

Head Teacher:  
Mr J.P.Gargan B.A. (Hons.)  
Deputy Head Teacher:  
Mrs A. Brown B.Ed., N.P.Q.H.  
No. 2411  
Tel: (01325) 300227  
Fax : (01325) 320263  
[aycliffevillage@durhamlearning.net](mailto:aycliffevillage@durhamlearning.net)

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL  
Aycliffe Village Primary  
School  
Aycliffe Village  
Newton Aycliffe  
Co. Durham



May 6th 2016  
Letter to Parents/Carers

## Payments to School

### Parent Pay

Following an overwhelming response from parents, we will be introducing a payment system that will allow Dinner Money and, eventually, School Trip Money to be paid directly into an account rather than bringing money in to school. The Parent Pay System will allow parents to make any such payment from a mobile phone, a tablet computer, laptop or computer, linked to a bank account.

In order for the new system to be activated, parents will receive a letter giving instructions on how this must be done. Activation letters will follow this letter on Monday, 16th May, 2016.

**The new system will not work until the activation process is carried out by ALL parents.**

It is important to note that parents will not be able to receive text messages until the new system is activated as the new text messaging service is part of the Parent Pay System.

We do ask that you can help us out by ensuring that the transition period is as smooth as possible. We will be taking cash and cheques until the 27th May but not from that date onwards.

If a child has a credit owing for a meal, these will be transferred on to the new system but we ask that all outstanding money is paid up by the 27th May 2016.

For parents without a bank account, or access to the internet, the Parent Pay System will allow cash payments to be made in shops, using Pay Point Cards, to the school's account.

It is our intention that the new system will be operational on the 6th June 2016.

### **Changes to Staffing**

When Miss. Bradley returns from her Maternity Leave, she will work part-time. Mrs. Johnson has been appointed by Governors to cover the other part of the job share. We welcome Mrs Johnson onto the staff as a permanent member.

### **Parents' Questionnaire**

Thank you to all of you who responded to our recent questionnaire. Most of the comments and returned sheets were very positive. Thank you for those. However, there were a small number of parents who raised concerns. I have contacted some of the parents with specific concerns but there were two parents that raised the same issues. The issues were: being kept informed of pupils' progress and keeping safe whilst scooting to school.

The ratio of staff to pupils in any Primary School is considerably lower than that expected in a Nursery setting. Therefore, it is impossible for staff to brief parents as frequently as they might have been when a child was at Nursery. The legal requirement is that we offer a Parents' Consultation each term. If you are not able to make the consultation appointment given to you, please contact your child's teacher in order to arrange a mutually convenient appointment to discuss your child's progress. Should you have concerns at other times, please contact your child's teacher in order to make an appointment in order to discuss it. We are always available to discuss issues that are of concern. In addition to this, teachers are often available for an informal chat at the end of the school day.

We do, as you are aware, allow pupils to scoot in the school yard. We do encourage the use of helmets and recommend that parents send a helmet for their child to use. The area that the pupils use in the playground is supervised and the number of accidents is very low.

### **School Improvements**

The Key Stage Two toilets have now been refurbished. They look lovely. We now hope that the pupils will look after them and treat them with the respect that they deserve.

### **School Car Park**

We respectfully ask that parents do not lean against staff members' cars in the car park as you come in to collect your children. In the past, this has led to minor damage that is costly to repair. Thank you for respecting the property of others.

### **Collecting pupils at the end of the day**

The gate allowing access into the playground is now open at 3.00pm to allow parents onto the school yard. We ask that young children are supervised at all times and are not allowed to climb on to the exercise machines in the playground. Thank you for your help with this matter.

### **Music Concert**

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June.

The pupils in Year 5 and 6 will be performing with the County's Little Big Band, playing the clarinet and singing. The Year 3 and 4 will be singing and playing the recorder. This will give the pupils the opportunity and experience to play alongside more experienced musicians in a live performance. Parents of the pupils who are partaking will be invited to listen to the Concert. The Concert is due to start at 5.00pm. The pupils that are taking part will need to be back in school by 4.30 in order to be ready to play. School uniform must be worn. Please fill in the return slip to let us know if your child is able to take part in this unique event.

### **Year 4 Theatre visit**

With the impending changes to the Parent Pay system, we respectfully ask that contributions to the Year 4 Theatre visit are made as soon as possible in order to enable a smooth transition towards the Parent Pay System. Thank you.

### **Parking and dropping off outside school.**

We respectfully ask that you abide by the traffic notices outside school when dropping pupils off at school and parking to collect them at the end of the school day. The restrictions are there to keep all children safe as they enter and leave school.

As usual, if anyone would like to discuss any of the issues raised here, with me or any member of staff, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J.P.Gargan.  
Head Teacher

**Please note: There have been some changes made to the school diary since the last newsletter.**

| <b>Date</b>                                | <b>Event</b>   | <b>Time</b>                 | <b>Place</b>       |
|--|--|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| May  |  |                             |                    |
| May 1 <sup>st</sup> - 31 <sup>st</sup>     | SATs for Year 2 children<br>These tests will be undertaken throughout the month of May. They will be administered in a manner that complies with the legislation but aims to test the pupils in a manner considerate to the pupils' needs. | Throughout the month of May |                    |
| Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup>                   | Athletics: Year 6 to compete.  | 9.30-12pm                   | Shildon            |
| Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup>                 | Y4 Theatre Visit to see ' Gangster Granny'   | 10:30-12:30                 | Civic Theatre      |
| Friday 27 <sup>th</sup>                    | <b>School Closes - Half Term</b>   |                             |                    |
| June                                       |  |                             |                    |
| June 6 <sup>th</sup> - 30 <sup>th</sup>    | Phonic Screening Check for Year One Pupils<br>The Phonic Screening Check will take place during one week in June for Year One pupils.  |                             |                    |
| Monday 6 <sup>th</sup>                     | <b>School Re-opens</b>   |                             |                    |
| Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup>                 | KS2 Little Big Band*   | 5pm                         | Hall               |
| Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup>                  | New Starters Meeting for Parents   | 9.15-10.30                  | Hall               |
| Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup>                  | Book Fair*   | 1.30pm                      | Hall               |
| Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup>                  | PTA Summer Fair  | 3.30pm-6pm                  | Hall               |
| Friday 24 <sup>th</sup>                    | New Starters In (Move Up Day)  | 09.00-12.00                 | Classrooms         |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> June-1 <sup>st</sup> July | Sports Week*   |                             |                    |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> June                      | Y6 Induction Day   | All day                     | Woodham/Greenfield |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> June                      | KS1 Sports Day   | 9.30-11.30                  | Field              |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> June                      | KS2 Sports Day   | 9.30-11.30                  | Field              |
| July                                       |  |                             |                    |
| Monday 4 <sup>th</sup>                     | France Visit   | 1.30pm                      |                    |
| Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> July                | New Starters In (Move Up Day)  | 09.00-12.00                 | Classrooms         |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> July- 14 <sup>th</sup>    | Parents' Afternoons*   |                             |                    |
| Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup>                  | Leavers' Disco   | 6.30-8pm                    | Hall               |
| Monday 18 <sup>th</sup>                    | Y5 Full STEM Ahead *   | 9.15-3.15                   | Excel Centre       |
| Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup>                   | Leavers' Assembly  |                             |                    |
| Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup>                 | <b>School Closes</b>   |                             |                    |

**\*More information to follow**

---

I give permission for my child (or children) \_\_\_\_\_ to take part in the Little Big Band Concert on the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2016 at 5.00pm.

I will ensure that he, she or they) is/are returned to school by 4.30pm in order to play and will be collected after the concert at approximately 5.30pm.

Two tickets per family will be allocated to view the concert.  
Please delete

I would like/ would not like to take up the offer of the tickets.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/ Guardian/Carer