



Working Together for Our Children

Spring Term 1 2023/24 Newsletter

News Update from school!

Welcome back to Carr Hill and a belated Happy New Year – I hope you all had a lovely holiday period with your families. The start to this term, as always in Carr Hill, has been busy, but it has been great to see the children settling back into school after the break. We are pleased that the pedestrian gates seem to be working much more reliably now, and we really do appreciate your time and patience as we have got this sorted. This week we had our Year 5 and 6 children taking part in our Cluster Gateshead Basketball competition. The children won this and will now move through to the regional finals which is an excellent achievement! At the end of last week, week we have had a number of our children representing the school in sporting events in Gateshead and in Newcastle – one team finishing second and another team finishing third in the Newcastle football event. On Thursday 18th January, 14 of our reception pupils represented Carr Hill at Gateshead’s Early Years Multi-Sport Festival. The children were brilliant and had a great afternoon at the International Stadium. The week before this, eight children from Year 3 and 4 (Mrs Christie’s class) took part in a Panathlon Event in South Shields. The children represented the school with pride and determination and finished third in the competition. We are also aware of one young pupil who was awarded a ‘Creative Courage’ award at the stage school he attends! Well done, Ewan! We also had an exciting visit from Northumbria Police this week to support community engagement – this was a positive afternoon that the children have spoken lots about since. Parents and carers in our reception class have been attending school each Thursday morning, this term, to take part in a phonics family learning session to develop an understanding of the importance of early reading and how a good phonic knowledge support the reading of our younger children.

We are hoping to organise our NSPCC safety assemblies in the coming weeks. This is for our all our pupils from will take part in NSPCC safety assemblies – this is a regular event that we carry out to ensure all our children understand that they have the right to be safe and what they should do if they are scared or worried. As you may recall, just before Christmas a group of our children went over to Newcastle to sing some carols to over 250+ people at the Great Northern Hotel for the NSPCC. After this event, those in attendance collected a generous amount of money to support children here in Carr Hill with uniform etc. This just shows how good our children were at this event and we have shared this lovely news with the children in assembly on Friday.

Gateshead Council are continuing to offer support during the cost-of-living crisis. Remember if your circumstances have changed, we can always offer support as can Gateshead Council. We can also support with FOOD VOUCHERS – ask at the office or Mr Harris, Miss Curry or Mrs Chandler for this support. Please visit the Gateshead’s council website if you think you are missing out, struggling or need more support: <https://www.gateshead.gov.uk/article/20644/Help-with-the-cost-of-living>. We also have food hampers available here and can apply to Greggs Hardship fund for support with supermarket food vouchers, clothing, beds and essential home appliances.

Punctuality And Attendance

At Carr Hill Community Primary School, **and this includes our Nursery**, we recognise that positive behaviour, arriving at school on time and good attendance are central to raising standards of pupil attainment and ensuring that your child reaches their full potential. We do so much to make the school day an enjoyable experience, but we really need help to ensure all of our children receive this same educational journey!

For all of our children to gain the greatest benefit from their education, it is vital that they attend regularly and be at school on time every day the school is open, unless the reason is unavoidable. Any absence affects the pattern of a child’s schooling and regular absence will seriously affect their learning.

Remember that children from our Reception class up to Year 6 children are welcome to attend our free breakfast club – this starts from 8:15am each morning and is very kindly funded by Greggs. Children can eat cereal, toast, fruit and yoghurts etc. It also means children can be in our warm, friendly school on time for school each day! We are really worried about the chances some children have in school as their attendance or punctuality is giving them no chance to succeed!

| Description | Threshold Attendance | Actual Attendance | Whole Days Absent | Learning Hours Lost |
|---------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Excellent | 100% | 190 Days | 0 | 0 |
| | 99% | 188 Days | 2 | 10 |
| Good | 98% | 186 Days | 4 | 20 |
| | 97% | 184 Days | 6 | 30 |
| Satisfactory | 96% | 182.5 Days | 7.5 | 37.5 |
| Cause for Concern | 95% | 180.5 Days | 9.5 | 47.5 |
| | 94% | 178.5 Days | 11.5 | 57.5 |
| | 93% | 176.5 Days | 13.5 | 67.5 |
| | 92% | 174.5 Days | 15.5 | 77.5 |
| Unsatisfactory | 91% | 173 Days | 17 | 85 |
| Serious Cause for Concern | 90% | 171 Days | 19 | 95 |
| | 89% | 169 Days | 21 | 105 |
| | 88% | 167 Days | 23 | 115 |
| | 87% | 165.5 Days | 25 | 125 |
| | 86% | 163.5 Days | 26.5 | 132.5 |
| Critical | 85% | 161.5 Days | 28.5 | 142.5 |

Our Attendance Policy aims to raise and maintain levels of attendance by:

Promoting a positive and welcoming atmosphere in school in which pupils feel safe, secure and valued.

Raising awareness of the importance of good attendance and punctuality.

Ensuring that attendance is monitored effectively, in line with Government and Local Authority requirements, and reasons for absences are recorded promptly and consistently.

Working in partnership with parents/carers so that they are aware of their child’s attendance record and the impact that this is having on their education.

Key Dates this term

Tuesday 30th January – Family Learning each Tuesday morning - Learning English as an Additional Language.

31st January 2024– Year 3 and 4 children visit Saltwell Park - to learn about rocks and support work on their topic this term.

5th February and 6th February 2024 – Year 5 and 6 Visit Centre for Life to develop their knowledge on Space.

12th February 2024 – Reception visits to the Library.

12th, 14th and 15th February 2024 – Year 1 and 2 visits Thornley Woods to develop knowledge of ‘Around the World’.

HALF TERM – 19th February – 23rd February 2024

1st March 2024 Offer letters and emails sent to parents and carers of pupils in Year 6 with individual secondary school offers.

16th April 2024 offer letters and emails sent to parents and carers for our new Primary School (Reception) starters.

6th March – 8th March 2024 – Year 5 Whithaugh Park residential visit

12th March 2024 – SCIENCE DAY in Carr Hill

19th March 2024 – School Photographer Day

26th March – 28th March – Year 4 Whithaugh Park residential visit

End of Spring Term – Thursday 28th March 2024 (Friday is Good Friday so is a National Bank Holiday)

Very Important Assessment Dates

The children need to be in school to allow us to make the most possible progress as we have explained on many occasions.

Month commencing May 2024 - **Key Stage One (Year 2)** Optional Assessments

Week commencing 13th May 2024 - **Key Stage Two (Year 6)** Statutory Assessments

Two-week period commencing 3rd June 2024 - **Year 4** Multiplication Tables Check

Week commencing 10th June 2024 – **Year 1** Phonics Screening Check

School Clubs and Dates for January 2024 – March 2024

| Day | Time | Year Group | Activity |
|-----------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Monday | 3:15pm - 4:15pm | Year 3 and 4 | Football |
| Tuesday | 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/Little Kickers |

We have a maximum number of children we can take 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.

School Uniform Policy

We have adopted a new school uniform policy which can be seen here: <https://carrhillprimary.org/school-uniform/> There are no significant changes. We are going to attempt to support time in PE a little more by asking children to wear PE uniform into school this includes wearing a pair of **plain black** leggings or **plain black** jogging bottoms, a plain white polo shirt (just the same as they normally wear), safe trainers and they also need to wear their Carr Hill jumper or cardigan on that day. We appreciate that some people won't have black leggings or jogging pants at this stage but it would be handy for us if they can be purchased over the coming term so we can fully implement this in the summer term.

Only one pair of studs for earrings please! Please can you help us by removing earrings for after school clubs, PE and swimming lessons, if your child can't do it themselves. For health and safety reasons, we do not allow children to wear jewellery, and this includes eyelash extensions and false nails.

SCHOOL TERM DATES 2023/24

| Term | Start of Term for Pupils | School Closed to Pupils | Last Day of Term for Pupils |
|--------|----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| Spring | Tue 9 th January 2024 | Mon 19 th until Fri 23 rd February 2024 – half term | Fri 28 th March 2024 |
| Summer | Mon 15 th April 2024 | Mon 6 th May 2024 – bank holiday Mon 27 th May until Fri 31 st May 2024 – half term Mon 24 th June 2024 – occasional day | Friday 19 th July 2024 |