



Laurel Avenue Community Primary School

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Newsletter

September 2017



Welcome back! It's hard to believe that September is already here but we're ready for another exciting year ahead! I hope that you all had a fantastic summer break and are as ready as we are for a busy term ahead. As always the children have returned to school looking so much taller and older and a real credit to you and school, wearing their smart uniforms and plain black shoes.

I'd like to extend a special welcome to new pupils and parents. A special welcome also to Miss Mills who will be teaching full time in Class 2. I hope you will be very happy here.

Last year was a very successful year with children making excellent academic achievements and progress across school. We were also very proud to achieve the Primary Science Quality Mark Gold as well as Mrs Lawson achieving a prestigious Primary Science Teaching Trust Award. Not only will she be sharing her expertise nationally, but she will bring back to our school a wealth of new ideas and resources. We were also thrilled to find out over the summer holidays that the hard work of children and staff means that we have achieved Gold in the School Games Mark!

I'm so proud to be Headteacher at Laurel Avenue. A huge part of that feeling is because of the fantastic children and staff, but it is also because of you, the parents and carers, who help and support school in so many ways. 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
Headteacher

Welcome
Back





Great News!

*Laurel Avenue has
achieved GOLD in the
School Games Mark!*

The Sainsbury's School Games Mark is a Government led awards scheme which rewards schools for their commitment to the development of PE, sport and competition across their school.

We were assessed against the following criteria:

Commitment to a minimum of 2 hours of physical education per week

- Participation in intra-school competitions (within school)*
- Participation in inter-school competitions (external competitions)*
- Leadership schemes*
- Extra-curricular clubs*
- Promotion of external providers*
- Provision in place to develop 'Gifted and Talented' children*
- Promotion of results and reports for newsletters/website*
- Continued Professional Development of school staff to support PE*

*We are very proud of this award and of our children's achievements
and look forward to another great year full of sport and fun!*

*This award is difficult to achieve due to the high level of commitment
needed, especially within a small school such as ours, so we are
extremely thrilled and proud! Well done everyone!*

Meet NED!

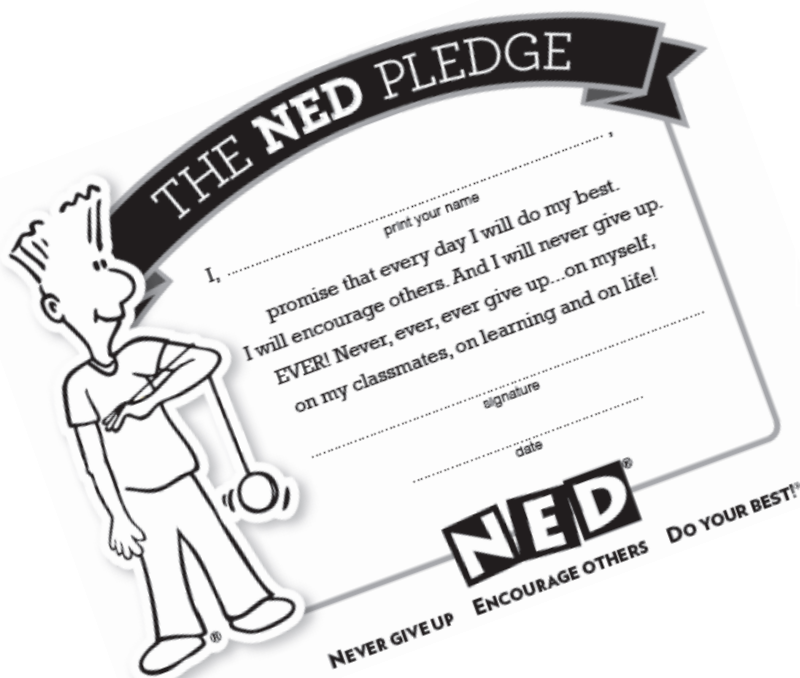
It's a good time to inform new families and remind everyone else that we are a NED School!
NED is a loveable cartoon character whose name is an acronym for

Never give up
Encourage others
Do 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.

Hair bows. We really do like the smart hairstyles with bows that more and more children are wearing. We would like to ask that these are limited to small and medium sized bows in school colours only. Thank you.

Please, please, please write your child's name in all their uniform, coat 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 Tuesday

Class 2: Tuesday and Wednesday

Class 3: Wednesday (PE kit) and Thursday (swimming kit)

Class 4: Monday 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 received both the topic and curriculum information for this term's topics last term. Look on the website if you need a new copy or ask your child's teacher.

Class 1 – Celebrations

Class 2 – Toys

Class 3 – Romans Rock

Class 4 – Lands and Landscapes

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/Curriculum>

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 very happy with our whole school attendance for 2016 – 17 which was **96.2%!** This is just above the national average for primary school children. Thank you to all parents and carers who really work with us to make sure that their children are in school every day. This is something we are really passionate about and we look forward to seeing our attendance percentage even higher next year!



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.

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN LEGISLATION from 2016:

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 the fabulous result of 2015 - 16 which was the highest ever: 96.9%!

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

School Admissions

The Durham County Council online admission site at www.durham.gov.uk will open on September 12th 2017. Applications for admission to Reception for September 2018 and Secondary School for September 2018 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 2018

Children born between the 1st September 2013 and the 31st August 2014 will be eligible for admission to the Reception class in September 2018.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Stage in application process</i>
<i>12 September 2017</i>	<i>Applications open</i>
<i>15 January 2018</i>	<i>Closing date for applications</i>
<i>16 April 2018</i>	<i>Offers made</i>
<i>30 April 2018</i>	<i>Deadline for parents to accept the offer of a school place</i>
<i>From 9 May 2018</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 2018

<i>Date</i>	<i>Stage in application process</i>
<i>12 September 2017</i>	<i>Applications open</i>
<i>31 October 2017</i>	<i>Closing date for applications</i>
<i>1 March 2018</i>	<i>Offers made</i>
<i>15 March 2018</i>	<i>Deadline for parents to accept the offer of a school place</i>
<i>From 23 March 2018</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 2017 – 2018

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.

Please send all money in a named and sealed envelope or money bag. Thank you.



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. **Unfortunately we still have a number of drivers using the site who do not park in the car park, even when many spaces are available, and this is causing the area to be unsafe for children.**

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!

Laurel Avenue Facebook Account

During Autumn Term we will be opening a Laurel Avenue Community Primary School Facebook account.

We want to

- share what is happening in school more widely*
- communicate informally and quickly*
- be more accessible*
- listen to our community*
- add to our Online Safety work*



Many of the pictures put on our facebook page will be of group activities, such as class pictures, classroom group work, recess activities, athletic events, and other events where groups of children are having fun. We would like to use our students in these pictures, but we need written permission from you, the parent or legal guardian, in order to show their faces on our facebook page. You will receive permission letters before we launch our account.

We will only deal with child specific matters by phone, face-to-face, email or written letter. More details to come soon!

School Fruit Shop

Children in Nursery, Classes 1 and 2 receive a piece of fresh fruit each day for free as part of the Government's fruit scheme.



Children in Classes 3 and 4 can buy a piece of fresh fruit each day for only 50p per week.

Week beginning Monday 12th 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?

Beginning week commencing Monday 11th September.

Mondays:

Laurel United Youth Group 5.00 – 7.00 pm

Over 11 year olds

FREE admission and tuck shop available

Tuesdays:

Credit Union Drop in, 1.00 – 1.30 pm

Why not start a savings account with Credit Union for you or your child? Pop in to see Claire and start saving!

Junior Youth Club & Tea Club (straight from school) 3.15 pm - 5.30 pm 5 years & above

£2.00 per child includes two course meal and entry into Youth Club

Please remember to bring £2 into school clearly marked with child's name.

Any additional spending money for the tuck shop can also be included.

Thursdays:

Toddler Group 9.00 – 11.00 am (Ages 0 - 5 years)

£2.00 which includes breakfast and unlimited tea and coffee

Thursdays:

Lunch Club 12.00 noon - 2.00 pm

£4.00 includes two course hot meal and activities. Anyone Welcome!

For any further info please contact Claire Linfoot:

Claire-laCa@hotmail.co.uk Tel: 0191 3845427 M: 07825956094

Dates for your Diary

Week beginning Monday 11th September: 8.30 – 9.00 am 'Early Birds' intervention groups, 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 during the first week of term

Friday 29th September: Macmillan Coffee Afternoon (No Star Assembly)

Wednesday 4th October: Individual and Family Photographs

You will receive a letter about your photograph choices in September

Friday 13th October, 9.30 am: Harvest Festival

Monday 16th and Tuesday 17th October, 3.30 – 6.00 pm: Parents' Evening R – Y6

Wednesday 18th October: Open Day for Nursery

Monday 23rd – Friday 27th October: Half Term Holiday

Monday 30th October: Back to school

Monday 13th – Friday 17th November: Anti-Bullying Week

Wednesday 15th November: Anti-Bullying Awareness Raising Day

Friday 17th November: Children in Need Day

Wednesday 29th November: Non Uniform Day for Chocolate Donation

Monday 4th December, 1.30 – 3.00 pm: Christmas Fayre

Friday 15th December, 10.00 am: Nursery and Reception Christmas Production

Wednesday 20th December, 10.00 am: KS1 and 2 Christmas Production

Thursday 21st December, am: Nursery Party for all Nursery children

Thursday 21st December, pm: Christmas Disco for Reception – Year 6

Friday 22nd December, 9.15 am: Christmas Sing-a-long (No Star Assembly)

Friday 22nd December: End of Term

Spring Term starts Tuesday 9th January 2017



Important:

Year 6 will be doing their

KS2 SATS: 14th May – 17th May 2018

***Year 1 Phonics Tests will take place during the week
beginning June 11th 2018***

School Holidays 2017/2018

<i>Holiday</i>		<i>Closing Date</i>	<i>Date Re-open for Teaching Purposes</i>
<i>Summer 2017</i> (6 weeks 2 days)		<i>Friday 21st July 2017</i>	<i>Wednesday 6th September 2017</i>
<i>Autumn Half-Term 2017</i> (1 week)		<i>Friday 20th October 2017</i>	<i>Monday 30th October 2017</i>
<i>Christmas 2017</i> (2 weeks 1 day)		<i>Friday 22nd December 2017</i>	<i>Tuesday 9th January 2018</i>
<i>Spring Half-Term 2018</i> (1 week)		<i>Friday 9th February 2018</i>	<i>Monday 19th February 2018</i>
<i>Easter 2018</i> (2 weeks 1 day)		<i>Thursday 29th March 2018</i>	<i>Monday 16th April 2018</i>
<i>May Day 2018</i> (1 day)		<i>Friday 4th May 2018</i>	<i>Tuesday 8th May 2018</i>
<i>Summer Half-Term 2018</i> (1 week)		<i>Friday 25th May 2018</i>	<i>Monday 4th June 2018</i>
<i>Summer 2018</i>		<i>Friday 20th July 2018</i>	<i>To be determined</i>

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