

ESCOMB PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter — 15th September 2017

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the start of the new school year! It is lovely to see the children looking so smart and tidy in their uniforms—Thank You parents!

We would like to say a special welcome to our new children in Reception Class and new starters; Thomas, Jayden, Emily, Trystan, Jessica, Jaycee, Harper, Maisie, Theo, Harry, Oscar, Evie, Charlie, Evan, Heidi, Rose, Daniel, James, Imogen, Isla, Alfie, Ella, Olivia, Robbie, Isla, Isaac, Alexander, Louis, Isabella, Pia, Amber S (Year 6) and Connor R (Year 4)

We have attached the following information for you:

- **Yearly Planner:** We have put the key dates on the planner for this year. Please add further dates to it as we send out information over the course of the year. I know from questionnaires that parents would like more notice of events - and I know that this can sometimes be frustrating! We will try our very best to do this but sometimes please understand it is very difficult for us as we don't get confirmation of events until near the time or sometimes we are given an 'opportunity' at the last minute and don't want to miss out as it is of benefit to our children! Please note that we have included dates for Class Assemblies for the Autumn term. In the Summer term we will be inviting you to our 'Strawberries and Cream Open Afternoon' which we will hopefully hold on the amphitheatre and each class will 'perform'.
- **Curriculum Plans:** (These are available on the school website. If you would like a copy printed, please call into the school office. *We are trying to cut down on the amount of paper we use!*) This guide gives you an overview of what your child will be encountering in their learning across this whole academic year. This will enable you to support and work with your child at home. Information relating to all areas of the curriculum is also on the school website along with information and guidance on our approaches to Reading and Mathematics. Year group expectations for Maths and English are also posted on the website.
- **Homework Expectations:** (available on the school website—copy available in school office too!) We have revised our policy following some of the feedback from the parent questionnaires at the end of last year. This outlines the practice within school and ensures a consistency of approach across the school. Please note that there is information about the Year 2—Year 6 Spelling programme included in this guidance.

Other Information

- **School Bags:** We really struggle for space in our porch areas in school and have difficulty storing large rucksacks and bags that a lot of children, particularly in key stage 2, are bringing. Where possible, please can children use school book bags for reading books and homework etc as these are so much easier for us to store. One keyring is also sufficient to attach to the school bag as again this makes storage difficult. The drawstring PE bags are the most suitable for P.E. and swimming kit or alternatively a carrier bag is great! We really appreciate your help with this.
- **Newsletters:** We will be sending newsletters home hopefully on a fortnightly basis unless there is something that we really need to let you know about. Please note that we will continue to use our texting service to send messages as appropriate.
- **Free School Meal Entitlement:** Although all children within Early Years and KS1 are being offered a free school meal this year, parents claiming certain benefits should continue to complete an eligibility form to ensure that our school funding (pupil premium) is not affected. Please complete the form and return to school as soon as possible. Thank you.

ParentPay:

Thank you for supporting us in our switch to the new online ParentPay system for payment of School Meals, Breakfast Club, After School Clubs and School Uniform etc. Please note we no longer accept payment for these items via cash or cheques. If you wish to pay for items in this way you will need to do this via paypoint. Please contact the office for further information. If you have not already done so would you please activate your account asap as some school correspondence may also be sent via this system too. Please would parents do this by next week using the activation letter that has been sent via your child. Please ask at the school office for a copy of activation letter if you are unable to find this.

We are looking forward to working together with you and your children this year to continue to make Escomb School the best place to be!

Thank you for your continued support.

Wendy Gill & Staff



Congratulations



Star of the Week Award

15th September 2017

Class Nominations

Reception	Jayden B
Class 1	Anna Lee G
Class 2	Zaine B
Class 3	Katie P
Class 4	Ethan R
Class 5	Joshua Y
Class 6	John H

Superstar of the Week!

* **Katie P** *

ATTENDANCE

Week Beginning:

5th September 2017

Year R and Y1

100%

Well Done



Congratulations to:

Leah A,

Jamie W

Lucy W

In

Year 6

for their fantastic achievements
in the Junior Great North Run



Applying for a primary school place for September 2018!

You can now apply for a primary school place for children who are due to start school in September 2018.

Apply using the DCC Parent Portal (<https://education.durham.gov.uk/parentportal>) - anyone who applied for a place prior to September 2016 will need to create an account. This is the quickest way to apply and you'll receive immediate confirmation that your application has been submitted. If you are unable to apply online you can either download a form from the DCC website or contact them by email or phone and they will send you one.