

Birtley East School Times

8th September 2023

Welcome back after the summer, it's been great to welcome everyone back into class and we've got some new faces joining us this week/next week so it will be good to get to know them too.

Holiday Club

We have been made aware that during the last week of holiday club, parents and carers were informed by Grass Roots staff that there would be no holiday Club on Friday 1st September. Corrina has contacted Grass Roots and they have asked us to pass on their apologies, as the dates we originally booked included Friday 1st September. We are sorry for any disruption this caused.

Toileting Support

ERIC, the Children's Bladder and Bowel charity, are offering a series of free online information sessions for parents and carers. The sessions cover topics such as potty training, toilet refusal, and potty training a child with additional needs. Parents can book onto the session via the link or by using the QR code attached.

[How to...? A week of webinars to help you with your child's toileting challenges. - ERIC](#)

After School Clubs

You will receive confirmation of places today, **all clubs will start next week.**

REMINDER: Changes to the school day

From September, the school day for reception to year 6 will be altered slightly. **Children will start their 'soft start' from 8.40am and the school day will officially start at 8.50am. The doors will be closed at 8.50am and any children arriving after this will need to enter through the main office.** The school day for these year groups will end at 3.20pm. If you have children to collect from more than one exit then don't worry, we will wait with them until you arrive. Nursery session times are unchanged.

School Calendar

This was sent out last week via email, please email school if you'd like another copy sent to you.

We are planning lots of events this term and next week's newsletter will contain dates for your diary running up to Christmas. We will be having the usual Halloween dress up day on the last day of this half term (optional – children do not have to dress up). In advance of this we will be running a Halloween costume swap shop so if you have any costumes your children have grown out of you will be able to bring them and swap them. More details to follow but hold on to any you no longer need.

Gateshead SEND Thresholds Pilot Program

We are excited to announce that our school has been chosen to take part in the Gateshead SEND Thresholds pilot program. The SEND Thresholds provide a framework to support identification of needs, curriculum adaptation, guidance on assessment and the deployment of resources. The Thresholds are based on the four areas of the SEND Code of Practice (cognition and learning, communication and interaction, social emotional and mental health and sensory/physical) and gives practical guidance and ideas from Early Years to Post 19. It also includes the Preparation for Adulthood (PfA) outcomes (employment/training, independence, good health and community inclusion) from the Early Years through to 25 under each area of need. These have been written in consultation with education, health, social care and parents, carers and young people.

Birtley East Primary School is a pilot school for the Gateshead SEND Thresholds and will be trialling them throughout the Autumn term. For your child, if they are identified as having SEND, this will involve reviewing the provision in place based on their needs to ensure that the SEND Thresholds support the best possible progress for children and young people. The school will be supported with piloting the SEND Thresholds by a team of SENDCO's and a SEND specialist advisor. We will be taking feedback from the children/young people and parents and carers in October to shape the final document. This document will

then be launched across all Gateshead schools in 2024. The focus year groups will be years 4 and 6 and staff will contact you directly about if/how this affects your child.

As part of this pilot program, if you would like the opportunity to see a copy of the SEND Thresholds, understand how you can use them to support your child and ask any questions you may have please contact our SENCo Mrs Purcell or our Deputy Headteacher Miss Pickersgill.

Anna Diggle
Headteacher