites	All children
	8 th Parents Evening	SGR Site	All parents
	9 th Parents Evening	SGR Site	All parents
	16 th Class 7 Assembly	SGR Site	Class 7 Parents
	24 th Mothers' Day Assembly Red Nose Day	TBC Both sites	TBC All children
	29 th Class 11 Assembly	SGR Site	Class 11 Parents
April	7 th Easter themed Merit Assembly	SGR Site	Year 3,4,5,6 plus parents
	Easter themed Good News Assembly	BR Site	Year R,1,2 plus parents
	Easter Holiday 10 th – 21 st inclusive		
May	10 th Class 4 Assembly	Benfieldside Road Site	Class 4 Parents
	17 th Class 8 Assembly	Snows Green Road Site	Class 8 Parents
	24 th Class 10 Assembly	Snows Green Road Site	Class 10 Parents
	Half-term holiday Mo 29 th May – Fri 2 nd June		
June	16 th Fathers' Day Assembly	TBC	TBC
	21 st Class 5 Assembly	Benfieldside Road Site	Class 5 Parents
	28 th Year R Assembly	Benfieldside Road Site	Year R Parents
July	14 th Summer Fair	SGR Site	All children and parents
	17 th Sports Day (18 th Sports Day Reserve)	SGR Site	All children and parents
	19 th Whole School Trip to Beach		All children and Staff
	21 st Year 6 Leavers Assembly	SGR Site	Year 6 Parents
	21 st Last day of Summer Term		