



## ***Gainford CE Primary School - 'Learning Together on Life's Journey'***

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### Autumn Term Newsletter – September 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have all had a lovely summer! We have had a wonderful start to our new term; children have settled very well in to their new year groups and classes. Our new Reception children and Pre -school children have enjoyed their first week with us and I'm sure they will all be tired by the weekend!

I know you would like some information about our exciting new term at an early stage..... so please read on...

#### Meet the Teacher

We are providing an opportunity for parents and carers to meet their child's class teacher at an early stage. The aim is for you to have the chance to ask any questions you have and for the teacher to be able to explain what your child will be learning this term. The teachers will be able to explain how you might be able to support your child's learning at school and give you some information, for example, about homework and any planned trips This is not a parents' evening since the teachers will be speaking to all parents at the same time.

If you are unable to come along and need to ask your child's teacher anything at all, please do not hesitate to get in touch

**Meet the Teacher will start at 3.40pm and end at approximately 4.15pm on the following dates: -**

**Class 1** Pre-school and Reception (Mrs Muir/ Mrs. Nicholson) – **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September**

**Class 2** Years 1 and 2 (Miss Farley) – **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> September**

**Class 3** Year 3 and 4 (Mr. Martin) – **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> September**

**Class 4** Years 5 and 6 (Mrs. Kidd) – **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> September**

## Homework

Our school recognises the benefits of homework as an aid to enhancing children's' learning.

For homework to be successful, of course it needs support of parents and with this in mind I have attached a homework diary for your information. If you have any questions about homework please do not hesitate to get in touch.

### Homework Diary (2018-19)

	Pre-School / Reception Class 1 Mrs. Muir/Mrs Nicholson	Y1/Y2 Class 2 Miss Farley	Y3/4 Class 3 Mr. Martin	Y5/Y6 Class 4 Mrs. Kidd
Monday	Home reading books to be changed when applicable  Phonics	Home Reading Phonics /Spellings	Home Reading learning spellings/tables	Independent home reading. Learn spellings for test on Thursday
Tuesday	Home Reading Phonics books	Home Reading Phonics /Spellings	Home Reading learning spellings /tables	Independent home reading. Learn spellings for test on Thursday and Friday
Wednesday	Home Reading Phonics books	Home Reading Phonics/spellings	<b><u>Homework to be handed in</u></b>  Tables test Spelling and Phonics work Home Reading	Independent home reading. Learn table/s and spellings for test on Thursday.
Thursday	Home reading Phonics books	Home Reading Spellings/ phonics <b><u>Homework to be handed in</u></b>	<b>Homework given out (Literacy or Numeracy or Topic Work)</b> Home Reading	<b><u>Homework to be handed in.</u></b> <b>Spelling Test Spellings given out for the following week</b>
Friday	Home reading books to be changed when applicable  Phonics books	Home Reading phonics/ Spellings/  One piece of literacy, numeracy or topic homework to be returned on Thursday	Home reading /learning spellings or tables	<b>Homework handed out for the following week - Literacy and Numeracy or Topic.</b> <b>To be handed in by following Thursday.</b>  Independent home reading.

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	Pre-School /Reception	Y1/Y2	Y3/Y4	Y5/Y6
PE lessons	Monday Tuesday	Wednesday Thursday	Tuesday Thursday	Tuesday Friday
Swimming	N/A	Summer Term Monday pm	Spring Term Monday pm	Autumn Term Monday p.m.

**PE**

Over the course of the year your child will be receiving some additional coaching from a secondary school PE teacher in preparation for the sports festivals and competitions we take part in and these sessions will be on Tuesdays.

PE kit is a white t shirt and black/blue/ grey shorts. PE kit is best kept in school all week or for the half term just in case there are changes to the sessions.

If your child has long hair, please can they make sure that it is tied back for PE sessions; we would encourage this for all school days as it can help to prevent your child from getting head lice-not the easiest things to get rid of!

**Jewellery**

We discourage the wearing of any type of jewellery for safety reasons but if ears have recently been pierced small studs are acceptable.

**School Meals**

All infant children in Reception and Class 2 receive a free school meal. The cost of a school meal is £2.05 for juniors and £2.46 for pre-school (as this is not VAT free).

Natalie and Sarah ,in our school kitchen, provide delicious meals and I will send out the new winter menu shortly.

You can pay for meals weekly, monthly or termly by cash, cheque (payable to Durham County Council) or you can transfer money direct to our school account if this is easier for you to do- please contact Sheila in the office if you would like to do this.

**School Day**

Just a reminder that the school day starts at **8.55am**. Your child should arrive at school no earlier than **8.45am** as there will be no supervision on the yard until this time. Should you need your child to be at school earlier than 8.45am please book them in to Breakfast Club which commences at **7.45am**.

**Now we have had the first week of the new term can I please ask all parents/carers to allow their child to come into school from the playground with their class teacher.**

We do try to encourage independent skills from Reception; obviously if you have a concern /query please still feel free to speak to the class staff and if you need to speak to Miss Spencer in the office can you please enter school via the main entrance.

If your child is not going to be in school for any reason or needs to be picked up before the end of the school day can you please inform school as soon as possible.

**Friends of Gainford School (FOGS)**

FOGS are our small but active band of parents and carers who help to raises funds for our school which in turn supports learning in school and outside of school. Funds raised help us to buy resources, take children out of school on educational visits and can also help fund exciting visitors to school. If you would like to learn more about FOGS or join the group, please contact the school.

**School Governing Body**

The role of the school governor is demanding but very rewarding and is a good way to give back to your local community. School governing bodies are responsible for working with the school to ensure that it delivers a good quality education. We currently have one vacancy for a parent governor and will be sending information out shortly.

**Volunteering in School**

If you are keen to volunteer in school, we will be more than happy to accommodate you; this would be subject to the completion of a DBS/police check which the school can pay for. We have invaluable volunteers in school already who help with a wide variety of activities throughout the school day, but we can never have enough!

Calendar of Events and Activities for this Term

Please note that more details will follow about many of these events and activities and some others may be added later.

Date	Event or Activity
4.9.18	Children return to school
10.9.18	First Yoga Craft Club Swimming Class 4 first of 10 sessions at Teesdale Leisure Centre
11.9.18	Yr. 6 students to visit Staindrop Academy packed lunch required
17.9.18	<b>Meet the Teacher Class 4 -Mrs Kidd 3.40-4.15pm</b>
19.9.18	<b>Meet the Teacher Class 1 Mr Muir /Mrs Nicholson</b>
20.9.18	<b>Meet the Teacher Class 2 Miss Farley</b>
24.9.18	<b>Meet the Teacher Class 3 Mr Martin</b>
12.10.18	<b>Harvest Festival at St Marys Church 9.15 am</b> -all welcome. we ask for donations of food, fresh or tinned/packageged, which will be donated to Butterwick Hospice
17.10.18	Class 3 Tag Rugby Competition 12.30-2.30 pm
18.10.18	Class 4 Multi-skills festival 12.30-2.30 pm
	<b>Half Term</b>
29.10.18	Back to School Bubble Ball – first session of 7
30.10.18	Class 4 visit to Bowes Museum
1.11.18	Christmas Craft Club -first session of 7
2.11.18	Football Club Y1,2,3,4-first session
23.11.18	Reports sent out to parents
27.11.18	<b>Parents Evening – all classes</b>
4.12.18	<b>Infant Nativity production (Class 1 &amp;2)– afternoon -time tba</b>
5.12.18	<b>Infant Nativity production (Class 1 &amp;2)– afternoon -time tba</b>
11.12.18	Class 1 Sports Festival pm
12.12.18	Class 2 Y1/2 Multiskills Festival pm
13.12.18	Christmas Games and Activity Fundraising night – all welcome between 3.30-5.30pm
13.12.18	Class 3 Y3/4 Multiskills Festival pm
17.12.18	Junior Christmas party Infants to sing at Gainford Luncheon Club -afternoon
18.12.18	Infant Christmas Party
19.12.18	<b>Whole school visit to Darlington Pantomime return to school approx. 5.10pm</b>
20.12.18	Christingle Service at St Marys Church 9.15 am -all welcome Carols around the tree – in school hall 2.35pm all welcome <b>Last Day of Term Thursday 20th December</b>
	School is closed on Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> December
	<b>School reopens for pupils on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January</b>

Yours sincerely

*Chris Riley*

Mrs Chris Riley



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