



Friday 8 September 2023

Dear parents,

It has been brilliant to see the children return to school this week. They have genuinely settled brilliantly and there is a lovely, purposeful working atmosphere around school. I have a few short items to update you with at the start of the year.



RAAC and School Closures:

You will have seen that the issue of Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) in schools and hospital has been dominating the news. This has led to a number of school closures. Our building was surveyed by the Trust last year and no RAAC was found. We are therefore open as normal.

School Leadership:

Mr Brown will be continuing in his role as Executive Head Teacher of St Joseph's and St Lawrence's (Byker) for at least the next academic year. Mrs Rogan is now Head of School and Mrs Love is now Assistant Head. We have also appointed Mrs O'Hara as our new Special Educational Needs Teacher. Mrs Hall has returned to the classroom and is teaching Year 6 for three days per week.

Parental Meetings:

We have arranged parental meetings for each class at the start of the year. Year 6's meeting has already taken place this week. This will inform you about the year ahead, our school rules and what the children will be learning. All meetings will begin at 9.00am and will take place in the school hall. They will last for approximately 30 minutes.

- Year 5 – Tuesday 12 September
- Year 4 – Thursday 14 September
- Year 3 – Tuesday 19 September
- Year 2 – Thursday 21 September
- Year 1 – Tuesday 26 September
- Reception – Thursday 28 September
- Nursery – Tuesday 3 October

Clubs:

Breakfast Club is already open. A free breakfast is available to all children from 8.10 in the morning, every morning. At the moment we cannot accommodate the children before that time but if that changes we will let you know.



After school clubs begin next week. They are as follows:

Monday	Karate Years 3,4,5 & 6 Ukulele Years 3,4 & 5
Tuesday	Football Years 3,4,5 & 6
Wednesday	Netball Years 3,4,5 & 6
Thursday	Dance Years 1 & 2
Friday	Multi Skills 3 & 4

School Attendance:

School attendance is going to be a huge priority this year. Attendance levels nationally are well below pre-COVID levels. Our school attendance matches the national average. However, we have too many children missing more than 10% of their education. This defines those children as 'persistently absent'. Our goal this year is to massively reduce as poor attendance is so closely linked to children not doing as well as they can. Please give the attendance of your child the highest priority this year. Should they have to be absent, then you must call the school office to inform us. Mrs Martlew is available to support in all matters concerning attendance.



Parking:

Please try not to park too close to school, especially at the Bishop's Road entrance. The safety of our pupils is paramount. If you need use of your car please park a short distance away from the main school entrance point.

Children walking to school:

Children in Year 5 and 6 are permitted to walk to and from school independently but we can only let the children go if we receive written consent from parents. This can be done at the school office. We cannot let younger children (Year 4 and under) go home with anyone under the age of 16.

Many thanks

Mr Brown
Executive Head Teacher

Mrs Rogan
Head of School