



12th July 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we come to the end of another very successful year, we would like to thank staff, parents, carers and children for making our school the success that it is. All children enjoyed a lovely day at Wallington Hall and Sports Day was a huge success! Team Treat winners will be announced in the last week of term. Our Top 25 children will be visiting Gibside next week, too. Well done if you have achieved this! Children's reports will be coming out early next week. If you feel that you want to discuss anything with your child's class teacher, we have a drop in session for parents on Monday 15th July. Times vary depending on classes so please check the school app. No appointment is necessary for this. For parents of children with an SEN support plan please can you ensure you drop in to review your child's plan and set new targets for the next academic year.

We have an exciting year ahead and hope this letter helps parents plan and keep up to date with what is happening. With effect from the 1st September 2019 we will formally join with Moorside Primary School to form the Discovery Federation.

Staffing 2019-20

As some of you may already be aware, Mrs Ewen is leaving us at the end of the year and I am sure along with myself you would like to thank her for the ten years of service she has given to the school. We wish her every success for the future.

Mrs Shone is also leaving us to start a new adventure. Again I am sure you will join with us n wishing her every success for the future wherever that may be.

Children will be taught in mixed age classes next academic year as follows:

	Staffing AM	Staffing PM
EYFS/Y1	Miss K Hodgson, Miss Fenwick, Mrs Palmer, Mrs Shanks & Ms Brown	Miss K Hodgson, Miss Fenwick, Mrs Palmer, Mrs Shanks & Ms Brown
Year 1/2	Mr Butler	Mr Butler
Year 3/4	Mrs Ramshaw	Year 3/4 Mrs Ramshaw
Year 4/5	Mrs Heron	
Year 6	Miss S Hodgson	Year 5/6 Miss S Hodgson

Mrs Graham will work across year 1/2 and year 3/4

Mrs Rushforth will work across year 4/5 and 5/6

Coming into School

From September all children from Reception to Year 6 will enter school on a morning through the main Reception door. Mr Butler or Mrs Templeton will be on the door to take messages ect.... Children can be collected from the normal exits on an evening. Nursery will continue to use their normal entrance and exits. Breakfast Club will also continue to use the side entrance.

Fantastic Fridays

Starting in September, Fantastic Fridays will make up our lessons every Friday across the whole year. On these days, classes will rotate between a range of lessons for the whole day. For the Autumn term, these include Computing, PSHE, Relationships Education, Inspirational People, Outdoor Learning, PE, Music,

French and RE. To make things easier, we request that ALL children come into school dressed in their PE kits every Friday so that time is not wasted getting changed for the various lessons throughout the day. This has taken a lot of planning and we hope that it enriches the curriculum for children and provides them with consistently developed skills in all areas. Staff are also excited about teaching the new topics!

Can we please remind parents/carers that we have a uniform for PE and we expect that this is worn on a Friday from Reception-Year 6. We know that children may need waterproofs or other outdoor clothing which doesn't fit exactly in with the PE uniform, but can we please ask that you try to provide your children with dark, plain outdoor clothing rather than branded and colourful items. PE kit will form a key part of the Traffic Light Tracker from September and we are sure that you understand that a Friday will still consist of formal lessons and therefore appropriate clothing needs to be worn. Can we also ask that girls' hair is tied up on a Friday please.

Our PE uniform consists of:

- Plain black shorts/joggers
- Plain white t-shirt/plain sweatshirt or fleece
- Black plimsolls (or trainers suitable for outdoors)

Trainers cannot be worn on the floor in the hall as it damages the floor. If indoors for PE, children will work barefoot if they only have trainers with them, which is fine for lessons such as gymnastics and dance. We hope to see children in PE kit on Fridays and hope that you will all support us with this as it is just another day in school! If you prefer to keep your child's PE kit in school, they can get changed first thing and then at the end of the day.

Year 3/4 will access swimming on a Monday and will need their swimming kit.

Fitness!

Every member of staff in school is passionate about developing children's health and well-being. A huge part of this is their physical fitness and mental wellbeing which we are incorporating into our timetable in an effort to improve health and well-being across school. On a morning, when children come into school, they will complete self-registration in the hall, hang up their coats and bags, transfer anything necessary to their classrooms then head straight out on to the yard to participate in physical activities to raise their heart rate and prepare them for the day ahead. Morning activities will run until 9:10 Monday-Thursday and we will continue to run laps of the yard at the end of breaks and lunch times as we are committed to achieving our pledge of 'Active 30' linked to the Youth Sport Trust. We would appreciate your support in children arriving in school as close to 8:45 as possible so that we can develop their strength, coordination and endurance through a planned set of activities each morning. (EYFS will continue to access their own gross motor activities during their own session.)

Please note all children will access school through the main entrance from September. Children will be collected from their usual door.

New homework format from September 2019

From September, we will be changing our homework based upon feedback from parents in our recent survey. Parents would mostly prefer to access English and mathematics-based tasks for children in Year 1 – Year 6. For this reason, we are going to use our online resources as supplementary homework for children to complete. Children should have all received log ins for these resources across the course of the year. If you haven't received these or have misplaced yours, please contact your child's class teacher or the school office so that you have them for the summer. The primary aspect of our homework will be reading. As a school, we feel that this skill lies at the heart of the curriculum, and we need parents/carers to support us with this in order to raise children's skills in all areas of learning. In too many areas of school, children are falling behind in their learning as reading is not supported at home and therefore children do not have the opportunity to practise and consolidate their skills. We REALLY need your support with this.

To emphasise this further, recent studies have proven that a child who is read one book a day before starting nursery knows 290,000 more words than another who has not. I hope that you agree that this is significant

and not an intentional disadvantage that you wish to place your child in. Children who are read to five times per day before the age of five have an understanding of 1,400,000 more words than a child who is not. Again, this is a striking difference. Immediately, children who are not read to and who do not share a book are at a disadvantage in comparison to other children where this is happening in homes. We are investing in some high-quality, engaging books for the next academic year and children will be able to change this free choice book every week or fortnight depending upon their age. Please can you support us with this in sharing them with your child. We need children and families to value reading and flourish from all of the knowledge and entertainment that books can bring us.

Given the investment in these books, we will be recording what children take home each week/fortnight. If these are not returned, or are damaged beyond natural wear and tear, you will be asked to cover the cost of the book as we cannot simply continue to replace resources. We hope that you understand this and support us in showing care for books as a model to your children. Ultimately, we hope to be extremely successful with the new selection of books on offer to provide your child with a wide and diverse range of reading material at an age-appropriate level whereby they can read to you or you to them. These books are going to be used to promote a love of reading across school and have all been carefully selected.

Children's home readers (colour-banded books) will come home as usual and these are targeted at developing their reading skills to meet the next steps in their learning. We would appreciate these being shared at home at least three times per week as has always been the case. Again, we have invested in additional reading materials to support children's reading development and these will be shared in September.

After School Clubs

After-school clubs begin the first full week back after the holidays (week beginning 9th September). Booking forms will be sent out in the first week back and must be returned ASAP to avoid disappointment-ParentPay payments for the clubs will go live in September. Spaces to all clubs will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. We have a new set of clubs offered this year to support the change in our homework policy for those who cannot access online learning resources at home and at the request of both children and parents. During these sessions, the member of staff leading club will rotate readers during the sessions and complete the child's Reading Record. This will count towards their 'reading at home' for their Traffic Light Trackers but this cannot be guaranteed each session if numbers attending club are high. Children will be able to access Times Table Rock Stars, Spelling Shed and Purple Mash where their class teacher has set age-appropriate activities/games.

Clubs below will run from the first day back until the end of the autumn term.

Mondays	Tuesdays	Wednesdays	Thursdays	Fridays
Online Learning £13	Online Learning £13	Online Learning £13	Online Learning £13	Online Learning £13
Outdoor Learning £13		Film Club £13	Playground Games £13	

Breakfast Club will continue to run every morning from 7.45am for a cost of £1 for children from Reception-Y6. We will continue to offer free toast from 8:35 until 8:45 a.m. on a morning.

Traffic Light Trackers

Our Traffic Light Trackers will be used to reflect the changes in our homework policy and the uniform section will be graded according to all aspects of uniform- including PE kit as mentioned earlier. New descriptors of the Traffic Light Trackers can be found overleaf.

Uniform

Can we remind parents that our uniform consists of the following:

- Red Tartan skirt/Grey skirt/pinafore dress/ red and white dress in summer
- Grey trousers / shorts in summer (not leggings)
- White polo shirt
- Red jumper or cardigan (with logo available from school website)
- Plain black shoes

Jewellery

Children may wear a small pair of plain stub earrings and a simple watch but no other form of jewellery is allowed in line with school policy.

Hair styles and Nail Varnish

The school does not permit children to have 'extreme' haircuts that could serve as a distraction to other children. This includes shapes and patterns shaved into children's hair. Hair longer than shoulder length must be tied up to prevent it becoming a distraction when children are trying to work. No nail varnish should be worn for health and safety reasons.

School app, Facebook & School website

Please can you ensure that you have the *Our Schools App* downloaded on to your smartphone or tablet. Regular communications are uploaded here with notices and messages about your children, school closures and other aspects of school life. We use this means of communication to save on the cost of printing letters but also to reduce the impact on the environment. The school's Facebook page is used to celebrate the successes of our children, so you should be able to access updates about your child's learning here. In addition to this, each class has its own page on the school website where information is regularly uploaded about each class. You can access the information via <http://www.newbrancepeth.durham.sch.uk>

School events and planned excursions for the academic year 2019-2020

We have planned a range of activities and events for all children to take part in next year. Below are the events/excursions. Events with dates attached are firm bookings We would appreciate your support in contributing to the cost of these. Enriching children's experiences is something we strive for and staff have carefully plotted visits and visitors across the school year to support children's learning and also to support parents/carers in contributing towards these. We are hopeful that we can access all events outlined on the calendar without needing to cancel and where there are concerns financially, we hope that providing this information so early on will prove helpful in allowing parents to forward plan. As you are all aware, school cannot simply pay for these excursions, but we hope that you value the importance of these for your child and work with us to enable them to be successfully executed. As a staff team, we have worked hard to identify cost-effective visits and workshops that will link clearly to your child's learning and have spent time putting together plans to organise these events. Payment options for visits will become available on ParentPay and you will be notified of this via the school app, hopefully making things easier for you. We look forward to an extremely successful year in school with a new approach to our curriculum and hope to engage children further in their learning!

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Nursery	Seven Stories 15 th Oct	Zoo Lab 12 th Nov	Digger Land (TBC)	Circus Skills Work Shop 19 th March AM	Sage – Music Workshop (TBC)	Inflatable day (TBC)
Reception		Whole School – National Trust Venue (TBC) In School Panto 12 th December		Oriental Museum (TBC)		
Y1/2	Fire Engine Visit (TBC)		Beamish Museum 4 th Feb	Laing Art Gallery Tues 28 th April		
Y3/4	Durham Castle 8 th October		Tyne River Cruise 10 th March	Baltic Art Gallery (TBC)		
Y5/6	Bede World Visit 24 th Sept					

Top 25

Our Top 25 visits continue next year and school funds these to reward children who display exemplary behaviour and who put in 100% effort to all that they do. We understand that absence through illness can affect the Traffic Light Trackers so this is your chance to impress your teachers and gain one of the 25 spaces available for your hard work across a term! Good luck everyone!

Charities/School Fundraising

Across the past few years, we have supported a range of charities. We have decided that with the increased number of visits next year that we will continue to raise awareness of different events and charities, but we will not request monetary donations from parents. Instead, on the first day back in September, each class will present a charity to support across the school year and the School Council will decide on who we will represent as a whole school based upon these presentations. Therefore, fundraising for charity will link to this one charity across the year rather than multiple ones although we may still recognise other events through different clothing days etc.

School Fund contributions

We would like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who have contributed to school fund across the year on behalf of your family. To continue to purchase a range of resources and provide supplementary materials in classrooms, we would be grateful for your continued support in the form of £1 per week per family. This voluntary contribution is to be made via ParentPay and can either be paid weekly or in chunks at your convenience. Once again, thank you for your support with this.

Photographic Consent

We have updated our photographic consent in line with updated guidance and attached a new consent form at the end of this letter. Please detach the form, complete it and return it to school. Without this, we will not be able to publish any images of your child from September 2019. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

Year 6 Residential 2020

Following the success of the residential visit this year at Weardale Adventure Centre, we have secured a booking for next year between Monday 15th-17th June 2020. The total cost for this visit will be £200. If you pay £5 per week from the first full week back, the visit will be paid off by February half term! Payment will be made available via ParentPay.

Behaviour

We have a special treat planned for children in the last week. Repeated instances of poor behaviour will result in children not being able to take part as a consequence of their actions. The idea of this special treat is to reward all of the hard work and positive behaviour choices of children from across the year. I'm sure that you will support us in promoting positive behaviour choices so that all children in our school can focus and learn without disruption.

We are currently working on a new behaviour policy and updating our anti-bullying policy which we will share with you once it is complete.

Outside of school, we hope that everyone enjoys the summer break. On behalf of the rest of the community, can we ask that you know where your children are at all times and appropriately supervise them. We need to ensure all our children are safe and free from harm across the holidays.

Behaviour of adults on our school site

As a school we aim to set an example of kindness and tolerance to all our pupils at all times.

It is our expectation:

- That adults set a good example to children at all times, showing them how to get along with all members of the school and the wider community
- Parents will not swear on the school site
- That no members of staff, parents or children are the victims of abusive behaviour or open to threats from other adults on the school premises.
- Physical attacks and threatening behaviour, abusive or insulting language verbal or written, to staff, governors, parents and carers, children and other users of the school premises will not be tolerated and will result in withdrawal of permission to be on school premises.
- Any parent who is asked to leave the school premises will have the right to appeal the decision by writing to the Chair of Governors.

School premises are private property and parents have been granted permission from the school to be on school premises. However, in case of abuse or threats to staff, pupils or other parents, school may ban parents from entering school. It is also an offence under section 547 of the Education Act 1996 for any person (including a parent) to cause a nuisance or disturbance on school premises. The police may be called to assist in removing the person concerned.

As a school we take incidents or verbal or physical aggression very seriously.

Please support us in ensuring the school environment is a calm and safe place for all members of our community.

We look forward to seeing you at one of the remainder of our school events and hope all parents and children have a lovely summer holiday and we look forward to seeing you all back at school on Thursday 5th September. Please stay safe.

Yours sincerely

HL Templeton

Mrs H L Templeton

(Executive Head Teacher)

New Brancepeth Traffic Light Tracker

Attendance

Red

Below 96%

Yellow

96-98%

Green

98% and above

Punctuality

Red

Late more than once a week or more than 3 times in a half term

Yellow

Usually in school on time – late no more than 3 times in a half term

Green

Always at school before 9.

Relationships

Red

Frequently upsets children and adults.
Lacks self-control and often makes wrong choices.
Often fails to follow school rules.

Yellow

Sometimes gets involved in disputes and this disrupts learning.
Mostly follows school rules but needs occasional reminders.

Green

Always forms strong friendships and is a caring friend.
Manages disputes with friends appropriately.
Always follows school rules.
Always polite, friendly and helpful.

Effort

Red

Work is well below expectations.
Needs constant reminders to concentrate on their learning.
Work is careless and often of an unacceptable standard.
Work is often unfinished.
Often loses equipment.

Yellow

Work is usually of an acceptable standard with no scribbling.
Needs occasional reminders to stay focused on learning.
At times work may not be their best.
At times could work harder.

Green

Always gives 100%.
Work is completed on time and is of a high standard.
Work is presented thoughtfully and carefully.
Always remains on task and is self-motivated.

Reading Homework

Red

Rarely reads at home or completes reading activities.
Reading journal not up to date.
Reading homework rarely handed in or not completed.
Reading homework standards well below age expectation.

Yellow

Reads occasionally at home (only 2/3 times per week) and often needs reminding to get reading tasks done.
Reading journal occasionally not signed, and homework not consistently handed in or completed.

Green

Reads regularly at home and takes responsibility for this.
Reading journal is updated regularly.
Self-organised for homework and homework always completed to a good standard.

Uniform

Red

Regularly needs reminding to wear correct uniform.
Has incorrect/no PE kit 2 times or more in a half term.
Earrings are worn for school.
Hair does not follow guidelines in Parents Handbook: extreme hairstyles, hair untidy regularly

Yellow

Occasionally does not wear full uniform.
Uniform is mostly clean and tidy.
Occasionally forgets PE kit (1 or 2 times in a half term).
Hair is usually clean and tidy.

Green

Always wears full uniform including PE uniform and swimming kit.
Always clean and tidy.
Always has correct school PE kit when needed.
Always looks after own belongings.
Hair is always clean and tidy as described in Parents' Handbook



New Brancepeth Primary School

Photograph and Video Consent

Taking photographs and videos of children and young people

New Brancepeth Primary School recognises its responsibility to ensure the welfare and safety of children and young people and to comply with the General Data Protection Regulations 2018. You may wish to refer to our privacy notice on our website, which explains how we use your data, and your rights and responsibilities.

We use photographs and videos for a number of reasons including celebrating and recording children's successes. These images or videos may be used on display boards, screens and on our website and our social media site. Your child's identity will not be disclosed without your consent and only if the photograph is used to celebrate individual success.

Photographs and videos will only be recorded on school owned equipment and will not be kept for longer than is to be considered necessary and, in any event, not exceeding a maximum of three years after your child has left the school.

If you are concerned about the privacy of your child, we would like to encourage you to make an appointment and discuss your concern with a member of the senior management team so we can take appropriate measures to protect them. Mr R. Butler (Deputy Headteacher) is our Data Protection Officer and he is a safeguarding lead alongside Mrs H. L. Templeton (Headteacher) and Miss K Hodgson (EYFS Lead).

On some occasions, if we do not have permission to use the image of your child, it may result in your child not being able to take full part in some school events.

Please answer the questions on the attached consent form, then sign and date where shown. Please return the completed form to the school as soon as possible.

It is the parent's/carer's responsibility to inform the school if circumstances change and you wish to withdraw consent.

I give consent for you to record and use images or videos of my child in the following ways:

Consent	Please circle your answer	
<p><i>'Learning Journeys' are used to show a record of your child's learning in EYFS. They are used as part of the school's processes to record and measure progress. On many occasions, children will be learning in a group and their image may appear in another child's journal. We need to ask permission for this to be shared with their parents.</i></p> <p>My child's image may appear as part of a group in another child's Learning Journal/Journey and be shared with their family.</p>	YES	NO
Website (shows trips and activities and celebrates children's successes).	YES	NO
Twitter/Facebook (shows trips, activities and celebrates children's successes)	YES	NO
General publicity (includes use by the L.A and for training purposes).	YES	NO
Use by the press and other broadcast media or groups who visit the school to work with them educationally.	YES	NO

New Brancepeth Primary School will take all steps to ensure images and videos are used solely for the purposes they are intended. If you become aware that these are being used or shared inappropriately, please contact the school.

Name of Child _____

Class _____

Name of Parent/Carer

Signature _____

Date _____

Consent shall be obtained every school year and will last for the duration of that school year, unless consent is withdrawn. Images may be kept for no longer than necessary and will not be kept for longer than is to be considered necessary and, in any event, not exceeding a maximum of three years after your child has left the school.

You can withdraw consent at any time. To do this please contact the school office.

