



Hamsterley Primary Newsletter

18th September 2020
www.hamsterley.durham.sch.uk

Welcome Back

Welcome to a new term and a new school year at Hamsterley Primary School – even if it is a very strange one! We are delighted to welcome all of our new pupils and new parents.

The staff and children have all made a fantastic start to the year and are taking the current situation in their stride. We were unbelievably proud of all of our children and how well they coped with the first day of school after so long away. We have been busy in the last week or so gathering information from the children as to where they are with their learning, so that we can put a plan in place to best support and accelerate their learning. We will also be ensuring that we support their well-being on a day to day basis as they continue to adjust.

This year, we are hoping to provide you with a weekly newsletter, enabling us to update you on a regular basis as to what is happening in school.

Remote Learning

We are currently looking at our remote learning offer to try to improve it for all our children and parents, ensuring that children not attending school due to Covid-19, either through self-isolation or lockdowns, are able to access similar learning to that taking place in the classroom. Our children not missing teaching and learning at the moment is essential if we are going to enable them to catch up quickly. We will provide more details in the next week or so.

Drop off reminder

We would like to remind parents that maintaining 'bubbles' and social distancing is essential at the moment. Therefore we would be grateful if children arrived promptly at school, not more than 5 minutes before their start time and not more than 10 minutes after. We must all work together to try to keep everyone safe. We would also like to remind you that at present no parents are allowed on site. Children in Class 2 should arrive at 8:45, and those in Class 1 (or in Class 2 with siblings in Class 1) should arrive at 9:00.

Drinks Bottles

Please ensure that your child has their own cleaned water bottle in school each day.

Parent Pay

Parent Pay accounts are updated at the end of each week, please ensure you log into your account each Friday to make any payment due for that week.

Wrap around care

Please ensure you pre-book your child into wrap around care for the following week by 2.30pm on Fridays. Alternatively, you can pre-book wrap around care for the term.

Breakfast Club	7.30am to 8.45am	£3.00 per day (all week £12)
(inc food)	8.00am to 8.45am	£2.50 per day (all week £10)
After School Care	3.30pm to 5.30pm (5pm on Fridays)	- £3 per hour or any part thereof.

Wolsingham School Virtual Open Evenings – 23rd and 24th September

Wolsingham School would love to welcome you to the school for one of the 'Online Live' Open Evenings. These will be set up in accordance with government safety guidelines, allowing you and your child to meet with staff and students as you enjoy visiting the classrooms. If you would like to book a place, email b.gaughey100@wolsingham.school with your name and the day you would like to attend the Open Evening. An email will be sent with information on how to use Google Meet to view the presentations and speak with staff and students in real time.

Durham Music Service

There is an opportunity for children in Class 2 to learn to play a woodwind instrument with Mr. Jakob from the Durham Music Service. The cost is £53.50 per term for tuition, and £34.25 per term for the hire of an instrument. Please see www.durhammusic.org.uk for details and to register your interest. The lessons would be delivered through small group tuition on a Friday afternoon in school.

Applying for a school place for next year

The application process for the Secondary Admissions 2021 Intake is due to begin on **Monday 14th September 2020**. Parents can make their application for Secondary School online by visiting www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions and the School Admissions online application facility will be available to parents from **Monday the 14th of September 2020**. **The Closing Date for Secondary School Applications is the 31st October 2020**. If parents do not wish to apply online they can complete a paper application form, and these are available to print from the website (same website address as above) from Monday the 14th September 2020. Alternatively these application forms can be requested by e-mail to schooladmissions@durham.gov.uk or by telephone from the School Admissions and Transport Team on 03000 265896. Copies of the Parent's guide "**Primary and Secondary School Admissions in County Durham 2021/2022**" will also be available from the website or on request from Monday the 14th September 2020.

Dates for your diary...

NHS Flu Immunisations – letter emailed 11.9.20	Monday 5 th October 1.00pm
School Closes for Half Term	Friday 23 rd October
School Opens	Monday 2 nd November

S. Kitching
Headteacher

D. Hassan
Deputy Headteacher