

School Street  
Birtley  
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Head Teacher: Mrs C. McDermott

14th September, 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, on behalf of all of our staff and governors, may we welcome all parents/carers both 'old' and 'new' back at the start of a new school year. I'm sure that this academic year of 2018-19 will be as 'outstanding' as last year and that we will continue to strive to provide a rich and varied curriculum which enables all of our children to thrive in their own personal development and to achieve their full potential.

### **A few reminders...**

**Dinner Money** - Dinner money (£2.40 per day) **must** be sent in for the whole week on a **Monday** morning, in an envelope or wallet/purse clearly marked with your child's name. It is the responsibility of parents to arrange provision for their child's lunch - if dinner money is not received on a Monday, a text will be sent asking you to bring in a packed lunch.

**Birthday Cakes** - could we please ask that birthday cakes are kept for home celebrations and that if your child would like to bring in a class treat to mark their special day, that this is restricted to small individual bags of sweets. Thank you.

**P.E. Kit** - please ensure your child's P.E. kit, including outdoor trainers (separate to what they might wear for school) & plimsolls are in school **every day**. Please note the only pieces of jewellery the children are permitted to wear are wrist watches & stud earrings - which must be removed for swimming and P.E. lessons.

**Parking** - please be mindful of our neighbours and ensure that you park responsibly when dropping off or collecting children from school.

On the reverse of this letter you will find an overview of the R.E. curriculum for Autumn term and a letter from Deacon Peter about a Journey of Faith. Also attached for your information and convenience, are a list of **key dates** for the Autumn term which I hope you will find useful (please also check the calendar on our school website which is regularly updated). If you have any other queries please don't hesitate to contact Miss Helen Thompson, our School Business Manager, on 0191 410 2231.

Yours sincerely,  
*Christina McDermott*  
Head Teacher



## Key dates for the Autumn Term 2018.

### Visits/Meetings/Events/Sports Competitions

- Mon 10<sup>th</sup> Sept** - Basketball after school club begins for 6 weeks (3.30-4.30pm)  
**Tues 11<sup>th</sup> Sept** - Bikeability training for Y5 begins (every Tues morning for 6 weeks)  
**Tues 11<sup>th</sup> Sept** - Swimming Lessons for our Y3 children from 1.15 - 2.30pm for the whole of the Autumn term.  
**Wed 12<sup>th</sup> Sept** - Healthy Eating workshops for Y4&Y5  
**Wed 12<sup>th</sup> Sept** - Football Squad Training on school field 3.30-5.00pm  
**Thurs 13<sup>th</sup> Sept** - First half of the football season begins (every Thurs for 5 weeks)  
**Wed 19<sup>th</sup> Sept** - Gateshead Schools Cross-Country Championships  
**Thurs 4<sup>th</sup> Oct** - Change 4 Life Sports Festival

**Autumn term Parents' Evenings - Mon 15<sup>th</sup> & Tues 16<sup>th</sup> October - 2.30 - 5.00pm**

**Thurs 18<sup>th</sup> Oct** - Y3 visit to the Centre for Life

**Half-term Holiday: Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> - Friday 26<sup>th</sup> Oct**

- Mon 5<sup>th</sup> Nov** - Cycle Ride for Y5 at Herrington Park  
**Mon 12<sup>th</sup> & Tues 13<sup>th</sup> Nov** - Liturgical Dance workshops for all year groups  
**Fri 16<sup>th</sup> Nov** - Flu Vaccinations  
**Thurs 29<sup>th</sup> Nov** - Y6 visit to Palace Green Library for an Ancient Greek workshop.  
**Wed 12<sup>th</sup> Dec** - A Christmas Carol at the Northern Stage for Y5&Y6  
**\*Tues 11<sup>th</sup> Dec - Y5 & Y6 Christmas Production (10.00am & 2.00pm)**  
**\*Wed 12<sup>th</sup> Dec - Y3 & Y4 Christmas Production (10.00am & 2.00pm)**  
***\*Please note there are no evening performances.***  
**Mon 17<sup>th</sup> Dec** - Y3 & Y4 Christmas Party  
**Tues 18<sup>th</sup> Dec** - Y5 & Y6 Christmas Party  
**Wed 19<sup>th</sup> Dec** - A Christmas Carol at the Northern Stage for Y3&Y4  
**Fri 21<sup>st</sup> Dec** - Carol Service in Church at 1.30pm. Children must be collected from church at 2.30pm.

**Break for Christmas Holidays. Children return to school on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019.**

### Class Masses/Eucharistic Services

- Fri 14<sup>th</sup> Sept** - 9.00am Mass in school hall led by Y3 & Y6  
**Fri 28<sup>th</sup> Sept** - 10.00am Beginning of a New School Year Mass in church  
**Wed 17<sup>th</sup> Oct** - 10.00am Harvest Mass in Church for all 3 parish schools

***Please note: Additional details of visits/events & sport competitions etc will be sent out to those classes involved. Letters about more 'After School' clubs to follow.***

**PLEASE CHECK OUT OUR SCHOOL WEBSITE CALENDAR FOR MORE DATES**

**[www.birtleystjosephsjuniors.org](http://www.birtleystjosephsjuniors.org)**