



Upper Durham Dales Federation

Wearhead Newsletter

Friday 22nd October



Message from Mrs Hodgkinson:

On behalf of all the staff, I would like to wish you all a restful half-term and I hope you are able to enjoy some time out and about with your family. It's been another busy half-term and I know both children and staff are ready for a well-earned break. We have some exciting events planned for next half-term and we are very much looking forward to the beginning of our Federation Fridays.

Don't forget to apply for a school place if your child is due to start primary school or move to secondary school in September 2022.

The deadline dates to apply for these school places are:

Secondary school admissions—31st October, 2021

Primary school admissions - 15th January, 2022

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

Harvest

Thank you for all of your donations of food for the Weardale Food Bank. We will deliver all donations on behalf of the children and parents next week.

Don't forget to watch our Harvest performance that has been uploaded to our school website. The link to the video will either appear on the '*news feed*' or '*Facebook Feed*' (towards the bottom of our homepage). We hope that you enjoy it!



Parents' Consultation Meetings

Your child's class teacher/s will contact you after the holidays to make an appointment to discuss your child's progress this half-term. These meetings can be face-to-face, virtual (via Teams) or a telephone appointment (depending on your preference). This will be an opportunity to find out how your child has settled back into school since September, and what staff are doing in school to support your child with their learning.

Federation Fridays

After the October half-term holiday, we will be restarting our joint-working on Fridays, where the children from all schools within our Federation will be taught together at St John's Chapel Primary School. Children from all the schools will be taught together in their age groups - Early Years, Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2), Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4) and Upper Key stage 2 (Years 5 and 6).

The focus for teaching on Fridays will be Science, French and PE. Pupils in Y5 and 6 from all schools will be swimming on Friday afternoons until the end of term.

Children in pre-school, Reception, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4 will need to come to school in their P.E. kit, including tracksuit bottoms and a sweatshirt. Children in Year 5 and 6 will need to come to school in their uniform and bring their swimming kits with them.

Bonfire Safety

On our first 'Federation Friday' after the October half-term holiday, we are having a visit from our Weardale Police Community Support Officer- Chloe Gilding. Chloe will be talking to the children about Bonfire Night celebrations and how the children can keep themselves safe around bonfires, fireworks and sparklers.



Celebrate Science at Home

All Key Stage 2 children will have brought home a free science pack from the Science Outreach and Engagement Officer at Durham University. The pack is full of different activities that the children can do at home, and the resources are all provided to go with the activities (some are related to our space topic.)

You will also find a feedback form in the pack. It would be great if you could encourage your children to do some of the activities and then return the form to us. We will then pass the information on and this will be used to design future packs. The form doesn't ask for any personal information and your feedback will only be used towards the design of the next pack.

Please return your feedback form to school by Friday 5th November.





Messages from staff:

Forest School

IMPORTANT: The Forest School Session after half term at **Wearhead Primary** will Tuesday 9th November. Please send your child(ren) in appropriate clothing and footwear.

Dinner Money

Next term's dinner money for those in KS2 who prefer to pay all in one go the cost will be £73.10. For those who wish to continue to pay on a weekly basis the cost remains £10.75 per week. As school re-opens on Tuesday 2nd November the cost for that week will be £8.60.

Dates for your diary:

Date	Event
Friday 22 nd October	School closes for half term holiday
Monday 1 st November	Staff INSET day- all schools closed to pupils
Tuesday 2 nd November	Schools reopen for teaching purposes
Friday 5 th November	Bonfire safety assembly
Tuesday 8 th November – Friday 12 th November	Parents' consultation meetings
Friday 19 th November	Children in Need Jet & Ben assembly
Monday 15 th – Friday 19 th November	Anti-bullying week
Tuesday 7 th December	Pantomime at The Gala Theatre, Durham
Monday 13 th December (Wearhead Primary) Tuesday 14 th December (Rookhope & St John's Chapel Primary)	Christmas lunch in school
Wednesday 15 th December	Upper Durham Dales Christmas Performance (times to be confirmed)
Friday 17 th December	Christingle at St John's Chapel Church