**Birtley East School Times**

27th October 2023

**Attendance**

Improving attendance for all our children is a key school improvement priority for us this year. You will be notified if your child’s attendance is falling below 95%. This can happen quite quickly at this time of year after just a few days off but can also be easily improved by attending well going forwards. There are some good resources to support attendance and other issues families my be tackling available via the link below:

[Resources for families | Children's Commissioner for England (childrenscommissioner.gov.uk)](https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/back-into-school/resources-for-families/)

**After School Clubs**

Apologies for the confusion this week regarding cooking club. The club was very over subscribed and so we have had to make some changes. If your child was in cooking club you still want your child to stay after school on Thursdays but they can no longer attend this club due to the changes please let us know. We can accommodate them in another club where there is space or can put on an alternative if there is a demand for it.

Football club (Wednesdays) will continue to run after half term until it is too dark to play outside. It may then stop over the winter as we do not have facilities to continue football practice indoors. If your child attends football club and you will need a place in another club on a Wednesday whilst football club is not running then please contact school and let us know. As with cooking, we can accommodate them in another club where there is space or can put on an alternative after school club to replace football if there is a demand for it.

After half term, **all children will need to be collected by an adult** from after school clubs due to the darker nights.

**Breakfast Club: Nursery Children**

In the past, we have occasionally been able to accommodate nursery age children in our breakfast club. Unfortunately, due to the number of children attending the club and statutory requirements regarding space and adult ratios for nursery children, we are not able to offer places for nursery children in breakfast club any longer. This decision was made in consultation with our governors and we hope you understand that we have to limit access for our very youngest children in order to comply with childcare legislation. It is possible to have very young children in for extended hours but this would have to be a charged for service in order to cover staff wages and resources. There is not the demand to make this a financially viable option at the moment in school.

**Reminder: Applications for School Places**

The deadline for applications for **year 7 places for September 2024** is 31st October. Please can all parents of year 6 pupils check they have made their application.

The deadline for applications to start **reception class in September 2024** is in January. We are happy to take parents around at any time this term for a tour around school to help with this decision. We were over subscribed last year so it’s important to get your application in by the deadline.

**REMINDER: Flu Immunisation Consent**

The following date has been planned for our school **15/12/2023**

**Please complete consent via the following link:**

[**https://www.northumbriaimmunisations.co.uk/Forms/Flu**](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.northumbriaimmunisations.co.uk%2FForms%2FFlu&data=05%7C01%7CAnnaDiggle%40Gateshead.Gov.UK%7C0957b8ae4cdf4ba34d8f08dbc00d4ac1%7C09fbb97943174d219cb6e58811169cd8%7C0%7C0%7C638314935537112502%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Xq7eq1VHk28UyLxUqfGBagU9OO93pLWtyo7ROE6zm%2BM%3D&reserved=0)

**using school code** **NB108337**

**Tuesday Wellbeing Group**

Our Tuesday Women-Only wellbeing group will meet next week at Birtley Library in the community room as school is closed for half term. Tea and coffee will be provided. After half term, the wellbeing group will be taking part in a six week journaling course, where group members will dig out their old photos and other memories to create a journal all about the special people and places in their lives.

Rhyme time is also on at the library at 10-10.30 and 11-11.30 for any families with younger children.

**Dates for your diary**

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| **WB 30-10-23** | **Half term** |
| 9-11-23 | **Multiplication Tables Check meeting for parents of children in year 4, 2.15pm** |
| 10-11-23 | Be Bright Be Seen |
| 13-11-23 | Y1 Reading Workshop |
| 15-11-23 | Y5 Reading Workshop |
| 16-11-23 | Y6 Reading Workshop |
| 17-11-23 | Y4 Reading Workshop  **Children in Need** – children can come to school in any Children in Need tops/clothing *IF THEY WANT* or can come in their school uniform as normal. |
| 21-11-23 | Reception Reading Workshop |
| 24-11-23 | Y3 Reading Workshop |
| 27-11-23 | School photos |
| 28-11-23 | Y2 Reading Workshop |
| 29-11-23 | M&M Beauty and the Beast Panto in school (1pm) |
| 30-11-23 | Nursery Oracy/Reading Workshop |
| 7-12-23 | Santa Run\* and Christmas School Lunch \* Change of focus! (The children will also be able to wear a Christmas jumper if they want.) |
| WB 11-12-23 | Christmas performances |
| 15-12-23 | Nasal Flu Vaccines |
| WB 18-12-23 | Christmas parties |
| 22-12-23 | Carols in the hall (pm), end of term |
| **Tuesday** 9-1-24 | Start of spring term (8-1-24 is a staff INSET day) |

Anna Diggle

Headteacher