



**Laurel Avenue Community Primary School**

**0191 3868416**



# Newsletter

## September 2016



*A warm welcome back to a new school year from all the staff at Laurel Avenue Community Primary School. I hope you all had an excellent summer and are ready for a busy and exciting term ahead. I'd like to extend a special welcome to new pupils and parents. I hope you will be very happy here.*

*It has been wonderful to see the children rush through the doors as the new school year begins. Thank you, as ever, for your efforts in ensuring that they are smart and in full school uniform and black shoes.*

*Welcome Back*

*A special welcome is also extended to Mrs Ingham who will be teaching Class 3 every Wednesday and then each Thursday, alternatively in Class 3 and Class 4 to release teachers for planning, preparation and assessment time.*

*I'd like to say a huge thank you to all parents and carers who help and support school in any way. If we are to make sure that every child in school reaches their potential, it is vital that we can all work together in partnership. Your ongoing support with hearing your child read regularly, supporting them with homework, attending parents' evenings and ensuring that they have their reading bag, PE kit and other equipment ready in school is such an integral part in enabling your child to achieve the success they deserve.*

*As always, please check our website, feel free to stop by my office, or contact me at any time via phone or e-mail if I can be of assistance. I always appreciate parents and carers taking the time to come and see me or call the office to discuss all issues, however big or small. I look forward to working with you all again this year.*

*Kind regards,*

*Gaynor Davison*

**Back to SCHOOL**



# Meet NED!

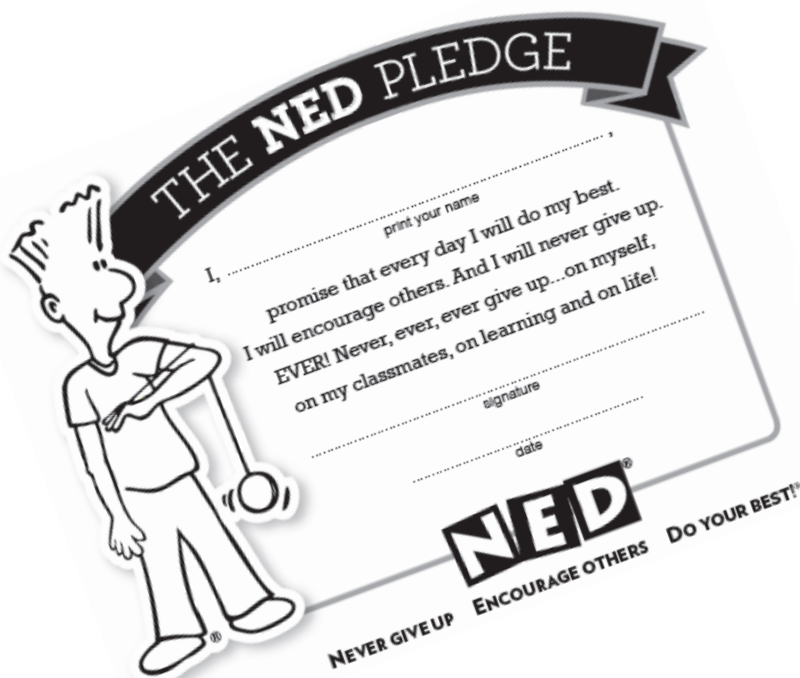
It's a good time to inform new families and remind everyone else that we are a NED School!  
NED is a loveable cartoon character whose name is an acronym for

**N**ever give up  
**E**ncourage others  
**D**o your best



We use Ned's very important message throughout school to promote kindness and excellent progress for all children.

We hope that you will use this message at home too!



We will all be taking the NED pledge this week!



# School Uniform

*We have items of uniform and PE kits in school for you to buy if needed. Please see Mrs Lindsay or Mrs Ferguson in the school office if you would like to make any purchases.*

## *Reminder about our School uniform...*

*Plain black or plain grey skirt, pinafore or trousers*

*Bottle green sweatshirt or cardigan*

*White or bottle green polo shirt*

*Bottle green/white summer dress*

*Dark coloured shoes only.*

*Please do not wear brightly coloured/white trainers or laces.*

*This is not acceptable uniform. Thank you.*

*Please, please, please write your child's name in all their uniform and PE kit. Thank you.*

## PE Kits

All children from Reception to Year 6 need a PE kit in school, including black plimsolls.



PE kit consists of dark green, black or dark blue shorts, a white or dark green t-shirt and black plimsolls.

## PE Days for September

*Please keep a note of when your child will need their PE kit in school*

*Class 1: Monday and Wednesday*

*Class 2: Monday and Wednesday*

*Class 3: Tuesday (PE kit) and Thursday (swimming kit)*

*Class 4: Tuesday and Friday*

*We recommend children bring their PE kits into school every Monday & leave them on their pegs for the week, bringing them home every Friday.*



Each term, as well as receiving a topic sheet, parents/carers of children in Class 2, 3 and 4 will also receive a curriculum sheet which will show you how we are meeting the requirements of the curriculum as well as the needs and interests of your child. They are available on the website too. Please keep it safe and work through the plan with your child as they progress through their topic.

You will have already received both the topic and curriculum information for this term's topics. Look on the website if you need a new copy or ask your child's teacher.

Class 1 – Homes and Families

Class 2 – Fire! Fire!

Class 3 – From Stone to Iron

Class 4 – Britain at War

Our main drivers for our curriculum are – Ambition and Possibilities, Life-skills and Enterprise and Knowledge and Understanding of the World. These areas underpin the whole curriculum which we have developed and help to ensure that children leaving Laurel Avenue Community Primary School are well prepared for their continuing education and life as adults. A copy of the drivers is on the next page in this newsletter as a reminder so you can also help your child to achieve these at home.

If you have any questions regarding the curriculum, topics or the curriculum drivers please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or Ms Davison.

**If you did not receive an overview or curriculum sheet in July, please ask your child's teacher for another copy or find them on the website –**

**<http://www.laurelavenue.durham.sch.uk/>**

# Key Drivers for our Curriculum



Our curriculum is planned around a series of themes that maximise cross-curricular links whilst ensuring there is a clear development in the learning of key skills. As a school we believe that there are three 'curriculum drivers' that personalise our curriculum and develop the whole child in order to prepare them for life beyond Primary School. These have been chosen through consultation with staff and governors, identifying the needs and interests of all of our children.

## Ambition and Possibilities



- To have a life-long love of learning that inspires them to look to the future
- To have high expectations of themselves and their future
- To recognise opportunities beyond the local community
- To increase knowledge of different career choices
- To develop self-confidence and a 'have a go' attitude

### Process:

- Planning to ensure opportunities to raise children's self-belief and develop a positive attitude towards risk and challenge
- Focus on ambition, identifying different jobs and possibilities through topics, visits and visitors; role models for success
- Regular opportunities to work as a team, especially Key Stage 2

## Life-Skills and Enterprise



- To develop questioning and research skills, applying to a range of hands-on learning experiences
- To work effectively as a team to organise themselves and create an end product
- To work independently and be organised and ready for learning
- To listen and communicate with others
- To complete set tasks in a given period and not give up
- To have excellent attendance
- To think 'creatively' to solve problems
- To be equipped for life beyond Primary School

### Process:

- Opportunities for learning through each of the 5 learning skills - reflective, relationships, resilient, resourceful and risk taking will be provided
- Through each topic, children will have opportunities, through a wider range of skills based lessons, to take ownership of their learning and direct it more
- Wider opportunities for learning beyond the curriculum to equip children with relevant life skills; health and economic well-being, cooking, e-safety
- Encouraged expectation that children attend school and are ready to learn with appropriate equipment and kit and take responsibility to be ready and prepared

## Knowledge and Understanding



## of the World

- To experience opportunities that broaden their horizons
- To enhance their insight into the community and world by providing meaningful learning opportunities
- To celebrate/appreciate diversity and culture at national and international level
- To widen general knowledge
- To give opportunities to pursue their own lines of enquiry

### Process:

- Using the 'news flash' feature of Espresso and First News newspapers to keep in touch with current issues
- Providing opportunities through visits, local exploration and the use of visitors to ask questions and explore the diversity of people, society, culture
- Discussing local and global issues and the impact that they have
- Asking questions and research historical events in the local and wider communities

Underpinning everything we do in school is a relentless focus on the acquisition of **basic skills**, for without the ability to read and write and apply basic mathematical concepts to problems, children will be unable to access any other form of learning



# Attendance

We were thrilled with our whole school attendance figure for 2015 – 16 which was the best ever at **96.9%!** This is above the national average for primary school children so thank you so very much for ensuring that your child/ren's attendance is the best that it can be!



Here are some reminders about important attendance issues. We like to give you as much information as possible about such important issues as attendance so that you are well informed. School follows Government Policy and works very closely with all the local Primary Schools to ensure that we are all following these policies consistently.



## Holidays in Term Time

Family holidays should not be booked during school time.

If parents/carers decide to take a holiday or extended leave in term time, the school will request that Children's Services issue a Penalty Notice under section 444 of the Education Act 1996.

The penalty notice is £60 per parent per child if paid within 28 days and £120 per parent per child if paid after 28 days but within 42 days. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in prosecution in the Magistrates Court.

## CHANGE IN LEGISLATION:

When a child has more than 14 sessions (7 days as each day = 2 sessions) of unauthorised absence in a twelve week period, this will result in a warning being given and the issue of a fixed penalty notice and referral to the Educational Welfare Service.



## **Medical Issues**

*Medical and dental appointments should be made **out of school time** except those children who we know have a medical care plan.*



*If hospital appointments have to be made in school time, appointment cards/letters must be submitted to school one week prior to the appointment and copies will be kept on your child's file. If the appointment is later in the morning, or afternoon, please bring your child into school first and then collect them to take to the appointment.*



*If your child has a lot of short absences due to minor illnesses, school will ask the school nurse to offer support to your family. If there are a number of regular incidences of absences due to illness, then we will request that you provide medical evidence for every absence. Without this evidence, your child's attendance will be marked as unauthorised. Children don't tend to be ill consistently unless there is a reason and in such cases where there is a reason, there will be no problems giving school medical evidence so that the absences will not be recorded as unauthorised.*



## **Persistent Absentees**

*As you know, The Department for Education announced that the threshold for Persistent Absence is now 10%. This means that if your child's attendance falls below 90%, they will be classified as a persistent absentee. So if they are absent from school for around 19 days or more across the year, they will meet this classification.*

*At the end of each month, your child will bring home a print out of their attendance so you can keep track of their attendance figure and know if it is in danger of dropping to near 90% or below.*



***Only 95% and above is acceptable as an absolute minimum.***

## ***Punctuality***

*All children should be on the playground for the bell ringing at 9.00 am. Children coming into school via the front door (after the bell has rung) will be logged daily and attendance procedures will be triggered if this is a frequent event. We will arrange meetings to establish why punctuality is an issue and what we can do to help you to get your child to school on time.*

*Our lessons start right at the beginning of the day, so children late in are missing the start of their lesson. Ten minutes late a day is 50 minutes of maths lost a week which really mounts up over the year.*



*Whilst these sanctions may sound quite harsh, it is in line with most schools in the country. Our consistent message to you, as parents/carers, is that “Every Day Counts” and that high attendance is essential in order to ensure that all our children achieve their full potential.*



***Let's work hard together to achieve even higher than our fabulous result of 96.9% this year!***

*I hope that you will support the school in this matter, as we are all concerned to see children fulfil their potential at school. I am sure you will agree that this can best be achieved by avoiding unnecessary absence. Our door is always open if you would like to discuss any issues including attendance and we will always do our best to help you and your family.*

*If you need any support with attendance or punctuality please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you.*

OUTSTANDING	100% – 99%	
GOOD	98% – 97%	
SATISFACTORY	96% – 95%	2 SCHOOL WEEKS OF LOST LEARNING
UNSATISFACTORY	94% – 90%	4 SCHOOL WEEKS OF LOST LEARNING
TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE	89% – 76%	8 SCHOOL WEEKS OF LOST LEARNING
NEGLECT	75% – 70%	12 SCHOOL WEEKS OF LOST LEARNING



# Please help!

Thank you to parents/carers who park safely each day and walk with their child to the lane or gate. Unfortunately, we still continue to have a small number of parents/carers who are continuing to park unsafely.

If you bring your child/ren to school or nursery in a car, please park in the large car park and not outside the car park or in the disabled bays outside school, unless you legitimately need to use these parking spaces. These spaces need to be kept free for families who legitimately do need to use them.



If travelling by car, please use the car park and then walk your child/ren the short distance to the top of the lane when they arrive at school before 9.00 am. By stopping cars at the top of the lane to drop child/ren off, the road becomes very congested at this busy time of the day and therefore dangerous to children.

If your child walks to school alone, please encourage them to walk into school using the pavement where the crash barriers are, not on the road.

We take the safety of all children very seriously and hope that you all will be able to help us to do this.

# Thank you!

# *School Admissions*

*The Durham County Council online admission site at [www.durham.gov.uk](http://www.durham.gov.uk) will open on September 12th 2016. Applications for admission to Reception for September 2017 and Secondary School for September 2017 must be received by the deadlines shown in the tables below. There is also an online brochure if you would like further information about the process and available schools which is found on the Durham County Website, as well as our own. <http://www.laurelavenue.durham.sch.uk/Admission-Arrangements>*

***If you do not have internet access please come into school and we can either help you to use a school computer to make your application or print you a paper copy of the brochure and application form.***

## ***Timetable for applying for Primary School places for September 2017***

*Children born between the 1st September 2012 and the 31st August 2013 will be eligible for admission to the Reception class in September 2017.*

<b><i>Date</i></b>	<b><i>Stage in application process</i></b>
<i>12 September 2016</i>	<i>Applications open</i>
<b><i>15 January 2017</i></b>	<b><i>Closing date for applications</i></b>
<i>16 April 2017</i>	<i>Offers made</i>
<i>30 April 2017</i>	<i>Deadline for parents to accept the offer of a school place</i>
<i>From 9 May 2017</i>	<i>You can ask for your child's name to be added to a school waiting list</i>

## *Timetable for applying for Secondary School places for September 2017*

<i>Date</i>	<i>Stage in application process</i>
<i>12 September 2016</i>	<i>Applications open</i>
<b><i>31 October 2016</i></b>	<b><i>Closing date for applications</i></b>
<i>1 March 2017</i>	<i>Offers made</i>
<i>15 March 2017</i>	<i>Deadline for parents to accept the offer of a school place</i>
<i>From 23 March 2017</i>	<i>You can ask for your child's name to be added to a school waiting list</i>

**Phone Numbers** If you have a new mobile phone and changed your number, please ensure you send any new numbers into school so we can update our records. This is essential both for receiving texts and notifications but also for contacting you should any emergencies arise within school. **Thanks!**



### ***School Meals 2016 – 2017***

*Meals for Infant children (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) are free again this year. Meals for all other children will be £2.00 per day from September.*

We will be sending out a form for all parents/carers to complete regarding your child's medical needs so that we can be certain that all needs are up to date and documented correctly. Please look out for this coming soon. Thank you.

### **Medical Records**





Congratulations to everyone who achieved 100% attendance for the summer term. A treat meal from Bell's Fish Shop was greatly enjoyed on the last day.

*Well done to... Esther Ayo-Jayeoba, Casey Bainbridge, Callum Blakey, Luke Blakey, Tia Burrows, Kane Costello, Kayden Crampton, Logan Crampton, Annie Cottrell, Keira Dinsley, Logan Dinsley, Rebecca Dixon, Mac Emery, Jasmine Emery, Devan France, Jessica Garside, Chloe Gibbs, Alora Gillet, Daniel Grundy, Paige Nichol, Scarlett Pallister, Tayven Parker, Thomas Parker, Oliver Pickering, Betsy Pretty, Jasmine Rutherford, Connar Shepherd, Nathan Shepherd, Kierin Thompson and Amber Wilson.*





# BREAKFAST CLUB

 GREGGS

Thanks to sponsorship from Greggs and the fabulous volunteers who run the club, we offer a free Breakfast Club every morning. The club is free for all school aged children, so from Reception to Year 6.

If you would like your child to join Breakfast Club, please bring them along to school for 8.10 am. You don't need to come every morning and you don't need to pre-book. Just come along and enjoy breakfast!

Breakfast Club starts at 8.10 am. Please come for 8.10 am and not before, thank you.



## Week beginning Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September

8.30 – 9.00 am Early Birds Intervention Groups by invitation

Homework Club (Wednesdays 3.00 – 4.00 pm): Everyone Welcome – 20 places available in KS1 and KS2 clubs

KS1 Science Club (Thursdays 3.00 – 4.00 pm): Science Club takes 8 children at one time on first come first served basis. There will be a second group after half term.



Please watch out for letters.

Watch out for information about more  
After School Clubs starting later in the term.

## What's on at Laurel Avenue Community Centre?



**Laurel United:** Youth Group - aged 11+ every Monday 5 – 7 pm Free

**Tea Club:** aged 5 – 11 years, every Tuesday from 3.15 pm  
£2 which includes entry to Youth Club.

**Youth Club:** Aged 5 – 11 years (parents may accompany children under 5 years)  
50p entry if not attending Tea Club.

**Free Breakfast & Activities Every Saturday 9.30 – 11.30 am**

Thinking of having a birthday party, christening or holding an event?

**IT courses & room hire available**

**Please contact Claire for further information:**

**0191 3845427, 07825956094, e: Claire-laca@hotmail.co.uk**



# Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September: Back to school

Week beginning Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September: 8.30 – 9.00 am 'Early Birds' intervention groups (8.30 – 9.00), Laurel Learners Homework Club (Wednesdays 3.00 – 4.00 pm) and KS1 Science Club (Thursdays 3.00 – 4.00 pm) start – please watch out for letters

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September: Let's Get Cooking starts for Year 6

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September: Macmillan Coffee Afternoon (No Star Assembly)

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October: Individual and Family Photographs

You will receive a letter about your photograph choices in September

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October, 9.30 am: Harvest Festival

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October, 3.30 – 6.00 pm: Parents' Evening Rec to Y6

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October: Open Day for Nursery

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October: Half Term

Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October: Back to school

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November: Anti-Bullying Week

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November: Anti-Bullying Awareness Raising Day

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November: Children in Need Day

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November: School closed for Teacher Training

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November: Non Uniform Day for Chocolate Donation

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December, 1.30 – 3.00 pm: Christmas Fayre

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December, 10.00 am: Nursery and Reception Christmas Production

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December, 10.00 am: KS1 and 2 Christmas Production

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December, am: Nursery Party for all Nursery children

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December, pm: Christmas Disco for Reception – Year 6

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December, 9.15 am: Christmas Sing-a-long (No Star Assembly)

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December: End of Term

Spring Term starts Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2017



## ***Important:***

***Year 6 will be doing their  
KS2 SATS: 8<sup>th</sup> May – 11<sup>th</sup> May 2017***



***Year 1 Phonics Tests will take place during the week  
beginning June 12<sup>th</sup> 2017***

# 2016 – 2017

Holiday	Closing Date	Date Re-open for Teaching Purposes
Summer 2016 (6 weeks 3 days) 	Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2016	Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> September 2016
Autumn Half-Term 2016 (1 week) 	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> October 2016	Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2016
Teacher Training Day (1 day) 	Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> November 2016	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> November 2016
Christmas 2016 (2 weeks 2 days) 	Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2016	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2017
Spring Half-Term 2017 (1 week) 	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> February 2017	Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> February 2017
Easter 2017 (2 weeks) 	Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> April 2017	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> April 2017
May Day 2017 (1 day) 	Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> April 2017	Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2017
Summer Half-Term 2017 (1 week) 	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> May 2017	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> June 2017
Summer 2017 	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2017	To be determined

These dates only relate to Laurel Avenue Community Primary School.  
Each school in the area may have slightly different closing and re-opening dates.