



Upper Durham Dales Federation

Newsletter

Friday 10th September



Message from Mrs Hodgkinson:

Welcome to the first edition of our new Federation newsletter! It has been lovely to see all of the children back in our schools. All of the staff are so proud of how their classes have settled back into the routines and expectations in school.

This term we have welcomed the staff of Forest of Teesdale Primary School to our Weardale Schools. Governors took the decision last term to 'mothball' the school this year, due to low pupil numbers and the remaining pupil has now joined the children at St John's Chapel. You will therefore see some new faces amongst our staff this term. Mr Harrison will be teaching at Wearhead on Mondays and at Rookhope on Tuesday and Wednesday each week. His job share partner, Miss Brooks has joined the staff at St John's Chapel on Thursday and Friday each week. Mrs Pitchford has joined the staff at St John's Chapel as HLTA and she will also be running our new breakfast club. Mrs Walton will be joining our administrators on Monday and Tuesday each week and will be based at SJC.

Our pupils have been enthusiastic about our new Space topics this term. Our EYFS and KS1 children will be learning about space and space travel through their topic 'Moon Zoom' and KS2 will be learning about the planets through their topic 'Stargazers'. We have a number of shared activities planned, including a visit from a mobile planetarium, later this term. Please see the attached overview sheets for more information.

Applications For School Places

Primary school and secondary school places need to be applied for via Durham County Council's School Places and Admissions department. If your child is in Nursery and will be 5 during the school year 2022-2023, you will need to apply for a primary school place. If your child is in Year 6, you will need to apply for a secondary school place. The deadline dates to apply for these school places are:

Secondary school admissions—15th October, 2021

Primary school admissions - 15th January, 2022

Apply online at www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions

Breakfast Club

We now have breakfast club available at St. John's Chapel Primary School and Rookhope Primary School, starting at 8am each day. Children attending Wearhead Primary School can also attend breakfast club at St. John's Chapel Primary School. Parents would need to bring their children to St. John's Chapel Primary and we would make arrangements for them to be taken to school by Weardale Travel. The cost for breakfast club is £2.25 per child, per session.

If you would like your child to attend breakfast club, please contact the school office at St. John's Chapel or Rookhope Primary School (01388 537332 or 01388 517268). Places need to be booked by the previous Friday.

Read Write Inc

All children across our four schools in the Federation are now using Read Write Inc for phonics, spelling and writing. The children in EYFS and Key stage 1 will learn how to read and write letters and sounds following Read Write Inc Phonics. Children in Key Stage 2 will learn the National Curriculum spelling rules and will follow Read Write Inc Spelling programme. For more information, visit the Oxford Owl website <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/reading-schemes-oxford-levels/read-write-inc-phonics-guide/> It is full of fantastic help and guidance and even has video clips that you can view to help you understand how your children will be learning.

As always, we are happy to give you any further advice and support that you might need.

Forest School

We're delighted to announce that Mrs Eastwood (Rookhope staff) has now completed her Forest School Practitioner qualification, so along with Mrs Turnbull (Wearhead staff) and Mrs Hodgkinson, we now have three members of staff who hold a full qualification. Miss Woods (Rookhope staff) and Miss Kilty (SJC staff) will be undertaking their training this year.



We will be starting our Forest School sessions again this term. Forest School sessions allow our children to take part in structured play, exploration and supported risk taking. It develops confidence and self-esteem through learner inspired, hands-on experiences in a natural setting.

Forest School will take place on the following days this term:

Rookhope Primary School - alternate Mondays

St. John's Chapel Primary School - alternate Mondays

Wearhead Primary School - alternate Tuesdays, starting Tuesday 14th September

Below is a reminder of the kit list your child will need for Forest School:

- Long trousers or leggings
- T-shirt
- Fleece or jumper
- Waterproof coat
- Waterproof trousers
- Warm hat or sunhat

- Wellies or sturdy trainers
- Strong bag for putting wet or dirty clothes into
- Long hair tied back

*Please send your child to school in their Forest Schools clothing (school uniform is not necessary).



We are collecting Morrisons *It's Good to Grow* tokens. If you shop in Morrisons, for every £10 you spend (in store or online) you'll get a *Grow Token*. We can then exchange these *Grow Tokens* for gardening equipment that the children can use in school. You can also download the **MyMorrisons** app to start collecting Grow Tokens.

Stanhope Show

Each child has been given a free ticket to the Stanhope Show, which takes place this weekend on the 11th and 12th September. Please look out for them in the children's bags.



Dates for your diary:

Date	Event
Wearhead Primary -Thursday 23 rd Sept pm Rookhope Primary - Friday 24 th am St. John's Chapel Primary - Friday 24 th pm	Macmillan fundraiser (further details to follow)
Monday 4 th October	Key Stage 2 visit to Weardale House
Tuesday 5 th October	EYFS/Key Stage 1 visit to Weardale House
Rookhope Primary - Monday 18 th Oct St. John's Chapel - Wed 20 th Oct Wearhead Primary - Wed 20 th Oct	Harvest event Collection for Weardale foodbank
Thursday 21st October	Planetarium experience at St. John's Chapel Town Hall (further details to follow)