



**Work hard**

**Love**

**Learn**

## **July Newsletter**

### **Fundraising**

Thank you for your amazing support of our sponsored run and skip. We raised over £800 which is almost £10 per pupil and more than £100 per cohort. It was great to see so many of you join us in the blistering heat to run laps with your children.

The old adventure area will be removed in the summer break and the new one will be built in September. All workers have a DBS so the building work will take place during school time with the area cordoned off for two weeks at the most. The plans for the new adventure area are great and we are really looking forward to having it in place for the children to enjoy.

### **Maths coffee morning**

Again, a huge thanks for joining your children for Maths in their classes. We hope that you found it useful and informative. Since the pandemic, Maths has been our weaker test subject in Key Stage Two, and we are working very hard to bring it back in line with our excellent results in writing and reading. Year on year our multiplication test results are improving with an average of just over 20 out of 25 this year. We need more children to get 25 out of 25 as this sets them up for success in Year 5 and 6. Anything you can do at home to help with this is greatly appreciated.

A big thanks to Mrs Millican for organising the sponsored run and skip and the Maths coffee with CAFOD club. Like many of our staff she is part-time but gives many extra hours to the school to help us out.

### **Sports**

As you can see from our Facebook page there have been a lot of sporting events taking place. Thanks to Mrs and Miss Carr for organising and attending these with our pupils

The Athletics Festival for KS2 was an excellent event and our children got through to lots of semi-finals. The day ended with torrential rain, but our pupils kept smiling in the downpour!

A selection of Year 3 /4 pupils had a wonderful time at Quad kids at St Thomas More this week and worked really hard at all the sporting activities.

Year 6 have their adventure day today on the Queen Elizabeth 11 lake in Ashington. Hopefully they are staying dry!

Most of our remaining Year 5 swimmers and half of our Year 4 swimmers have passed the end of Key Stage Two swimming standard this week.

### **Swimming in September**

All next year's Year 4 and a few Year 5's who need a bit more practice will be attending swimming lessons from the second week of September. They will need goggles, a swimsuit, or tight-fitting trunks (no baggy shorts). We will send out a letter once we have our date and time confirmed.

## Earrings

If you are planning to get your child's ears pierced, please do it in week one of the summer holidays so that they can be removed for September.

Please avoid getting your child's ears pierced in school the school year. We have had an increase in pupils with newly pierced ears which are unsuitable for PE lessons and swimming lessons. Earrings are not allowed in primary or secondary schools, and it is an unpleasant experience for your child to be constantly told they are breaking the rules.

## Uniform

We are collecting in trainers and school shoes which are still in good condition as well as PE shorts for our supplies. This will mean that all children will be able to do PE with the right footwear and uniform and we can give school shoes to those who lose them during the year. Please send any donations in before the holidays or in early September.

## Attendance

Attendance policy is changing nationally in September, and I will be sending out the guidance in the first week back. If you are planning to book a term time holiday and your child is over five, please note that holiday fines are increasing and as before must be paid by both parents for each child. So, a family of two children will get four fines. I always appreciate the real reasons you have for term time holidays but there are very few circumstances in which I am allowed to authorise a holiday. Some schools nationally have been less strict than Gateshead with this guidance so the new guidance is much tighter so there is no unfairness between different local authorities.

Ten unauthorised absences in a ten-week period will have to be referred to the local authority for fines. Arriving at school after 9am must be registered as an unauthorised absence so some pupils will very quickly hit the ten absences limit.

With kind regards,  
Joanna Bircham  
Head Teacher

## Dates for Diaries

<b>July</b>	
<b>10th</b>	Transfer day to new classes. Year 6 to STM, new Reception to visit
<b>12th</b>	Year 5 /6 Football tournament in school
<b>15th</b>	Year 5 Trust Olympics at Gateshead Stadium
<b>18th</b>	Year 6 Leavers' assembly
<b>19th</b>	Year 6 Leavers' mass 10am at St Barnabas. Year 2-6 going to mass so any volunteers needed to help us walk down.
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> / 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	Training days – school closes to pupil for Summer on Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July at 3pm
<b>September</b>	
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	Training days – school closed to pupils
<b>4th</b>	Pupils return to school at 8.30am and new starters begin Reception class