



Mrs H L Templeton Headteacher
Chester Road, Moorside, Consett, Co. Durham, DH8 8EQ
Tel/Fax 01207 509724
Email: moorsideprimary@durhamlearning.net

29th January 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I cannot believe how quickly we are moving through this term. We have a range of visits etc. planned this term and children continue to enjoy Fantastic Fridays. We have already had a busy few weeks with more to follow.

Ofsted

You will all be aware that we had an inspection visit from Ofsted on Tuesday 14th January 2020. This report will be published in due course and will be shared with all parents. We were given a 30-day timescale for publication. Thank you to everyone who took the time to fill in questionnaires and speak with inspectors in the day of the inspection.

Parental contact

Please note that would always contact a parent directly if we had a concern about their child in school. We are receiving increasing communication with parents about home issues asking if they are evident in school. All staff in school have a duty of care to raise any such concerns with parents and would do so immediately. **Rest assured: no news is good news.** Please, if you have concerns, can you ensure these are discussed away from your child as we are concerned about the impact of this on their mental health, confidence and self-esteem. We are absolutely committed to working in partnership with parents and thought we would clarify lines of communication to support this –

- Our Schools app updated with dates
- School website updated
- Facebook
- Parents can leave any vital information with Mrs Pears daily on the door and she will ensure it reaches the relevant person in school as everyone is involved in teaching from 8:45 until the end of the school day. Please note we have clear systems for communication in school to facilitate this.
- If you are concerned about something in relation to your child in school the first port of call should be the class teacher as they deal with your child on a day to day basis and Mrs Pears will pass on a message for you.
- Appointments can be made via the school office but please note these will generally be outside of school hours so we can maximise teaching time for children.
- We are currently looking at staff workload and as a consequence of this please note that no emails will be answered outside of office hours between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00p.m. Monday to Friday as staff have been directed not to access work email outside of these times to support with their own wellbeing. If your concern is urgent, please contact the school office e.g. you have a safeguarding concern.

Suitable Clothing

Please note it is still very cold and damp outside can you ensure that your child is suitable dressed for the weather as we go outside for playtimes at all times unless the rain is torrential.

Library Visits

Library visits are continuing on rotation across school from Year 1-Year 6 however contributions from some classes have been minimal. We ask that you please provide £1.20 to cover the cost of the bus fare to Consett. Children enjoy these visits and it offers a much wider range of books to develop reading for pleasure.

SEN support

We have numerous children in school with additional needs, some of which benefit from additional resources i.e. weighted jackets, fiddle toys etc. However recently we have noticed more and more items being brought in from home such as home-made glitter bottles, teddy bears etc. Can we please ask parents not to allow this to happen (all of these items will be returned home over the coming days), should your child require any additional resources to support them in school then we will provide them. In doing this we can ensure they are appropriate to the needs of the children and meet health and safety requirements.

Colds!

At this time of year, runny noses and colds are everywhere! Any donations of tissues (and wipes for Early Years) are much appreciated. Please can we also remind children to wash hands often to avoid germs spreading.

Lateness

Students arriving late for school is once again becoming an issue of concern. Our main entrance opens at 8.45am every morning, learning begins immediately with all children expected to be with their class teacher by 9am. Should your child be late to school for any reason we must ask that you accompany them into the school building and sign them in. Regular lateness is something that we strongly discourage, it impacts on the learning of all children in the class and is not helpful in providing a calm, focused start to the school day.

Dates for events

Dates for forthcoming events are on the school app, with reminders sent out closer to the event.

This term our nursery children will be experiencing a visit from Zoolab on 10/02/20 and Reception class and those in Years 3-6 will be visiting Hamsterley Forest on 13/02/20 (contributions to be made via Parentpay). Year 1 and 2 will also be visiting Northumberland Zoo on 11/02/20 and we have been lucky enough to be able to offer this visit for free following a fundraising event held previously in school. Our Valentine disco will be held after school on 12/02/20 and tickets will be for sale nearer the time.

As always, if you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Louise Templeton

Executive Headteacher