

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. We are also this year encouraging all our children in Lullaby Lane and Nursery to begin to wear their school uniform and it is fantastic to see that the majority are now doing this. This helps them to feel like they belong to the rest of the school and is much more practical and smart.

We welcome back Miss Hughes after her maternity leave and extend that warm welcome to quite a few new pupils and families that have just joined us this year.

I apologise for any inconvenience the new roof is causing you. We had hoped this work would have been completed during the summer holidays.

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Welcome Back!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**Attendance**

Good attendance is strongly linked to good achievement. The overall attendance for the school dropped significantly last year and was **94.89%** and the national average that all schools should aim for is **96%**. Let’s see if we can hit that this year as schools do get judged on their overall attendance.

**Guidelines for Parents**

Please remember that the government reduced the persistent absence threshold from 15% to 10%. 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.**



* **31st October –** Back to School
* **14th December –** Christmas Dinner
* **14th December –** Christingle at St Andrew’s Church
* **19th December –** Cinderella Panto at Billingham Forum
* **22nd December –** Christmas Holidays
* **11th September –** M & M Production of Pinocchio in School
* **12th September –** Y1/2 Trip to Dorman Museum
* **18th September –** Y5/6 Trip to Alnwick Castle
* **16th October –** Y6 Residential to Kingswood
* **23rd October –** Half Term
* **30th October – PD Day – School closed to children**

**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.

2016/17 was a very successful year for Red Hall Primary School with our strongest ever Early Years results, the highest Phonics results ever, excellent Key Stage 1 results and 100% of pupils achieving expected standard in Maths at Key Stage 2 for the second year running. But let’s make 2017/18 the **BEST YET**.

(Our data can be found in detail on the school website <http://redhallprimary-darlington.co.uk>)

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 2017

8th September, 2016