



The Drive Community Primary School

Mrs R Farren, Head Teacher
The Drive, Felling, Gateshead, NE10 0PY
Tel: (0191) 421 0390
www.thedriveprimary.org

Friday 13th 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 13th October 2023

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

Nursery Trip to the Hancock Museum – message from Miss Calvert and Mrs Grant

Thank you to the parents/carers who were able to come with us for our Nursery Trip. I'm sure I speak for everyone when I say we had a FABULOUS time! Exploring the Planetarium and museum has definitely helped to ignite the natural curiosity of our learners. Our Nursery Class did amazing on their first trip of the year - we can't wait for the next one!

World Mental Health Day

On Tuesday, we took part in activities to help us learn about looking after our own mental health as well as looking out for others. We had lots of fun taking part in Storm Break activities, taking time to appreciate the value of teamwork, respecting each other as individuals, giving compliments and not forgetting to validate our own self-worth too. Afterall, ***how we treat others is a reflection of how we think about ourselves: Mental Health Matters!***

Year 2 and Year 4 – Washington Wetlands

What a wonderful Wednesday Year 2 and Year 4 had at Washington Wetlands Centre. They had lots of fun and worked together in teams to find out interesting new facts about animals that live in wetland habitats and took part in 'Ava the Osprey's' missions to become a guardian of our planet and think about the nature we see all around us. They even met some otters, flamingoes and a duck called Ed Sheeran – I wonder if he dances with his eyes closed or just sticks to waddling!

Year 5/6 Football

Amazing team effort from the Year 5/6 squad this week. They won all but one game and, in the end, won the Gateshead School Partnership Football World Cup. Great team spirit, determination, and positivity throughout! I have a feeling we may go on to win a few more games as the year progresses. Well done Glen, Oliver, Rhea, Cayden, Jacob, Dylan, Mason, Bobby-Joe, Olivia and Brayden! Bring on the next match!

Year 1 Indoor Athletics Festival

Year 1 had a fun afternoon at Gateshead Stadium. The children enjoyed the athletics activities with a dinosaur theme. It was lovely to see all the children participating and cheering on their friends.

ASDA Voucher Winner!

A big thank you to everyone who stayed for a school dinner on our 'Win an Asda Voucher Day'. We are delighted to announce the winner is **Logan in Year 1**. We will be running this competition again **Thursday January 18th, 2024**, all you must do to be entered, is book your child in for a school dinner. Also, if you feel you may be entitled to Free School Meals, please contact the main office.



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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%

Well done Year 3 and Year 6, you have received 1 point this week, but Year 1 are still in the lead with 4 points.

Teams	Total Points	Overall Weekly Attendance
Nursery	0	89.13% +
Reception	3	93.13% -
Year 1	4	92.14% -
Year 2	0	95% -
Year 3	2	97.20% +
Year 4	0	91.87% -
Year 5	0	92.63% +
Year 6	2	96.92% +

Just a reminder, lates, especially those after registration, really affect attendance; therefore, your child doesn't have to be absent for attendance to be below the expected percentage of 97%.

I would also like to mention again that Stage 1 letters issued this week are **reminders**. If attendance improves, then you are not likely to receive another letter.

It is also worth noting that sickness and diarrhoea is 48 hours from the last bout of sickness/diarrhoea. This is not a school policy, but that of the LA's and the Public Health Agency. I know that this is not ideal and could be the reason a Stage 1 letter was triggered, but as a school we must follow procedures.

Like I stated in last week's Friday Letter, the team are more than happy to discuss our legal obligations when monitoring and supporting parents and carers with attendance/punctuality.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Have a lovely weekend everyone.

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/carers consent.

PLEASE NOTE, CONSENT IS NOW GIVEN ON PARENT PAY 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

Monday 16 th October	Starlight Project Assembly
	Decorating bunting for hospitals to hang over the Christmas period (this may take place across the week)
	Year 5 Trip – Planetarium C



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Tuesday 24 th October	Intra- Sport School Competition C More details to follow
	Reception Autumn Walk to Felling Park C Letter issued 10.10.23
Thursday 26 th October	Year 5/6 Sports hall Athletics C More details to follow
Friday 27 th October	Nursery Stay and Play More details to follow
	Break up for half term
Monday 6 th November	Return to school after half term
	Year 4 Trip – Hancock Museum C Letter issued 13.10.23
Wednesday 8 th November	Year 1 Trip – Beamish Museum C
Monday 13 th November	Odd Socks Day
Friday 17 th November	Children in Need
Week beginning 20 th November	Swedish Teacher's Visit
Wednesday 29 th November	Year 2 Trip - Safety Works C
Wednesday 6 th December	Parent/Carer Coffee Morning 9 – 10am in the hall
	Nursery Theatre Trip C
Thursday 7 th December	Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 8 th December	Christmas Fayre PM
Tuesday 12 th December	Reception Nativity (in school) AM
	Nursery Christmas Sing Along PM
Wednesday 13 th December	KS1 Nativity (in school) PM
Thursday 14 th December	KS2 Carol Service (St Mary's Church) PM
Monday 18 th December	Nursery and Reception Christmas Party
Tuesday 19 th December	Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas Party
Wednesday 20 th December	Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas Party
Thursday 21 st December	Year 5 and Year 6 Christmas Party
Friday 22 nd December	Break up for Christmas
Monday 8 th January	Staff INSET – Children not in school
Tuesday 9 th January	Return to school after Christmas



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