# Newsletter September 2014

Welcome back to the new school year. We do hope you all had a very good holiday!
The staff began the year with our two INSET days. There has been lots of planning and training updates. I hope the children will enjoy everything the staff have to offer them during the year.

**Red White & Blue Day**

During our first two weeks back in school children will be working on a topic called 'Modern Day Heroes'. They will be learning about everything from the uniformed services that help us in the community to famous comic book superheroes.



Friday 12th September will be a Red White and Blue Day as part of World War 1 Remembrance. The children are encouraged to come into school wearing red, white and blue or a superhero costume. We would suggest a donation of £1 which will be donated to the local British legion.

**Clubs**

Our school clubs have been very successful and the activities will be on offer again this year. Monday to Thursday clubs will start again on Monday 8th September 2014. Please remember children must be booked into clubs the Friday before at the latest to allow for staffing and transport arrangements. Saturday Clubs will start again on Saturday 13th September 2014. Unfortunately, we have had to increase the charges for our clubs. Saturday Club is now £12.00 per unaccompanied child and £4.00 per accompanied child. Saturday clubs has been very successful and popular addition to our school. Parents who attend have the opportunity to be with their children, their siblings and to have catch up with other families. Please see below some of the comments from our survey

- 'Love it! Really relaxed, friendly atmosphere. It's the first thing my son askes for on a Saturday morning.'
- 'Kids club at Keelman's Way on a Saturday morning is fantastic!'
- 'Brilliant, love the staff, the facilities, everything!'

**Café**

Our Keelman's Café will continue to run every Friday morning from 10am -11am. This continues to be very popular with parents, grandparents and local residents. As usual there will be lots of delicious treats to tempt you with.

**Social Networking sites**

I am sure you will be aware that the school has an E safety policy. This is a requirement for schools and is published on our website. In common with other schools and the local authority, social networking (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and others) between members of staff, pupils and parents of pupils is not permitted. This is to protect all concerned and I would appreciate it if this could be adhered too. Staff are aware that they should not engage in this as part of school safeguarding arrangements.

**School website**

Our current school website has been with us since we opened the school. Very soon it will be updated with our revised policies for your attention. We expect the new site to be a more responsive and informative tool when it is on place. In the meantime the site remains a useful source of information.



**Coffee Morning**
One of our parents has arranged a coffee morning at Cleadon Methodist Church on Saturday 6th September 2014 from 10.00 till 12.00. All proceeds will go towards the purchase of our new minibus. All are welcome so please pop in if you can.

**General Information**
School meals and milk prices remain the same this year, £2.10 per day for a school meal and £9.10 per term for milk. Please ensure any money sent into school is clearly labelled with your childs name and details of what it is for. Also, clothing, can we please ask you to label all of your childs clothing.

**Supplies**
Although school do provide wipes, juice, biscuits etc… for use on all children the ongoing cost to school is substantial. Any donations of supplies to be used for your child would be greatly appreciated. These can be sent into class with your child at any time.

**Education health care plans**
You may already be aware that the government requires us to transfer all of our pupils' statements of Special Educational Needs to the new plans over a period of time. You will receive the usual letters of invitation to either an annual review or a Conversion to the plan during the next school year. It is really important that you attend. The invitation to the review will come in your child's school bag and a reminder will be sent a few days before. It is really useful for you to attend these meetings and makes it clear to the children that we work together for their benefit. The aim of the plans is it look forward and plan together for your child.

**Parent survey**
You may recall that in the summer term we carried out a survey of parents and visitors view of our school. The results were overwhelming positive and the staff do appreciate your support in this. Some comments were specifically made on a number of areas. Your comments have been shared with staff and I do hope you will feel they have been worthwhile and that issues raised have been addressed. Please get in touch with us directly if you have any concerns or feel we can help in any way.

**Parent Coffee Morning**
Following responses to Sophie Adey's survey a number of parents have responded with interest in a Family Liaison information coffee morning to be held in school**.** We will trial this by arranging the first coffee morning on Wednesday 1st October at 10am, Sophie will be available.

**PTA**
Our next PTA meeting will be during the Café on Friday 3rd October at 10.15am. All parents are welcome to attend we would welcome any ideas for fundraising and also consider requests for funding equipment etc…

**Future Dates**
**P**lease find below some dates for your diary:

- Parent Makaton Session Wednesday 15th October at 1.30pm – details to follow
- Half Term – Break up Friday 24th October, returning to school Monday 3rd November
- Parent's Drop In Session – Tuesday 11th November 10am-11am or 1.30pm-2.30pm
- Christmas Fair – Tuesday 2nd December
- Primary Christmas Concert - Tuesday 9th December
- Senior Christmas Concert – Wednesday 10th December
- Panto at The Customs House – Thursday 11th December