



I'm sure you'll find the diary of events for next half term useful. Our detailed diary on the staffroom wall shows something outside the routine - actually many events are becoming the routine! - almost every day during the seven week period to the summer break.

What is sure is that all classes, if they haven't already been out and about this term, can expect visits out and events at school. We are equally sure that all children will, as we all expect, be fabulous ambassadors for Fellside. I'd struggle to remember a

time in my eight years here when I've heard anything but praise for the behaviour, attitude and listening skills of our children on visits or with visitors in school.

We look forward to a busy enjoyable period at school - and hopefully some decent weather. Should we benefit from that please remember to provide hats, water and sun block.



Improvements During the Half Term Break

Some work to replace faulty panels in the new fence between the car park and the field will take place. A new outdoor secure store in a quiet corner of the car park area will be erected. An electronically operated rising barrier to the car park area will be installed (as mentioned in Fellside Matters last month). Parents in possession of a disabled badge for their vehicle must bring relevant documentation to the school office to be provided with an electronic fob to operate the barrier. It is expected that the barrier will be operational from Wednesday 9th June.



Design Technology Challenge 2010 Dens!

Over the years we have set a variety of challenges - building bridges, chairs, scarecrows and wind-powered devices. This year, as I'm sure you'd expect, something different - dens!



One only has to glance over the fence at anytime to see a variety of 'dens' made from seasonally available materials - leaves, sticks, snow and currently grass clippings. Every child in school (and most adults!) expressed enthusiasm for den building by inviting real den construction in our grounds which will be opened specially for this challenge after school week beginning 21st June (Monday to Thursday) and on Saturday 26th June.

Immediately after half term we will provide more details for this exciting challenge.

Bike it Breakfast, Pedalling Picnic

Last Monday more than sixty children and adults came to school early for 'Bike it Breakfast' with Alan Barlow. Alan carried out some routine maintenance on bikes during the morning. All thirty Year Six children had an afternoon of fun on bikes including team pursuit races, slow bike race and a tricky mountain bike race round the perimeter of the school field.



This year's Pedalling Picnic (the ninth) is on the morning of Saturday 19th June. Once again there'll be the choice of two routes - the longer route from Shotley Bridge (11 miles of largely gentle down slope) meeting those on the shorter route (through Derwenthaugh Park approximately 3 miles) before a picnic at the Green at Swalwell.

Details after the half term break.

This year we can access a 20 bike trailer from Sustrans which could be of use for transporting bikes to Shotley Bridge. If you have a tow bar fitted to a suitable car and wish to help with transporting bikes please contact school.

The bike raffle was a huge success raising £185 for our school fund. The bike was won by Larissa Tait in Year 3. Well Done.

Friends of Fellside

Unfortunately the Swishing Event which was a great success last year was cancelled due to a lack of numbers. We will now look forward to a successful Summer Fair on 18th June and BBQ on 16th July to raise money for school.



Fellside Fun Club

Fellside Fun Club events this term include:-

♪ Thursday 17th June - Movie Night

♪ Monday 12th July - Party Night

Could all parents / carers please contact FFC by 5.30pm if you are going to be late.

FFC has spaces for children in the afternoon session only.

Activities this term include puppet making, sea creatures and bug flying.

We look forward in seeing you there!

Thank you.

Rachel



School Dinners

A slight change to the menu - instead of Homemade Pork Cheese Burger every third Wednesday there will be Tuna and Salad Wraps.



Texting / Email Service

Before the summer holiday we will be trialling a texting and email service to communicate with parents and carers. This service can also be used by parents to communicate with school. For example, school will send a text message to your mobile phone in the event of a sport event or club being cancelled and parents will be able to send a text message to inform school of a child's absence. It will of course rely on us having up to date email and mobile phone details for us to use this efficient system which is already in use at Whickham School. Please ensure all Personal Detail forms are returned to us as soon as possible if you haven't already done so.



Further details will follow the half term break.

Receipts

We currently issue receipts for all payments made to school. However to ensure administration time is more time effective following Local Authority guidance we will in future only issue receipts for any payments over £15.00. We will of course continue to maintain records in school for all money received.



Academies

As you may be aware, the new government intends to extend the academies programme to primary schools. Schools rated as 'outstanding' by Ofsted are the first schools invited to leave Local Authority control and become academies. As a school in that category we have already received such an invitation from Michael Gove.



Our Governing Body meets for its regular summer term meeting on Wednesday 9th June and will give this matter due consideration.

Primary Review

Cabinet met on Tuesday 25th May and approved the recommendation outlined in the report distributed last week. Formal consultations involving those schools proposed for closure (Marley Hill and Sacred Heart, Byermoor) will begin next month.

Music Instrument Tuition

About 100 (not far off half) of our children play a musical instrument. They'll have the opportunity soon to show off their talent at the Strawberry and Wine Concert on Thursday 24th June.

The majority of our instrumental musicians have learned at school. From time to time we are asked when opportunities become available. The following is a guide:-

- ♪ Cello - end of Year One
- ♪ Violin - end of Year One
- ♪ Guitar - currently the whole of Year Four* and at the end of that year children who 'show a particular strength' may be offered places to continue
- ♪ Flute / Clarinet - may be offered in Year Three but factors such as hand span, tooth development, lung capacity mean that it's usually begun at the start of Year Four

Should children drop out of a group the places are offered to other children when available.

Initial aptitude for playing an instrument is assessed by the 'Bentley Test' administered by our peripatetic staff.

** This is a government funded initiative which may not continue in future years.*

Diary of Planned Events to June

Friday 28th May	Break up for May Half Term
Monday 7th June	Return to school following May Half Term
Friday 18th June	FOF Summer Fair
Saturday 19th June	Pedalling Picnic
Thursday 24th June	Strawberries and Wine Concert
Friday 25th June	Occasional Day (School Closed to Staff and Pupils)
Friday 25th June	Gateshead Schools Athletics Festival at Gateshead Stadium
Friday 2nd July	Grandparents' Afternoon
Friday 16th July	FOF BBQ
Monday 19th July	Sports Day (Weather permitting)
(Tuesday 20th July	Alternative Sports Day)
Friday 23rd July	End of Summer Term (Mr Doran's last day!)
Monday 6th September	Training Day
Tuesday 7th September	Pupils return to school following Summer Holiday



After School Clubs

The following clubs will be operating through the Summer:

Year Two	Recorder Club - Wednesday lunchtime
Year Two	Drama Club - Tuesday 3.15 - 4.15pm
Year Three/Four	Football Club - Friday 3.15 - 4.15 pm
Year Five/Six	Hockey Club - Monday 3.15 - 4.50pm
Year Five/Six	Tag Rugby Club—Thursday 3.15 - 4.30pm
Year Six	ICT - Thursday lunchtime
KS2	Recorder Club - Thursday lunchtime
KS2	Choir - Friday lunchtime
Reception to Year 6	Karate Club - Wednesday / Thursday 7.50 - 8.50am
Reception to Year 6	Gymnastics Club - Wednesday 3.20 - 4.20pm

