

# North Denes Primary School

Head Teacher Mrs D Whiting BEd (Hons)



Dear Parents/carers,

**Welcome back** to the new school year! The children have all settled in to school well. Our new reception children have made an excellent start- it was lovely to see them all excited and dressed in their new uniforms on their first day!

Information from each year group should have come home - or is imminent - containing all you need to know to ensure your child has all they need each day for school. It also contains an outline of the trips we hope to run (and the approximate costs) to support the curriculum. These trips are chosen carefully to give the children an interest in the subject about which they will be learning and give them some knowledge and understanding, ahead of class teaching. They are an essential part of your child's learning - not an 'add on'. Without these experiences, for some children especially, learning will suffer. I understand that there is a cost and we ask that you do your utmost to contribute - we will not be able to run them without sufficient contributions, as we cannot afford to cover the cost. We do already subsidise trips and I hope that knowing what will take place each term will enable you to budget more easily. Should you find it difficult to pay, please come and see us.

The construction of the new school has begun! It is an exciting time for us and the construction company has been amazing so far. There has been no disruption to the day-to-day running of the school whatsoever. We look forward to being in our new school this time next year.

## School Calendar

We have published a list of dates for the year that accompany this newsletter. Some may be subject to change but we hope not to alter anything unless absolutely necessary. You will notice that only children from nursery to year 2 are doing Christmas performances this year. Time tabling the hall for practises is difficult with winter PE having to be inside some days and all the rehearsal time takes away from learning. Some children struggle with the change in routine too. We will be holding Parent Cafes for Christmas for every year group and we will have a Christmas service at St Nicholas Church, to which you are invited.

## ATTENDANCE

Attendance last year was much lower than it should be! We will be tracking individuals very closely and contacting you early on if we see a potential issue arising. The expected level of attendance is 96% and above. If attendance falls below 90%, your child is classed as persistent absent - just 19 school days of absence in a school year will put your child in this category. If your child is late, it is recorded as an unauthorised absence. **PLEASE** get here on time every day. A large number of children come through the gates every day after the bell has gone. Children who aren't in school are missing learning and gaps in learning affect outcomes. Friendships can also be affected. Please also collect children promptly at the end of the day. Children remaining after school has ended will be put in to after school care for which a fee is payable.

### After School care

The school no longer runs the after school provision. This is now managed by Revolutionary Roots. If you wish to book your child in then please contact them directly on 07940 258091. Odd days can be arranged and care can be provided at very short notice. Revolutionary Roots will accept children who have not been collected on time but will charge you for this. We do still offer a variety of free after school activities - for which most other schools charge. A timetable will be published on our website.

We are looking forward to the coming year. Please work with us to help your child learn to their full potential - getting them in to school on time every day; reading at home; ensuring homework is completed and informing us of any difficulties. Things work best when we work together. As always, if you have a problem or a concern, raise it with Mrs Johnson or Mrs Juler on the school gate or with your child's teacher in the first instance. We are always there to help.

*Armiting*