



## Shotley Bridge Primary School Newsletter Beginning of Autumn Term 2017



### Welcome

Welcome to the beginning of academic year 2017/2018. Staff have been so impressed by the attitude, behaviour, work ethic, enthusiasm and friendliness of all of our children. Our new Reception children have made a great start and all year groups have made the transition to their new classes look effortless.

### School/Parent communication

School will continue to use the newsletter to: celebrate successes in school, share news and inform you of upcoming events. Important dates will be added to the calendar once confirmed. School will also communicate a wealth of information via the school's website. School will also regularly keep you informed by letter. School will sometimes contact you by text as a reminder of certain events or if we have to give you information at short notice. Teachers will communicate with you by: talking to you on the yard, writing a note in your reading diary or telephoning you where necessary.

To discuss anything about your child 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 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, Y1 or Y2 or Assistant Head, Mr Patterson regarding Y3 to Y6. If this does not resolve your needs then of course contact Mr Bell after this.

Parents can email [shotleybridgeprimary@durhamlearning.net](mailto:shotleybridgeprimary@durhamlearning.net) or leave a message via the school website. School's telephone number is 01207 260444. Mrs Parker, Mr Tonge or Mrs Coombe 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.

### Reminder about timings of the school day

The school day starts at 8:55 for all children and ends at 3:15 for YR to Y2 and 3:20 for Y3 to Y6. Staff are on duty on the Benfieldside Road yard from 8:50 am and from 8:40 on the Snows Green Road yard to allow parents to leave children in their care. Prior to these times 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.

### School Events

We will continue to hold most events for YR to Y2 in the Benfieldside Road site and Y3 to Y6 in the Snows Green Road site. There will also be opportunities and events such as: choir performances, whole school assemblies, whole school singing, sponsored events, World Book Day activities, Durham Brass Band Festival performance, Summer Fair and Sports Day where our younger and older children will come together. Children are expertly supervised by staff whenever 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 newsletters, on the website and in letters.

### Merit, Good News and Class Assemblies and Changes Due To New Fire Inspections

Merit assemblies take place at 9:00 for Y3 to Y6 and Good News assemblies take place at 2:45 for YR to Y2. Following new fire safety assessments by Durham's Health and Safety department we sadly now have to limit the number of parents who can attend our Friday Merit and Good News Assemblies. Starting this Friday please can only the parents of children who are invited, by text or by your teacher, attend. Parents of children bringing in awards from home are also currently welcome to attend. There is sadly no longer room for the parents of children with ten smiley faces to attend. We will review this situation to ensure as many parents as possible get to see their child being awarded whilst complying with stricter regulations.

Class assemblies will take place in your child's building. Please can no more than two adults attend their child's class assembly.

### **Parents' Evenings**

This term's parents' evenings for all children take place on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October in the Benfieldside Road site from 2:30 to 6:00. Reception, Y1 and Y2 teachers will be in their classrooms. Y3 to Y6 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 or ring your children's office to arrange appointments closer to the time.

### **Charities and other fundraising events**

This Autumn Term we will support our partner school in Nekacheya, Zambia with a sponsored walk and in November we will support Children in Need. In Spring Term we will support Comic Relief and in Summer we will support a different charity, which is to be confirmed.

### **Friends of Shotley Bridge Primary School**

Parents who are able to give any time at any point in the year 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 9:30 on Friday October 13<sup>th</sup> in the Snows Green Road site. 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, jewelry and school shoes. 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.

### **Reading Diaries**

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

### **Important Information for Y4 Parents / Any Parent Considering Sending Their Child To Corbridge Middle School.**

This July the lowest ever number and lowest ever proportion of Y4 children left Shotley Bridge for Corbridge Middle School. Parents tell us that the reason they send children to Corbridge is to get into a feeder school for Queen Elizabeth High School in Hexham. We know that Shotley Bridge Primary school provides outstanding education and 2015, 2016 and 2017's results show this. We also firmly believe that Consett Academy is an excellent school for our children's education after Y6. In addition to this Queen Elizabeth High School has released consultation information regarding proposed changes to their age range. It is proposed that in September 2019 children will be able to enter Queen Elizabeth High School at Y7 not Y9 and that children from middle schools would not be guaranteed a place starting Y9. These changes would enable families from Shotley Bridge who wish for their child to attend Queen Elizabeth High School to make that move after Y6. If you are a parent considering education in Queen Elizabeth High School in Hexham at any time in the future then I advise you to log on to their website to keep yourself fully informed of proposed changes and how they may impact on your child/children.

**Welcome to new staff**

We are pleased to welcome four new teachers to our teaching team following Miss Stoker's retirement, Mrs Ord's maternity leave and the expansion of school. Miss Parkes is teaching YR, Class 1. Mrs Dryden is teaching Y2, Class 5. Mr Vasarhelyi Y4, Class 10 and Mrs Ross Y6, Class 14.

	Event	Venue	Involving
September	15 <sup>th</sup> Y6 to Robinwood		
	27 <sup>th</sup> Y6 Consett Academy taster day	Consett Academy	Year 6
	27 <sup>th</sup> Y6 (and interested Y4) CA open evening	Consett Academy	Year 6 (and Y4)
October	5 <sup>th</sup> Early Years Curriculum Evening 5:30	Snows Green Road Site	Year R parents
	18 <sup>th</sup> Parents Evening	Benfieldside Road Site	All parents
	19 <sup>th</sup> Parents Evening	Benfieldside Road Site	All parents
	Half-term Holiday 23 <sup>rd</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup> inclusive	SCHOOL CLOSED TO CHILDREN	
	30 <sup>th</sup> 31 <sup>st</sup> INSET Days		
November	2 <sup>nd</sup> Hallowe'en Discos	Both Sites	All children
	17 <sup>th</sup> Children in Need Dress Up Day	Both sites	All children
	22 <sup>nd</sup> School photographer	Both sites	All children
December	18 <sup>th</sup> YR and KS1 Christmas Plays (1.30 and 2.15pm)	Benfieldside Road Site	Year R,1,2 plus parents
	19 <sup>th</sup> YR and KS1 Christmas Plays (1.30 and 2.15pm)	Benfieldside Road Site	Year R,1,2 plus parents
	(20 <sup>th</sup> TBC) KS2 Christmas Performance	St Cuthbert's Church	KS2 children plus parents.
	20 <sup>th</sup> pm YR Christmas Party	Benfieldside Road Site	Year R children
	21 <sup>st</sup> pm Y1 Christmas Party	Benfieldside Road Site	Year 1 children
	21 <sup>st</sup> Y3 and 4 Christmas Party	Snows Green Road Site	Year 3,4 children
	21 <sup>st</sup> School Christmas Lunch	Both sites	All children
	22 <sup>nd</sup> pm Y2 Christmas Party	Benfieldside Road Site	Year 2 children
	22 <sup>nd</sup> pm Y5 and 6 Christmas Party	Snows Green Road Site	Year 5,6 children
January	Dec 25 <sup>th</sup> – Jan 5 <sup>th</sup> Holiday. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Term starts Jan 8 <sup>th</sup>	SCHOOL CLOSED TO CHILDREN	
	17 <sup>th</sup> Class 11 Assembly	Snows Green Road Site	Class 11 Parents
	24 <sup>th</sup> Class 6 Assembly	Benfieldside Road Site	Class 6 Parents
	31 <sup>st</sup> Class 13 Assembly	Snows Green Road Site	Class 13 Parents
February	1 <sup>st</sup> Class 12 Assembly	Snows Green Road Site	Class 12 Parents
	7 <sup>th</sup> Class 3 Assembly	Benfieldside Road Site	Class 3 Parents
	8 <sup>th</sup> Valentine's Discos	Both Sites	All children
	Half-term Holiday 12 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> inclusive	SCHOOL CLOSED TO CHILDREN	
	21 <sup>st</sup> Class 10 Assembly	Snows Green Road Site	Class 10 Parents
	28 <sup>th</sup> Class 8 Assembly	Snows Green Road Site	Class 8 Parents
March	6 <sup>th</sup> World Book Day	Both sites	All children
	7 <sup>th</sup> Parents Evening	SGR Site	All parents
	8 <sup>th</sup> Parents Evening	SGR Site	All parents
	9 <sup>th</sup> Mothers' Day Assembly	TBC	TBC
	28 <sup>th</sup> Class 14 Assembly	SGR Site	Class 14 Parents
April	Easter Holiday March 29 <sup>th</sup> – April 13 <sup>th</sup> inclusive	SCHOOL CLOSED TO CHILDREN	
May	2 <sup>nd</sup> Class 12 Assembly	Snows Green Road Site	Class 12 Parents
	7 <sup>th</sup> Bank Holiday	SCHOOL CLOSED TO CHILDREN	
	9 <sup>th</sup> Class 4 Assembly	Benfieldside Road Site	Class 4 Parents
	23 <sup>rd</sup> Class 9 Assembly	Snows Green Road Site	Class 9 Parents
	Half-term holiday Mo 28 <sup>th</sup> May – Fri 1 <sup>st</sup> June	SCHOOL CLOSED TO CHILDREN	
June	13 <sup>th</sup> Class 7 Assembly	Snows Green Road Site	Class 7 Parents
	15 <sup>th</sup> Fathers' Day Assembly	TBC	TBC
	20 <sup>th</sup> Class 5 Assembly	Benfieldside Road Site	Class 5 Parents
	27 <sup>th</sup> Year R Assembly	Benfieldside Road Site	Year R Parents
July	13 <sup>th</sup> Summer Fair 3:30 to 5:30	SGR Site	All children and parents
	16 <sup>th</sup> Sports Day (17 <sup>th</sup> Sports Day Reserve)	SGR Site	All children and parents
	18 <sup>th</sup> Whole School Trip	TBC	All children and Staff
	20 <sup>th</sup> Year 6 Leavers Assembly	SGR Site	Year 6 Parents
	20 <sup>th</sup> Last day of Summer Term		