**Birtley East School Times**

9th February 2024

**Parents – teacher appointments 12th and 13th February**

Appointments go live for booking overnight tonight, you will receive an email notification when they are available.

**Changes to SEN assessment**

Our SENCo, Miss Pickersgill, will be available for drop in discussions on 14th February after school to answer any questions about the new SEN Threshold documents which are being rolled out across Gateshead, further information about these is available here: [SEND Thresholds - Gateshead Local Offer SEND 0 to 25 years (gateshead-localoffer.org)](https://gateshead-localoffer.org/send-thresholds/)

Some children with SEN will be receiving new learning plans from class teachers at parents evening based upon these new frameworks and some children with additional needs will no longer need a learning plan due to these new structures. The change to using thresholds is happening across Gateshead and is not specific to our school.

**Children’s Mental Health Week**

[Grace Byers Reads "I Am Enough" | Bookmarks | Netflix Jr - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a_l4jeZH84k)

Children will be learning about keeping safe online in school to nark this day next week. For parents we recommend:

Internet Matters: [Online safety resources for primary schools | Internet Matters](https://www.internetmatters.org/schools-esafety/primary/?utm_source=email_Sprint_29_Jan_Primary_HTML&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Schools&utm_content=_IM_LOGO_header) (this site includes advice by age: [Internet safety advice and information | Internet Matters](https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/))

Digital Matters: [Free online safety resources for schools & families | Digital Matters (internetmatters.org)](https://www.internetmatters.org/digital-matters/?utm_source=email_Sprint_29_Jan_Primary_HTML&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Schools&utm_content=_DM_LOGO_header)

**Walking bus**

We will be trialling a ‘walking bus’ after half term. School staff will meet children near to Lansbury Drive bungalows on a Monday morning for 2 weeks running, we may extend this if the trial is successful. You will get a chance to sign up for this next week.

**Contacting staff**

Please contact staff via the main school office rather than using the messaging via eschools – staff do not use the messaging part of this platform so any messages sent via eschools will not be picked up.

**Staff changes**

You may have noticed a maternity vacancy advertised for our school lately. This is on our school website. Parents will be advised of any changes in due course and staff in school, including staff who are due to take maternity leave, do not have any further information to share with parents at this stage. Whilst we understand parents will want to know about changes we need to balance what we are able to share with respecting staff privacy. It is likely to be after half term when we have an update regarding this.

**123 magic**

There is information attached about this parenting programme being offered locally in the near future.

**Evening Drop Ins**

There is information attached about drop in evens for you to share your views/gain support for issues locally.

**Dates for your diary**

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| WB 12-2-24 | Parents evening |
| WB 19-2-24 | HALF TERM |

Anna Diggle

Headteacher