

Thought of the Week: "The chief beauty about time is that you cannot waste it in advance. The next year, the next day, the next hour are lying ready for you, as perfect, as unspoiled, as if you had never wasted or misapplied a single moment in all your life. You can turn over a new leaf every hour if you choose." — Arnold Bennett

important information

Welcome Back to Bedlington Station Primary School

A warm welcome back to all our children and parents as we begin the academic year 2016-17. I hope you have had a wonderful summer with family and friends and are returning to school refreshed, energised and ready to learn. The staff here have been working hard through the summer to ensure that all the classrooms are ready and the school looks in wonderful condition, ready for your return. It was lovely to see you all again on the yard yesterday morning and I can't wait for the new year to begin. We have lots of exciting things in store for this year so please make sure that you read our newsletter, "The Station Voice" when it comes home every Thursday so that you keep up to date. For your information, an updated copy is always placed in the noticeboard on the main yard and on our website. We welcome one or two new children to our lovely school and I hope that they, together with all the children in their new classes, settle in quickly and have a happy start to the new term.

Please remember that if you have any queries or concerns about anything at all, or just want to tell us of something that you think is a real success, please don't hesitate to speak to me or a member of staff. I welcome any constructive views and will do what I can to act on them.

Have a wonderful autumn term.

Attendance

A reminder that we do expect children to attend school on time every day unless they are unwell. If they have a cough or cold, or the odd sneeze please send them in to school and rest assured that if they become more unwell through the day we will contact you to let you know or ask you to come and collect your child. Bedlington Station Primary takes attendance very seriously and if your child misses significant amounts of school over the year they will not be able to progress as well as they might. Of course, if your child is unwell or sick, we would not expect your child to be in school until they are recovered.

Just to confirm that I am continuing with the 2 initiatives to support our aim to have as many children in school every day as possible. Firstly, any child who has 100% attendance for the whole school year with no lateness, will be rewarded with a very special treat at the end of the year. This might be a trip to the cinema to watch the latest film or a lunch out at a restaurant, for example. Secondly, the class with the best attendance over the year will receive a whole class reward just before the summer break. This will be chosen in consultation with the winning class and will be age-appropriate but could, for example, be an afternoon at a pool party or ten pin bowling. I am grateful for the feedback from parents that I received at the end of the initiatives in the summer term and can assure you that I have taken your comments on board. My aim, as always, is to ensure that every child is treated fairly and has a chance to succeed and I will consider all relevant circumstances carefully at the end of the school year.

I know you will join me in recognising the importance of good attendance in school and I thank you for your continuing support. For your information the school gates are open from 07:55 to allow Breakfast Club access. The school doors open at 08:45 to allow children in and close at 08:55. At that time the school gates are also locked. If you arrive after 08:55 you will need to access the school via the Office. At the end of the day the gates are opened at around 14:55 for the children coming out at 15:00 and locked at around 15:15 unless there is an afterschool activity. This is to ensure the safety of your children whilst on our school site.

School Uniform, Footwear & Jewellery

I am very keen that children should wear full school uniform every day whilst they are on our premises. I believe that to wear a uniform helps to foster pride in one's appearance and a real sense of belonging to an organisation and community. When I look around our school, both in the yard and when we have whole school assemblies, it is wonderful to see that most children are in uniform but from this term, I would really like to have everyone wearing it, every single day. My belief is that a uniform should be helpful to parents and carers so that they don't have to try and clothe their child in a different outfit every day, it should be not overly fussy or difficult to obtain and should also be good value for money and durable.

I realise that the subject of uniform can be an emotive one, provoking strong feelings occasionally. Indeed it has been in the news again this week with reference to a school in Margate. Can I please ask that you speak to me if you have any worries or concerns about uniform? It may be that you have difficulty getting your child to wear uniform in an already busy morning, even though it is what you want? Or it may be that the cost of a new uniform is prohibitive? Whatever the issue I am sure it can be resolved so please let me know and let's try to get everyone in school uniform every day this academic year.

Having said all this however, can I say a huge thank you already, as in our first whole school assembly that I led yesterday, almost everyone was in school uniform. Let's keep this going. Thank you!

Just as a reminder, our standard uniform is as follows:

Purple sweatshirt or cardigan, white polo shirt, grey or black trousers or skirt, pinafore etc.

Footwear

Shoes should preferably be black or of a neutral colour and appropriate for wearing around school so that the children can move around safely and with some protection from everyday bumps and knocks that are part of school life. I occasionally see sandals, shoes with straps and open toed shoes around school which I do not believe are appropriate or safe for the children to wear during the day. If it is felt that a child is wearing footwear that is not safe for walking around school, we will make a pair of black plimsolls available for them to wear during the day and return their shoes to you at the end of the day.

Jewellery

I have noticed that quite a lot of children have returned to school wearing ear-rings or studs. Just a reminder that **jewellery should not be worn at Bedlington Station Primary School.** This includes any ear-rings or studs which are a potential hazard at playtimes or during PE and they should be removed before entering school premises. Watches are permitted and to be encouraged, particularly in Key Stage 2, as a way to become familiar with time. I would really appreciate your support in ensuring that your child does not wear jewellery to school in future. Thank you.

School Meals

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are eligible for free School meals through a Government initiative that has been running since September 2014. All other meals in school require payment unless your child is eligible for free school meals. Please can you pay on a Monday morning, placing the money in a purse, wallet or envelope with your child's name, class and amount on the outside.

The contact number at County Hall is 01670 623592 if you wish to ring and check to see if your child qualifies for free school meals. Thank you.

Milk

If you still wish to purchase Milk for your child for this term the amount is £13.50 this is up to the Christmas holidays. Please send payment into school as above.

Uniform

If you have ordered uniform, it is now ready for collection. Please pay at the office and your child will bring it home with them either the same day or next day. Thank you.