

Welcome to another new school year the children have made an enthusiastic and settled start to the term. It is good to see all our pupils looking so smart in their uniforms and wearing their school colours with pride. Please remember that trainers are not uniform, children should be wearing black shoes for school.

We welcome some new members of staff to Red Hall Primary School this year – Miss Mellor in Year 4, Mrs Wetton and Miss Bright in Year 5, Miss Stannard in Year 1 and joining us next week are Miss Hart in Lullaby Lane and Miss Richardson in Nursery. Mrs Keeley will be joined in our main office by Mrs Heseltine who will also be with us full time. I would also like to extend a warm welcome to the new pupils and families that have joined us.

I apologise for any inconvenience the roofing repairs are causing you. We had hoped this work would have been completed during the summer holidays.

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Welcome Back!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**Attendance**

Attendance at Red Hall Primary School last year was the best it has ever been so thank you so much for supporting good attendance in school. Good attendance is strongly linked to good achievement. The overall attendance for the school was 95.54% and the national average that all schools should aim for is 96%. Let’s see if we can hit that this year!

**Guidelines for Parents**

Please remember that the government reduced the persistent absence threshold from 15 per cent to 10 per cent last academic year. Therefore, a pupil is now considered to have persistent absence if their attendance falls below 90%.

**What does 90% attendance look like?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **If your child is absent in..** | **10% absence is the same as..** |
| Half Term 1 | 7 or more sessions absent (3 and ½ days) |
| Half Term 1 – 2 (Autumn Term) | 14 or more sessions (7 full days) |
| Half Term 1 - 3 | 20 or more sessions (10 full days) |
| Half Term 1.4 (Autumn and Spring Term Combined) | 25 or more sessions (12 ½ days) |
| Half Term 1-5 | 31 or more sessions (15 ½ days) |
| Half Term 1-6 (Full Academic Year) | 38 or more sessions (19 days) |

* 90% attendance is ½ a day missed every week!
* Over a school year this is 4 weeks of learning lost.

Parents/carers should contact the school office as soon as possible if their child is going to be absent or late. Remember providing evidence of appointments and visits to the doctors is vital if you require an absence to be authorised by the school.

**Holidays**

**“Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances."**

**We continue to follow the government guidelines on this.**



**Monday 26th September, 2016**

**There will be a PD Day for staff on this date when the school will be closed to children**

**• 31st October – Back to School**

* **1st December – EYFS Assembly**
* **14th December – Christmas Panto**
* **12th September – Y5/6 Trip to Beamish**
* **26th September – PD day – School Closed to children**
* **17th October – Y6 Residential to Kingswood**
* **21st October – Half Term**

**Reminder**

If your child does have asthma and requires an inhaler please could you ensure there is one in school. Please bring it into the office to Mrs Keeley as soon as possible.

2015/16 was a very successful year for Red Hall Primary School with our best Phonics results, excellent Key Stage 1 results and the only school in Darlington to have 100% of pupils achieving expected standard in Maths at Key Stage 2.

Red Hall Primary School has always enjoyed a positive relationship with parents/carers. That relationship is so important and I am very much looking forward to working with you once again to ensure the very best for your children.

Ms Julie Davidson

8th September, 2016