



Welcome Back

A warm welcome back to all members of our school family, with a particular mention to the new children who have transferred to our school this year and also to our wonderful new Reception children. After an uncertain and difficult few months, We are delighted to be back together, in school, albeit a little bit differently to normal. All of the children have been excellent and have adapted so well to the safety measures and guidelines that we have had to put in place– they make us so proud!

A huge thank you

I would like to say a big thank you to all parents, carers and children for working so hard to follow the guidelines and procedures that we have put in place in order to safely return to school. Your cooperation has enabled us to successfully put into practise our protocol and has enabled a really smooth transition back to school for all of our children and school family.

Things are changing all of the time and we receive updated advice from the government and local authority almost daily. I know that you will continue to work with us to implement any changes necessary in order to keep all members of our school family safe.

Holy Communions

Last Saturday, 9 boys and girls from Year 5 celebrated the sacrament of the Eucharist, making their first Holy Communion. They have been preparing for this day since last year, attending classes with their parents. Over the past few months there were many times when we thought that it may be impossible for the children to receive this sacrament due to the pandemic. However, after a lot of organisation, planning and risk assessments, school, families and the parish were able to make this celebration a reality for the children.

As always we were so proud of the children. They were very respectful and reverent throughout their First Holy Communion Mass and were a real credit to all of our school family.

Boys and girls, we are so proud of you and are so glad that you managed to have such a special First Holy Communion day!



Fr Frank Retires

After 50 years of dedicated service to the priesthood Fr Frank has decided to retire. We have loved having him as our Parish priest, he has been so supportive of the school and has thoroughly enjoyed spending time with all of our children and school family over the years.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Fr Frank for all of his work; his compassion, time, kindness and support. I am sure you will all agree that Fr Frank will always have a special place in our school community and we'll all have a memory or 2 of him, from over the years, that we hold dear.

We wish you health and happiness in your retirement Fr Frank! Please come back to visit us from your new home at St Joseph's, Murton.

Reading and Homework

Reading is one of the most important skills that a child needs in order to be able to access all other areas of the curriculum and is the key to opening up possibilities for the future. From Friday, all children will begin to bring home a reading book from school again. Each week the book will go out on a Friday and we would appreciate it if you could return the book on a Monday morning.

The Year 5 and 6 children have been trialling a brilliant reading programme in school called Reading Plus. This is an online reading resource and the Year 5/6 children now have access to this exciting resource at home.

Over the coming weeks all children will also receive maths and phonic/spelling homework to complete. Please watch out for more information on this from your child's teacher.

Sponsored Fun Run

Over the past few years, as a fundraising event, we have organised a Fun Run in school for the children. This has become a much loved event and something our children really look forward to. For this reason we have planned a fun run for a couple of weeks time— Friday 9th October. This will be a sponsored event and any proceeds raised will go back into school funds to organise Christmas activities for the children.

Each child in school will receive a sponsor form which will come home in their book bags. We would appreciate any sponsorship for this event, no matter how big or small the amount, every penny helps.

We really can't wait for the children to enjoy this fun activity!

Packed Lunch

Please can I ask that for health and safety reasons, you do not put nuts or grapes into your child's lunchbox. Also, please make sure that lunches are healthy and in line with our packed lunch policy.

Contact details

For safety reasons, please ensure that if you change your phone number or address then you let school know as soon as possible. There are occasions when we need to be able to contact parents quite quickly so it is so important that we have up to date information.

Parents' Evenings

In the current climate we are still aiming to limit the number of visitors entering the school site, in order to eliminate as much risk as possible, to all in our school family. In Autumn Term, parents will be given the option to attend a virtual Parent's Evening to find out about their child's progress.

Watch out for more information to follow!

ParentPay

Please remember to keep your ParentPay account in credit at all times for school meals and breakfast club. Thank you for your cooperation.

Attendance/Timings of the school day

Our current system of staggering our entrance and exit into school is working very well.

All children can come into school from **8.30am-8.55am**

The morning register will be taken at **8.55am**

On an evening **Reception Class, Yr1,Y2 and Y3 finish school at 3.05pm**. Vehicles can enter the school site from **2.50pm**

Years 4, 5 and 6 finish school at 3.30pm. Vehicles collecting children at this pick up time can enter the school site from **3.15pm**.

Car park

We are delighted that after many years of hard work to ensure the safety of traffic and parking, on and around our school site, our new carpark has really helped with the congestion and flow of traffic.

The new carpark, alongside our carefully planned protocol to return to school, means that our school site is much safer for all in our school community. As always, there will be tweaks and improvements to the systems that we have in place, however, I know that you will work with us to ensure the safety of all.

Please also ensure that **at all times** whilst on the school site you maintain social distancing. This is vitally important in order for us to keep everyone safe!

Breakfast Club

We are very happy to be able to provide a Breakfast Club for our children in school. Children can arrive from 7:45am to 8:20am. We understand that in these uncertain times, many parents do rely heavily on this service. In order for us to be able to keep our children in their 'bubbles' and ensure that we have adequate staffing to match the numbers attending breakfast club, breakfast club places **must** be booked in advance. Mrs Armstrong sends out a weekly message with booking arrangements for breakfast club, we would really appreciate it if anyone requiring a breakfast club place for their child, books and returns the information in the timescale requested.

We thank you for your cooperation!



Dates for your Diary!



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|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Whole school Fun Run | Friday 9th October |
| Children Break up for Half-Term | Thursday 22nd October |
| Teacher training day | Friday 23rd October |
| Children return to school | Monday 2nd November |

2020-2021 Holiday Dates

| Holiday | Closing date | Date re-opens |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Summer 2020 | Friday 17 July 2020 | Thursday 3 September 2020 |
| Autumn half-term 2020 | Thursday 22 October 2020 | Monday 2 November 2020 |
| Christmas 2020 | Friday 18 December 2020 | Tuesday 5 January 2021 |
| Spring half-term 2021 | Friday 12 February 2021 | Monday 22 February 2021 |
| Easter 2021 | Friday 26 March 2021 | Tuesday 13 April 2021 |
| May Day 2021 | Friday 30 April 2021 | Tuesday 4 May 2021 |
| Summer half-term 2021 | Friday 28 May 2021 | Monday 7 June 2021 |
| Summer 2021 | Tuesday 20 July 2021 | Wednesday 1 September 2021 |

School will be closed on the following days for staff training:

Friday 23rd October 2020, Monday 4th January and Monday 12th April 2021.

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Headteacher: Mrs Ashton