



BYERS GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

TUESDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am pleased to be able to say that the new school year is now well underway and the children and staff have enjoyed getting back to some degree of normality. This week has seen the weather take on a discernibly autumnal feel and it may be that the last of the warmer days is now behind us. As we continue to learn to live with COVID-19, I can only continue to ask that we, as a school community, all play our part to follow the most up to date guidance in order to minimise the risk to everyone.

Please note the following points:

EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

To celebrate this event, each class took part in activities yesterday afternoon as follows: Class 1 - France, Class 2 – Scotland (Gaelic), Class 3 – Russia, Class 4 – Italy.

HARVEST

With the children now getting used to having whole school gatherings again, we will be coming together this week to celebrate harvest with a whole school assembly for children and staff only. Each class will be videoing their contribution and the clips will be posted on our website as soon as possible - you will receive a text message once they are available.

COUNTY DURHAM FOODBANK

For our harvest collection this year we are again supporting the Spennymoor distribution point of the County Durham Foodbank. We would appreciate donations of in date, non-perishable food items particularly any of the following: milk (UHT or powdered), fruit juice (long life), cereals, tinned meat/fish, tea and coffee. All other tinned/packet food items as well as toiletries will also be gratefully received.

PE KIT

Just to remind you, that at Byers Green Primary School, we have a PE uniform. This consists of plain navy joggers or shorts and a plain white T-shirt. In colder weather, and for outdoor PE, a plain navy sweatshirt can also be worn. PE uniform items are available to purchase from Emblematic who supply our school uniform. We are happy for the children to wear alternative items purchased from elsewhere, but we ask that they are plain navy/white **with no branding**. Please can jewellery be removed and long hair tied up on PE days.

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHER – MONDAY 4 OCTOBER

The photographer from Phototronics will be in school on the above date. As we no longer have class bubbles, siblings can once again be photographed together.

CHRISTMAS PANTOMIME – WEDNESDAY 15 DECEMBER

All being well, our whole school will be visiting the Gala Theatre to see the annual pantomime on the above date. The price per child is £15.00. This includes the ticket, transport and a drink. Due to the large amount of tickets reserved, the theatre asks that we pay for them in advance. We would be grateful if the money could be paid into school as soon as possible. Please contact Mrs Blenkiron if you would like to arrange a payment card – we are happy to receive instalments.

NE FIRST CREDIT UNION

We will continue to take deposits for savings accounts on a Thursday. Anyone wishing to start a savings account for themselves or their children, please speak to Mrs Blenkiron for further information.

NUT ALLERGIES

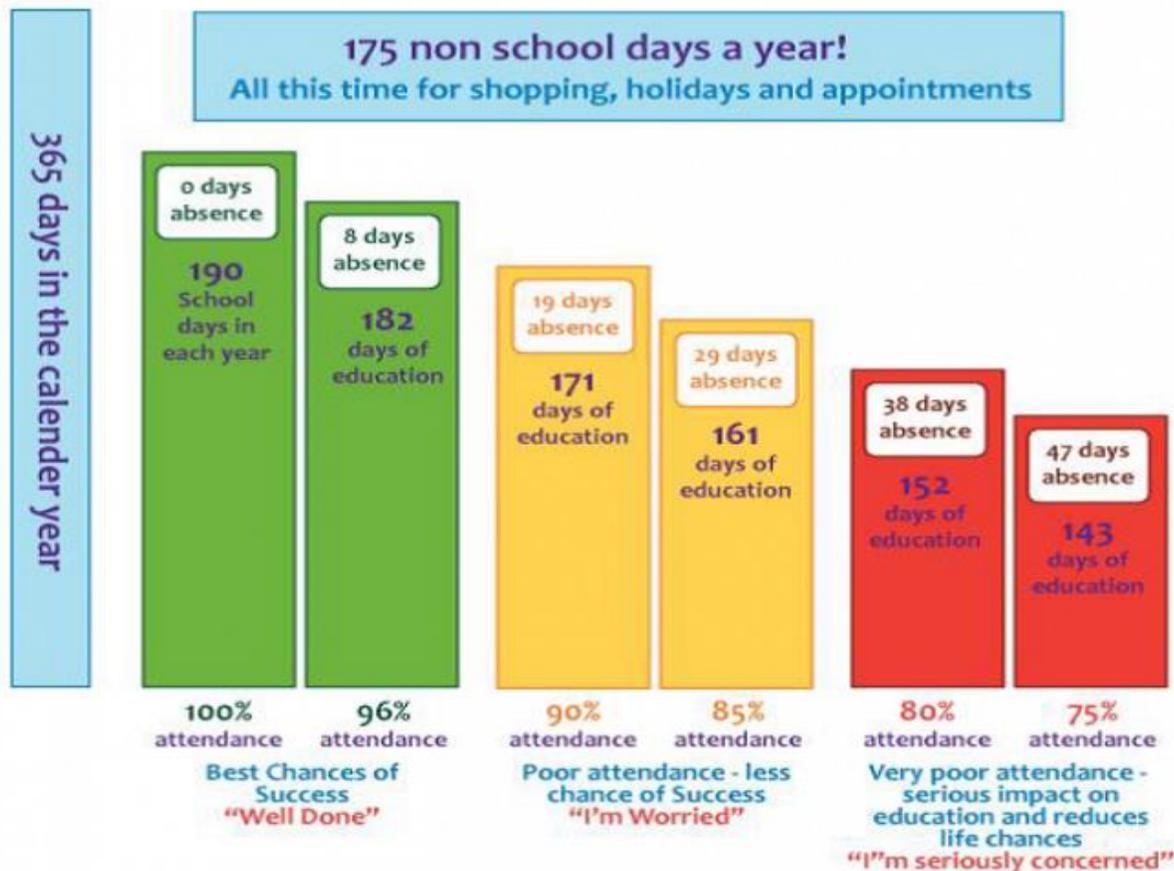
Please can you ensure that no foods containing nuts are included in packed lunches as we have people in school with nut allergies. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

ADDITIONAL BANK HOLIDAY

You may be aware that the Spring Bank Holiday in 2022 (originally Monday 30 May) will be moved to Thursday 2 June and an additional bank holiday on Friday 3 June will create a four-day weekend to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. As this falls over the half-term holiday period, schools can take an additional day's holiday during the 2021/22 school year. We have decided to take this additional day at the end of the summer term and therefore we will **finish for the summer break on Tuesday 19 July 2022** and not Wednesday 20 July 2022 as previously advertised.

ATTENDANCE

Please see the diagram below which emphasises the importance of good school attendance:



I would like to remind everyone that the DfE regulations relating to attendance make it clear that Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. The Local Authority is able to issue penalty notices (fines) to parents who fail to ensure their children's regular attendance at school. A leave of absence form must be completed for all planned absences. If you have any questions about your child's attendance please just ask.

CORONAVIRUS UPDATES

Any updates in relation to COVID-19 will be posted on our school website and a text message will also be sent to link you directly to the information. The most recent update can be viewed here:

<https://www.byersgreen.durham.sch.uk/coronavirus-update-15-09-21/>

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about coronavirus-related issues, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

HALF-TERM HOLIDAY

School will close for the half-term holiday on **Friday 22 October 2021 at 3.15pm**. We return on **Monday 1 November 2021**.

Mr W. Kirtley (Headteacher)