



RED HALL PRIMARY



Welcome Back!

Welcome back for the new academic year and a very special welcome to pupils new to our school including children in Lullaby Lane, Nursery and our Reception class. We also welcome some new members of staff to our Red Hall Family – Miss Johnston in Year 3, Miss Johnson in Year 1 (yes this could get confusing), Miss Stannard in Reception and Miss Bowes in Year 3.

I hope you all had a wonderful summer and made some memories with your children. Over the summer holidays Miss Hayman gave birth to a baby boy who she has called Jack. They are both well.

It is good to see all our pupils looking so smart in their uniforms and wearing their school colours with pride. We are also making it an expectation that all our children in Nursery 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.

Our school had a huge make over in the holidays and your children might have come home telling you all about the new furniture which we have in every classroom. Please re-iterate the importance of looking after our school and not damaging this property. We will have to consider charging parents/carers if your child causes damage to the new tables and chairs on purpose.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Attendance

Good attendance is strongly linked to good achievement. One of our targets from our OFSTED inspection is to continue to improve Attendance in this school and I can only do this with the support of you as parents/carers in encouraging your child to have the right attitude towards attending school every day.

The overall attendance for the school dropped significantly last year and was **94.59%** 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

A pupil is now considered to have persistent absence if their attendance falls below 90%.

What does 90% attendance look like?

<u>If your child is absent in..</u>	<u>10% absence is the same as..</u>
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)

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.

Dates for your diary!

- **12th September** - Key Stage 2 visit to Sunderland Empire to see 'WICKED'
- **15th October** - Whole School Educational Pantomime 'You've Been Flushed'.
- **Wk. 22nd October** – Parent Consultation Week
- **Wk. 22nd October** – Kingswood for Year 6 Pupils.
- **Friday 26th October** – Half Term Begins
- **Monday 5th November** – Back to School
- **12th December** - Whole School visit to Billingham Forum for the pantomime 'Peter Pan'.
- **14th December** – Christmas Fair
- **Friday 21st December** – Christmas Holidays
- **Monday 7th January** – Back to School

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 or Mrs Heseltine as soon as possible.

2017/18 was another successful year for Red Hall Primary School with our end of year results. (Our data can be found in detail on the school website <http://redhallprimary-darlington.co.uk>)

We also ended the academic year with a very successful OFSTED inspection and our report will go public today and hopefully we will also be able to celebrate this in the local news. The school could potentially be inspected again within the next 2 years as we continue on our journey towards 'Outstanding'.

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 – 7th September 2018

