



Our Lady & St Thomas Primary School

You are unique, talented and loved by God

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End of Term Summer Newsletter 2018

Dear Parents,

We are making a few small changes in the next academic year, which we hope you will fully support. These are listed further down this newsletter, but first I wanted to share with you the test results of our pupils, which once again are outstanding *across the school*. Well done to all our pupils, we are very proud of you all for all your hard work and excellent attitude to learning.

TEST RESULTS

Subject	Percentage of pupils achieving the expected standard: our school 2018	Percentage of pupils achieving the expected standard: nationally (2017)
PHONICS – Year 1 Tests	94%	81%

KS1 - This information allows you to compare your child's performance at the end of key stage 1 with the attainment of other year 2 pupils in our school this year, and across England in 2017.

Subject	Percentage of pupils achieving the expected standard: our school 2018	Percentage of pupils achieving the expected standard: nationally (2017)
English reading	94%	76%
English writing	94%	68%
Mathematics	89%	75%

KS2 SATS -

	% the School's cohort met the expected standard – 2018	% nationally met the expected standard 2018
English reading	94%	75%
English writing	82%	78%
Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling	88%	78%
Mathematics	94%	76%

New Procedures for collecting pupils

The current IT Suite is being converted into a classroom over the summer for Year 6 pupils. This will mean our exit point will no longer be viable at home-time, from September. Staff are busy trialling a new system for the end of the day hand over to parents. Each class will be escorted by their Class Teacher through the school yard and around the school building to meet parents by the main gates. This will also ease congestion at the front office.

Walking Home

From September, we will require parents to sign a Consent Form if they wish their child to walk home alone. This is an option for parents of KS2 pupils only. If arrangements change with regards to pick up, please inform the school office to ensure there is no confusion at the end of the day. (Form available from September).

It is important that pupils are collected on time (3.10pm for R, Y1 and Y2 and 3.15pm for KS2 pupils). Pupils who are not collected by a parent or carer will at the end of the day will be supervised in the hall. This change is also for safeguarding reasons.

Appointment system

Whilst we welcome all parents into school, the diary is often very busy and it would be appreciated if parents could contact the office to make an appointment to see myself or the teachers. This way, you will receive quality time, rather than a rushed conversation. We will endeavour to telephone or arrange to meet you the same day, where possible.

Parent Governor

Many thanks go to both ladies who put themselves forward for the position of Parent Governor. Ms Tina Mortimer was successful and is our new Parent Governor alongside Mrs Joanne Norman. Both have children in KS1 and are available should you wish to contact them. Please visit our school website where we are currently uploading Pen Portraits of Governors.

PE Kit

It is important for our school identity that our children always look smart and presentable, especially whilst representing our school at Sporting Events. We would therefore like to introduce a whole school PE kit and hope you fully support this idea for the benefit of all pupils.

The kit will be compulsory and consist of a sky blue t-shirt and a pair of royal blue shorts, which will be available to purchase from school at a price of £9.00.

Hoodies can also be purchased from £12 - £15 depending on size – though these are an optional item. In the colder months children may also wear their own jogging trousers and school jumpers on top of their PE kit if preferred instead of the hoodie.

From September 2018, children should come to school every Friday dressed for sport. The kit will be available to view and order once we return after the summer break. In the first half term children may wear their own sport`s kit. From October half term onwards we will expect to see all children wearing the school PE KIT every Friday.

Healthy Schools and Tuck Shop

The School Council has decided that they would like to apply for the Healthy School Award in the next academic year. We have already introduced the Daily Mile where pupils access exercise each day as part of our mission to be as healthy as possible. School Tuck Shop will therefore cease at the end of the summer term. From September, children will be allowed to bring in their own healthy snack each day to eat at break. Examples of this: a piece of fruit, healthy cereal bar, raisins, mini cheeses etc. Due to pupils in school with nut allergies, please do not send in any nuts.

Breakfast Club continues to be available daily for pupils from 7.45am. We have introduced a variety of fresh fruit/healthy smoothies as well as the usual breakfast items of cereals, toast etc.

FREE healthy snacks for kids on the go this summer

During the school holidays free healthy snacks will be available to kids visiting any Durham County Council swimming pool or library, Monday to Friday, all day.

Snacks on offer include Bananas, satsumas, apples, popcorn and raisins etc. The snacks will help to ensure that kids have access to something quick and healthy to eat during the holidays rather than chocolate and sugary snacks.

Details of local swimming pools and libraries can be found at: www.durham.gov.uk

Last Day of Term

The last day of term is fast approaching. The Leavers Mass will be in church at 9.30am (please note this new time). Fr. Tindall will lead Mass as Fr. Murphy will be away. Parents are invited into school afterwards for refreshments.

Pupils will join together for an early picnic lunch.

Parents are welcome to join us from 1.30pm for Crafts, at our Family Friday, if you wish to do so. Pupils will be in their **usual classes – not house groups**. You may take pupils home early from 2pm onwards.

Autumn Term 2018

We return to school on Tuesday 4th September, 2018 for teaching purposes.

On behalf of myself, staff and governors may I wish you all a fantastic summer break.

Mrs. R. M. Veitch

Head Teacher