



# Fellside Nursery Matters

A glance at the Diary of Events to the end of term in this edition of Fellside Matters gives an indication of just how busy the end of the school year is. Just two days without a significant visit, performance or social event.

Many of our children are ‘out and about’ this term and as ever we expect them to exhibit the highest standards of behaviour and manners.

Last night and today we have received plaudits for Year Four’s performance and exemplary behaviour at a concert at the Sage. Not just from our justifiably proud parents, but Mrs Ducker reports from total strangers and teachers from other schools. Well done Year Four.

Many (not all) of the visits this term require a sometimes considerable parental cash contribution. We are aware that, particularly if you have two or three children in school, this can be an expensive time of year. Indeed this issue has been discussed at governors meetings and by the F.O.F. committee.

There’s a tricky balance here—yes we want our children to experience some of the North East’s unique venues (Vindolanda, Beamish etc.) but costs, particularly transport have rocketed recently. As a school we already subsidise or pay completely for some visits—e.g.. weekly swimming transport. It may be that prior to this time next year we look to extending the school’s contribution to visits. This would impact, of course, on provision in other areas. Be assured we’ll give this issue due consideration.

Please also be aware that no child would ever be excluded from a visit for the inability to pay. If there are insufficient parental contributions a visit cannot actually take place. In reality, experience shows that parents make the full contribution requested for all visits, though in isolated cases of genuine hardship the school has and does discretely help with finance.

## Disability Equality Scheme

As part of the Disability Equality Scheme, we intend to look at how the school caters for the needs of people with disabilities. This will cover all disabilities and is not limited to purely physical needs.

We will of course be consulting pupils and staff, but we would also value the views of an occasional user of the school who will be less familiar with the building, and the way things work.

The review will take place during the autumn term, with an initial meeting taking place in school after 3.15 pm. (exact date to be confirmed). If you or anyone you know would be willing to volunteer, please contact Mr Doran before the end of term.

Thank you

Laura Robinson— Chair, Governors working group on DES.

**Thank You!**

I would like to thank everyone who has brought in shoes for the Shoe Biz Appeal. We did a final count of the shoes and had 127 more which gives us a grand total of 308!!

I am really pleased about the result because it is far more than I expected. Our efforts will have helped lots of children in Malawi.

Many thanks again.

**Daniel Graham (Year 3)**

## Diary of Events

Wed 27th June	9.15	Y3 Class Assembly Y6 School Council Visit to Houses of Parliament
Thurs 28th June	1.45	Concert for Parents and families of children learning instruments
Fri 29th June	2.30	Friends of Fellside Summer Fair
Mon 2nd July	1.30	M & M Theatre Production—Kosmic Krew, The Search for the Kosmic Krystal Y6 Taster Day at Whickham School
Tues 3rd July		Y3 visit to Vindolanda and the Roman Army Museum
Tues 3rd—Fri 6th July		Y6 Cycling Proficiency
Wed 4th July		Y1 Class Assembly
Thurs 5th July	6.00	Fellside Fun Club childcare open meeting for any interested parents
Fri 6th July	9.00	Friends of Fellside Coffee Morning School Reports out to parents
Mon 9th July		Y6 Science session at Whickham School
Tue 10th July		KS1 visit to Beamish Open Air Museum
Wed 11th July	9.15	Y5 Class Assembly Sandcastle Day—all day event
	2.45	Gymnastics Club display
Thurs 12th July		Reception visit to Tynemouth
	6.00	Y6 Leavers Performance
Fri 13th July	7.00	Friends of Fellside Barbecue
Tue 17th July	1.30	Sports Day (Nursery will be closed for the PM session, children and parents are welcome to attend sports day on the field, and to take part in their own race)
Wed 18th July	(1.30)	Alternative Sports Day if wet on Tuesday Y6 Evening Party
Thurs 19th July		Non Uniform Day. Discos during afternoon school time
Fri 20th July		Break up for Summer Holiday

**PHEW!**

### New Health Guidance

We are now advised by the Health Protection Agency that any child absent from school with sickness and/or diarrhoea should remain off school for 48 hours after the last incident and not 24 hours as previously advised.

### Administering Medication at School

Guidance from the Education Department is that medicines should normally be given at home, even a medicine to be given three times a day can be given before school, immediately after school and at bedtime. If it is essential that medication be administered in school then medicine should be prescribed by a doctor for that individual, the container should be clearly marked with the child's name, the name of the drug and the dosage, and the date of issue and expiry. Parents need to complete a form MED(1), available from the office.

### **State 8 Promotions**

Just a reminder about school uniform for September. Junior now stocks and provides uniform for 10 local schools, we are sure you will understand that this time of year is extremely busy for them and in order to ensure enough stock to satisfy all of their customers they have requested that we remind you that uniforms for September needs to be pre-ordered by **Friday 13th July**.

You will have received a leaflet complete with an order form recently and we do have a small number of these in school if you have lost your copy.

## Music Provision

We have a reputation locally and across the borough for our music provision in terms of variety and quality. The results of high quality teaching and the commitment to learning by our children, often with support at home, are evident when they perform—today’s instrumental concert for example. We are aware that parents may be unclear about what is on offer and to whom. Below is a summary of our current provision.

### Instrumental Tuition:

- ♪ Recorders are taught from Y2 - Y6 by Mrs Ducker and Mrs Goodliffe, with no limit on numbers, children need to provide their own instruments.
- ♪ Woodwind tuition (flute and clarinet) is available to children from Y4 – Y6; the age group is determined by the hand size, teeth (they really need to have their front adult teeth) and ability to blow hard enough to get a good sound. There are a limited number of places available to be offered and children are tested for musical aptitude in Y3/Y4. There are a small number of loan instruments allocated to school – all of these are currently in use.
- ♪ Cello tuition is available to children from Y2-Y6; children are tested for musical aptitude at the end of Y1 and lessons offered if available. Instruments are available on loan from Gateshead Music Service.
- ♪ Guitar tuition is available to children from Y4-Y6. Children need to have their own instrument of the type specified by the teacher.
- ♪ Violin tuition is available to children from Y3 – Y6. Instruments are available on loan from Gateshead Music Service.

All instrumental tuition, with the exception of Recorders (taught by Mrs Ducker), is provided by Peripatetic Teachers and parents are asked to make a contribution of £30.00 per term, subject to review.

We also have a choir, run by Mrs Ducker and open to all children in Y3 – Y6.

In addition to this direct tuition children throughout the school, from nursery to Y6, have opportunities to participate in various musical workshops provided in school and at venues such as the Sage. There are also a number of listening and performance opportunities at various times during the year.

### Costs

At this point in time we do not have the final figures (not available until after the end of term) however we can estimate the cost for 06-07 to be approximately £4500. It is estimated that the income generated from parents will cover 67% of this and that the school will fund the additional 33%.

In 05-06 the school funded 51% of the costs of £3773.32. The improvement in the ratio of parent/school funded provision is due largely to a change in the internal charging system from the Music Service to ourselves (removing various strings groups and reassigning those lesson times to school) and increasing the numbers of children receiving tuition.

Currently we have 53 children receiving Peripatetic Tuition, this equates to 25% of our children receiving instrumental tuition within school time and does not include the recorder groups or choir which, with Mrs Ducker’s absence and Mrs Goodliffe’s Maternity Leave have yet to recommence, however there are normally 20-30 children in recorder group and the same in the choir.