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4th September 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome to the first newsletter of the new year and, for those unfamiliar with these, be aware that can contain:

Useful information
Diary dates
Updates
Inane rambling
Weather reports!
Often in that order!

As alluded to in the correspondence a couple of days ago, it has been fantastic to see how well the children appear to have settled into their environment with the change of year group and teacher. As you would expect, I have visited each of the classes several times and have been impressed by this.

However, we all know that nothing is ever 'perfect' and, in any environment, be that at home or in school, things can occasionally not operate as we perhaps might wish. Should this ever happen or if there is ever a concern or query, PLEASE let us know at the earliest opportunity. Our belief is quite simple in so far as school should be the place where everybody feels both safe and welcome. Without this, it is impossible for anybody to thrive so please be assured that we will always respond to concerns and seek to address any issues.

Upcoming Dates

I have attached the diary dates as they stand at the present time. Of course, as we move forward, more events will be added and you will be informed at the very earliest possible opportunity (I don't know about you but when schools provide communication as a 'last minute' job but they've known for a while, I find that ever so slightly frustrating!).

School Lunches

As will often be the case, we have had some children changing their lunch preferences between school and packed lunch which is, of course, perfectly fine. However, could we please ask that you inform the office if you wish to change your arrangements by telephone, email or in person (but not by asking your child to tell us please!). If children change from school lunch to packed lunch and we have not been informed, we obviously still get charged for this as the meal will have effectively already been ordered.

Mobile Phones on Site

As we start a new year, just another reminder that we request that mobile phones are not used for **any purpose** whilst on the school site. There are a few reasons for this. We do appreciate that there are times where we may get a call or message which needs an immediate response. No problem. Feel free to pop outside of the gate to respond as necessary but please, not on site. Thanks.

Class Dojo

Remember that this is our preferred information sharing platform between home and class teachers and this year we are also using it for children to accumulate 'dojos' which I know you will have seen appearing. We do love to see what the children have been 'getting up to' when they are not in school and we do know that we have a rather talented bunch out there be that as sportspeople, actors, musicians, singers and a host of other things too!

On that note, we also love to share successes with the school so if your child has received an award or accolade, I would love to be able to present this in an assembly on Friday mornings. Feel free to bring certificates, medals, trophies etc in.

'Forest School'

You will have read the communication sent out by Mrs Fawkes this week in relation to our moving towards becoming what is known as a 'Forest School'. During the break, Northumbrian Water came over and cleared out and tidied up the woodland area on the field as part of their 'Just and Hour' volunteering programme along with DW and EE Conley Plant and Haulage. It looks fantastic and has provided a canvas which can now be fully developed. As mentioned, please stay out of that area but, as it becomes established, the children will be utilising it under supervision as a learning environment.

Oh... I never really explained principles behind Forest Schools did I?! Have a little look at this:

[Forest School Association](#) | [What is Forest School?](#) | [Forest Schools](#) | [Nature Premium](#)

Photographs

On Friday 18th September we have invited our school photographers in as has been communicated in recent correspondence. To reiterate, if you have more than one child at the school, please do let us know your preferences in relation to whether you would like individual photographs or ones with all of your children together as we need to communicate this to the photographers and organise the plan for the day (which is not always as straightforward as you might think!).

And Finally.....

I think it best to leave it there for now! Again, thanks for your support in creating a steady start to the year and, here we go, what you've been waiting for... tomorrow and Sunday looking good for those 'end of season barbeques' with, and I quote, 'sunny intervals and a moderate breeze'. Should get the washing dry too. Marvellous!

Wishing you all a pleasant weekend.

Yours Sincerely

C. Gibson

Mr C Gibson