



Working Together for Our Children

Autumn Term 1 2023/24 Newsletter

Welcome Back to Carr Hill!

Well, we have had a lovely week here in Carr Hill and it has been fantastic to see the children smiling and back with all their friends. The children have all settled in well this week and despite a very few tears, when the children first come in, they are happy and settled very quickly. A huge warm welcome back to you all in the Carr Hill family from all the staff and governors here!

It is lovely to welcome our new Nursery and Reception children into Carr Hill - and we have had another seven children starting in the other year groups across the school which has been great. To all our new families starting, we welcome you into Carr Hill Community Primary School and the Carr Hill family - we hope to build up unique relationships with yourselves and your children as we watch them flourish in Carr Hill.

Breakfast club is open to all pupils from Reception to Year 6 from 8:15am – remember this is free and sponsored by the amazing Greggs. We also have several before school and after school clubs that will run in school, and these will start in the coming weeks! Swimming for children in Year 3, 4 and 5 will start next week (at Heworth Pool) and I know we have visits lined up to Gibside National Trust Nature Park in the coming weeks.

Children in Nursery are going to be learning all about Nursery Rhymes this term and our Reception children are following the topic 'All About Me'. Our Year 1 and 2 children are following the topic 'Amazing Me!' and Year 3 and 4 children are learning about the Stone Age. Finally, our eldest children in Year 5 and 6 are following the topic 'Fabulous Food'. *We are so proud of the way the children have all returned to school this week - they have certainly remembered our key messages of respect, resilience and working together as a team to support all those around them!*

Dress Code - Haircuts/Earrings

Please remember that highly fashionable haircuts, including shaving of patterns into the head or dyed hair is **NOT** allowed for school.

Only studs are allowed for earrings, but you must remove these for after school clubs, PE and swimming lessons if your child can't do it themselves, Gateshead Council's Health & Safety team give clear guidance around this. The swimming service will not let children into the pool with piercings and we are not allowed to cover them with plasters.

Please can you make sure that your child is wearing flat school shoes and not trainers/sports shoes in school. It is much safer for your child to have a shoe that doesn't have a large heel on as children can twist and break ankles.

If you are struggling with the cost of uniform, please come and speak to us, we may be able to help. We have a range of old uniform here that we can give you and this community-based support services are brilliant!

Attendance, Punctuality and Holidays in Term Time

I wanted to thank you for your support in getting the children into school on time. It makes such a big difference to your child's learning and the learning of the whole class when we have everyone in on time! Much of our phonics teaching and basic skills teaching happens between 8:45am and 9:15am. The children can't afford to miss this!

Remember school starts at 8:45am and finishes at 3:15pm (11:45am for nursery).

We also have our free breakfast club available from 8:15am each morning. This is run by Mr Lee and Mrs Cheek and is available for all children in school. Children can enjoy fruit, cereal, toast, yoghurts and pastries. There are books to read, games to play and children have a lovely time here – and as I have said - **completely free!**

We are being challenged by the government and our governing body to improve attendance and punctuality and will try to support with any difficulties you have but please speak to us about these. For those pupils with attendance levels below 90% this can lead to legal intervention from Gateshead Council, fines and a criminal record for parents and carers. Please help us by getting your children into school each day and on time!

Headteachers and schools can't grant leave of absence for holidays in term time except in the most exceptional of circumstances. When requests are received, the Headteacher must be satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances to justify an authorised absence. It is the parent/carer's responsibility, when submitting the request, to provide all the evidence to prove exceptional circumstances. The request for authorised Leave of Absence must be made at least 2 weeks in advance and the Headteacher may invite the parent/carer(s) into school to discuss the request before a decision is made. Requests for leave of absence during term time, which are not considered to be exceptional, will be referred to the local authority to apply a 'fixed term penalty notice' which is £60 per child per parent for each week of absence. As with our attendance policy, this follows guidance from the government and Gateshead.

Year 6 Secondary School Meeting

We are aware that some of our Year 6 parents and carers are concerned about the secondary school choices. On Tuesday 19th September 2023 we will go over our understanding of the application system and offer support and advice to you! This will take place in the Top Hall from 3:20pm. We know that this is a tricky time in the year, and you need as much information on hand as you can get to make the right choices. Remember even if you have already selected your choices, you can still change these up to 31st October 2023 so the meeting might be useful.

School Clubs and Dates

Day	Time	Year Group	Activity
Monday	3:15pm - 4:15pm	Year 3 and 4	Football
Tuesday	12:30pm - 12:55pm	Year 5 and 6	Girls' Football
	3:15pm - 4:15pm	Year 3, 4, 5 and 6	Multi-Sports
Wednesday	3:15pm - 4:15pm	Year 5 and 6	Football
	3:15pm - 4:15pm	Year 3, 4, 5 and 6	Singing
Thursday	3:15pm - 4:15pm	Year 3, 4, 5 and 6	Sketch Club
	3:15pm - 4:15pm	Year 3, 4, 5 and 6	International Art club
	3:15pm - 4:15pm	Year 1 and 2	Football

We have a maximum number of children who can take part in these sessions - so if your child isn't offered a place this term, we will endeavour to get them involved next term when the new choices come out. We are trying to organise additional clubs before school including dance!

We will give you a full list of dates for upcoming school events right up to Christmas in the coming weeks – our parent and carer consultation meetings will most likely take place after half term on the week commencing 13th November 2023, and these will be face to face in school. We are hoping to have our parents and carers in Carr Hill this year for Christmas celebrations and arts and craft sessions too! Please take note of the dates for assessments below to make sure your child is in school for these!

Reception Parents and Carers - Family Learning

We are hoping to start up a little family learning group with our 'Reception' children and yourselves. It would involve some of our parents/carers/grandparents or older siblings coming into school and working with your child, with our staff and support staff from Gateshead.

More information will follow in the coming weeks. We are also looking to run a family science club with support from Gateshead for children in Year 3 and 4 as well.

Swimming

As you will know by now Gateshead Leisure Centre is closed to the public and this has meant that we will now be taking our swimming lessons to Heworth Pool each Friday. This might actually be a little easier getting the children there.

The children will have two lanes of the pool and there will be no public swimming happening when our children are in the pool. Swimming times are below:

Year 3/4 children (Mrs Christie's class) 9:30am – 10:15am

Year 3 children (Mr McGill's class) 10:15am – 11:00am

Year 5 children (all Year 5 children) 11:00am – 11:45am

Year 4 children (Miss Hind's class) 1:00pm – 1:45pm

Important Dates for the Year

Below are some of the important dates we have for this year:

Reception Baseline assessment – ongoing for first three weeks of school term

Year 6 SATS – 13th May - 16th May 2024

Year 4 Multiplication Check – 3rd June 2024 for two weeks

Year 1 Phonics Check – 10th June 2024 for one week

Secondary School Pupil Application Deadline - 31st October 2023

Parent and Carer Consultations – week commencing 13th November 2023

Children in Need – 17th November 2023

Christmas nativities will commence during the week of 11th December 2023

Christmas Lunch and Jumper day 21st December 2023

Reception Pupil Application Deadline – 15th January 2024

Year 5 Residential Visit to Whithaugh Park - Wednesday 6th March – Friday 8th March 2024

Year 4 Residential Visit to Whithaugh Park - Tuesday 26th March – Thursday 28th March 2024

SCHOOL TERM DATES 2023/24

Term	Start of Term for Pupils	School Closed to Pupils	Last Day of Term for Pupils
Autumn	Tue 5 th September 2023	Mon 4 th September 2023 – staff training day Mon 30 th until Fri 3 rd November 2023 – half term	Fri 22 nd December 2023
Spring	Tue 9 th January 2024	Mon 8 th January 2024 – staff training day Mon 19 th until Fri 23 rd February 2024 – half term	Thur 28 th March 2024
Summer	Mon 15 th April 2024	Mon 6 st May 2024 – bank holiday Mon 27 th until Fri 31 st May 2024 – half term Mon 24 th June 2024 – occasional day	Friday 19 th July 2024