

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Website Updates – what has been uploaded this week?

All Friday letters and updates (not linked to specific areas: Safeguarding, Online Safety etc.), will be published in either: **Parents – Friday Letters – Autumn 1 2023 OR Parents – Letters and Flyers**

### Friday Letter 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023

<https://www.thedriveprimary.co.uk/friday-letters/>



**National Stress Awareness Day, Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November**, aims to educate people on what stress is, what causes it and how to manage it. Stress has strong links to mental health and can affect everyone!

Below are a series of useful resources and information for you to use at home, either for yourselves or indeed if you are supporting your child to manage

stress or anxiety. Please note that these resources are not exhaustive and should only be used if you feel they are appropriate. **#stressawarenessday2023**

[Mental Health UK Website – Stress and How to Cope](#)

[Mental Health UK – What is Stress?](#)

[Mental Health UK – Signs of Stress?](#)

[Mental Health UK – Supporting Others?](#)

[Mental Health UK - Reducing Stress](#)

[Mental Health UK - Breathing Exercises](#)

[Mental Health UK - Mindfulness](#)

[Mental Health UK - Sleeping Well](#)

[Mental Health UK - Stress Bucket](#)

[Rethink Mental Illness Website – Stress Overview, Signs and Symptoms, Causes](#)

[Rethink Mental Illness – How to Cope Factsheet](#)

## Keeping our children safe and challenging behaviour

In an age where children spend more time online, it is more important than ever to make sure internet use and games being played are monitored. Some online sites and games contain very inappropriate content and can include bad language (swearing), racist comments, sexualised scenes and scenes that may be frightening for our younger children.

This content can sometimes, if not checked and monitored at home, be repeated in school which of course is not acceptable and something we expect will not happen. In school we can filter sites and any sites that do get through our firewalls (total of two in the past two years), SLT are altered to this immediately and this content is blocked by the LA. We would also be very grateful if sites, games, and social media accessed at home are also filtered, parental controls are put in place, and any challenging behaviour that could be described as anti-social or unacceptable (possibly copied from content children are accessing/witnessing when playing out) are challenged and reported to school.

As always, your support is valued, and we are grateful for all you do at home to protect your children from the sometimes scary and damaging online world.



Artsmark  
Gold Award  
Awarded by Arts  
Council England



## Year 1 and 2 Fun Fitness

A small group of children from Years 1 and 2 walked up to Heworth on Monday to take part in a fun fitness morning with activities ranging from stuck in the mud to a dance off. One child described it as, "The best day of my life". It was lovely to see some past students helping as Sports Leaders too.

## Inter-School Dodgeball

Active Future ran a whole school dodgeball competition on Tuesday. Children went up against opposing house teams for the chance to win our House Team Trophy. It was a close competition with three teams each getting 7 points, the overall winners were the Baltic with 9 points. Well done, the Trophy now have green ribbons on and will be on display in the hall.

## Year 5 and 6 Sports Hall Athletics

Another successful morning for TEAM DRIVE, we came second in the Athletics competition meaning we are now through to the finals at the end of November!!!! Mrs Cuthbertson and Mrs Dunn said it was an absolute pleasure taking the children: they were so enthusiastic and spurred each other on! Well done everyone.

## Attendance – The League and attendance update

**0 points if attendance is below 96%**

**1 point awarded for weekly attendance figures between 96% - 97.5%**

**2 points awarded for weekly attendance figures between 97.6% - 98.9%**

**3 points awarded for weekly attendance figures between 99% - 100%**

I don't know if it was the stormy weather or if it was a bug-ridden week, but attendance has taken a bit of a nosedive this week. Year 3 were the only class who got points and means they are now joint first on the leader board – well done! I truly hope for a much better set of percentages after half term. Remember, 97% is the aim for every child in school.

Teams	Total Points	Overall Weekly Attendance
Nursery	0	86.33% +
Reception	3	78.79% -
Year 1	5	83.57% -
Year 2	2	85.78% -
Year 3	5	97.60% +
Year 4	1	88.57% -
Year 5	0	86.60% -
Year 6	4	90% -

Have a lovely half term everyone and we will see you all **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November**.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs R Farren  
Head Teacher



Dates for the Diary – dates will be added to and possibly changes made. Keep an eye on our website calendar also.

**Just a reminder, a 'C' will feature next to an event that requires parent/carer consent.**

**PLEASE NOTE, CONSENT IS NOW GIVEN ON PARENT PAY [www.parentpay.com](http://www.parentpay.com)**

**All letters can be found in Letters and Flyer on our school website.**

**<https://www.thedriveprimary.co.uk/letter-and-flyers/>**

## Autumn Term 2023 – 8 week half term

	Return to school after half term
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 4 Trip – Hancock Museum <b>C</b> <b>Letter issued 13.10.23</b>
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 1 Trip – Beamish Museum <b>C</b> <b>Letter issued 02.10.23</b>
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> November	Northumbria Flu Immunisations
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> November	Odd Socks Day
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> November	Children in Need
Week beginning 20 <sup>th</sup> November	Swedish Teacher's Visit
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 2 Trip - Safety Works <b>C</b> <b>Further details to follow.</b>
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	Parent/Carer Coffee Morning <b>9 – 10am in the hall</b> Nursery Theatre Trip <b>C</b> <b>Further details to follow.</b>
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Fayre PM
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Reception Nativity (in school) AM Nursery Christmas Sing Along PM Attendance League Party
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	KS1 Nativity (in school) PM
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	KS2 Carol Service (St Mary's Church) PM
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Nursery and Reception Christmas Party
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas Party
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas Party
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	Year 5 and Year 6 Christmas Party
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	Break up for Christmas
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January	Staff INSET – <b>Children not in school</b>
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> January	Return to school after Christmas



GATESHEAD  
AUTISM GROUP

# AUTISM FRIENDLY FAMILY FUN AFTERNOON

28TH OCTOBER

1.30PM - 4.30PM

BLAYDON YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

PRE BOOK YOUR TICKETS SIOBHAN-  
HESLOP@OUTLOOK.COM

£5 PER FAMILY (PAY ON ENTRY)

LIMITED  
SPACE!

COME JOIN US FOR LOTS OF FUN

ACTIVITIES

FOOD

SOFT PLAY

SENSORY  
DENS

ARTS AND

BOUNCY CASTLE

CRAFTS



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