



Newsletter 22nd September 2023



Nursery Miss King



Pupil of the week is George Partington for remembering the finger names during dough disco and helping his friends.

Year 3 Miss Simpson

Pupil of the Week is Elspeth Dunoo for always following school rules and setting a good example.

Year 4 Miss Prosser

Pupil of the Week is Evie McCabe for being an excellent role model to others and always doing the right thing.

Year 6 Miss Denham and Mrs. Moscrop-Brown

Pupil of the Week is Alfie Hart for his positive attitude to learning this week showing enthusiasm, in English, when writing to persuade.

Reception Mrs. Smith

Pupil of the week is Zoe Harrap for a sensible and mature attitude when coming into school each morning.

Year 1 Miss Crampton



Pupil of the week is Archer Steel for consistently following routines and instructions.

Our PE day is a Thursday. Please make sure all items of children's clothing are labelled clearly.

Year 2 Miss Cameron

Pupil of the Week is Esme Metcalfe for achieving full marks on almost every reading quiz since returning back to school.

Our PE day is a Monday, please make sure the children bring their PE kits to school. Thank you.

Year 5 Miss Hird

Pupil of the Week is Edward Dennison for continued effort to contribute to class discussion.





Reading Reminders

At West Cornforth we love reading and we believe that reading is the key to all learning. There are few things as powerful as regular reading at home. All children should be bringing home their reading books each night to practise. I'll be checking reading records from next week and rewarding those who regularly read at home.

Times Tables Rockstars League

Learning times tables is really important. After all, they're the building blocks of maths, and with your multiplications mastered, you can do anything! Times Tables Rockstars is a fun way to practise. The children can compete against one another and earn points to customise their Rockstar. Please encourage your children to login at home. We are running a competition across school and Year 5 are currently in the lead. **Well done Year 5!**

Attendance

Holiday Policy

"Parents should plan their holidays around school breaks and avoid requesting leave of absence for holidays unless it is unavoidable. As leave of absence is only granted in exceptional circumstances, it is unlikely that your child's headteacher will agree a leave of absence for a family holiday."

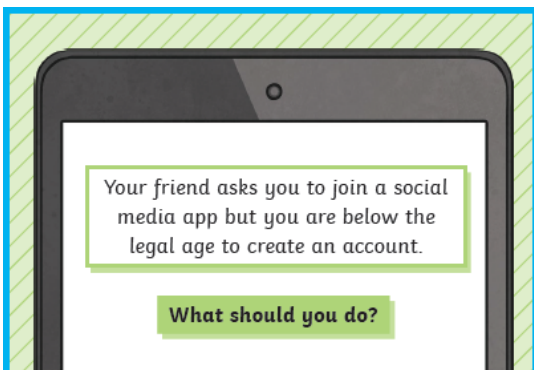
"If permission is refused and you keep your child off school on the days requested, you are likely to be committing an offence and be issued a fixed penalty notice or be prosecuted by your local authority."

Attendance Targets

Our attendance target is 96%.

This week Class 1 and Class 4 beat our target. **Class 1 had the best attendance overall with 97.4%!**

Online Safety Weekly Scenario



Miss Denham (Computing Coordinator) and the E-Cadets are aiming to raise the profile of online safety. Please take some time to discuss the online safety scenario with your child at home.

Waterproof Coats



The weather has taken a turn for the worse. Please can parents ensure that children remember to bring a suitable coat each day to wear at playtimes.

TESCO
Community Grants

**West Cornforth Primary
School calls out for votes to
get a share of Tesco's
Community Grants fund!**

If you are shopping in any Tesco store, please ask for a blue token and pop it in the collection point, the charity with the most blue tokens at the end of the period will receive £1,500, the second place charity will receive £1,000 and the third place charity will receive £500.

Academic year 2023-2024

- Break up for October Half-Term Thursday 26th October 2023
- Return to school Monday November 6th 2023
- Break up for Christmas Holidays Tuesday 19th December 2023
- Return to school Thursday 4th January 2024
- Break up for Spring Half-Term Friday 16th February 2024
- Return to school Monday 26th February 2024
- Break up for Easter holidays Wednesday 27th March 2024
- Return to school Monday 15th April 2024
- May Day Bank Holiday, Monday 6th May 2024 – SCHOOL CLOSED
- Break up for Summer Half-Term Thursday 23rd May 2024
- Return to school Monday 3rd June 2024
- Break up for summer holidays Tuesday 23rd July 2024

Online Safety Updates for Parents and Carers

For Parents - Updated Supervision Features for FB Messenger and Instagram

In June 2023, Meta rolled out some new parental features for FB Messenger and Instagram. As of 30th August, these updates are now available globally.

Specific updates for Messenger:

- View how much time the child spends on the app.
- Updates on their contact list.
- Notification if the child reports someone.
- View who can message their child.
- View who can see their child's stories.

Specific updates for Instagram:

- Before being able to message someone, who doesn't follow them, people must now send a text only invite to connect. No further interaction can take place unless the recipient accepts the invite.

In all these are quite positive steps, there is further information [HERE](#).

For Parents - Discord Family Center

Discord used to be popular with gamers, now it's hugely popular amongst non-gamers too. Historically, Discord has been very lax regarding features that are available for parents to help keep their children safe, but this has recently changed, albeit the changes are a minuscule step in the right direction, at least it's something.

Essentially, like many other apps, Discord now has a Family Center. Once set up parents can see:

- What servers (chat rooms) their children have joined or participated in.
- Everyone they've messaged.
- New users they've connected with.

You can read more about these functions and limitations [HERE](#), and [THIS](#) page will show parents how to set up Family Center.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Updates

Upcoming Events and Information

Most upcoming events are being advertised on social media [Durham SEND Information, Advice, Support Service | Facebook](#) This is the link to the page and there is also an Autism Hub group [Durham SENDIASS Autism Hub | Facebook](#) which promotes not just the Autism Hub events, but also other events going on across the county.

There is a mailing list for parents/carers to join. To become part of the mailing list, email: ann.connor@durham.gov.uk and ask to be added to the mailing list. You will then get any information emailed directly to you.

Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities and Additional Support Event

Does your child have special educational needs and/or disabilities? Does your child receive additional support from school staff, or outside agencies? Do you feel like you need to speak to a professional and/or Miss Gregg (SENCO) about your child?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then this is the event for you!

We are holding a coffee morning for parents/carers of children with SEND to attend on Friday 10th November. The event will start at 9am and finish at around 11am.

This event will be informal, and it is an opportunity for parents/carers to network with other parents/carers, professionals and Miss Gregg (SENCO). We have invited a whole host of professionals/services to attend our first coffee morning of the year. If you are interested in coming along, please message Miss Gregg on Class Dojo. Further information will be provided via Class Dojo closer to the date of the event.



Short Break Offer

For families of children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities



The Local Offer

Visit the Local Offer for information on groups that provide activities for children and young people with SEND. The Local Offer also has information on groups that provide direct support to parents. You will need to contact the groups to find what they have on offer at the moment.

www.countydurhamfamilies.info/localoffer

FUN & FOOD

Do you find the school holidays a struggle? Finding fun things for your kids to do that don't cost the earth and paying for all that extra food or childcare.

Fun and Food provides FREE holiday activities with healthy snacks and meals for children and young people. Activities are provided by schools, voluntary and community sector groups, sport and leisure services and our family centres.

You can find out what is available in your area at www.durham.gov.uk/funandfood



Parent/carer online support

Durham County Carers Support are hosting a variety of online support, training and activity sessions for carers. For more information please contact 0300 005 1213 or visit www.dccarers.org

Making Changes Together Parents Forum (MCT) are running Zoom coffee events. For more information please contact info@mctdurham.co.uk or visit www.mctdurham.co.uk



Short Breaks Solutions

If you are struggling to find suitable activities for your children to give you a short break from your caring role, our Short Breaks Solutions service will work with you to find options that suit your family's needs. Short Breaks Solutions can refer you to some tailored opportunities for children and young people with SEND that will benefit them and their families outside of their education.



To access any of the activities please contact Short Breaks Solutions:
Email: shortbreakssolutions@durham.gov.uk
Telephone: 03000 260 270