

# Firthmoor Primary School Newsletter

Summer Term (2) 2024

For further news items and information please visit [www.firthmoor.darlington.sch.uk](http://www.firthmoor.darlington.sch.uk)

## UPCOMING DATES

- **Wednesday 3 July**, 9.30 am  
Music concert for Y3SB/RH, Y4NT and all violinist parents/carers
- **Thursday 4 July** - Community Games for Y3SB/RH children only
- **Friday 12 July** - end of year reports
- **Wednesday 17 July** - Back Chat Brass Band for children only
- **Thursday 18 July**, 2.00 pm - Y6 Leavers' Concert - 2 people per family (*no tickets reqd*)
- **Friday 19 July**, 10.00 am - High Attendance & Punctuality Award Assembly - parents of award winners to be informed by Mon 15 July
- **Monday 22 July** - Monday Fun Day - *more details to follow*
- **Monday 22 July**, 3.15 pm - break up for the school holidays
- *Advance notice - October half term*  
*Monday 28 October - Friday 1 November 2024*

## SEPTEMBER RETURN TO SCHOOL

### WEDNESDAY 4 SEPT

8.45 am - 3.15 pm

Reception to Y6

9.00 am - 12.00 noon

Nursery

Breakfast Club

Y1 - Y6 Pre-booked  
pupils only

Gates open at 8.20 am  
to 8.30 am

If there any changes in  
medical/personal  
circumstances, please  
contact the school office  
either in person or via  
telephone on Monday 2  
or Tuesday 3 Sept

Reminder - no backpacks  
in school please, due to  
space limitations

Please see reverse side  
of this sheet for new  
government rules on  
school attendance

## SEPTEMBER HOMETIME ARRANGEMENTS

Y5/Y6 pupils will be taken to the top school gate to walk home alone. If you wish to accompany your child, arrange with them as to where you will meet outside school.

Y3/4 pupils should be collected from the school yard for the first week back in September. If you would like your child to walk home alone from Mon 9 Sept, please e-mail the school office in September.

## STAFF RETIREMENTS

After 22 years of dedicated service to Firthmoor families, we are sad to inform you that Mrs Kilpatrick is retiring on 22 July to spend time with her grandchildren and dogs

Mrs Savage, who has worked in many classes across the school with hundreds of children, is also retiring after 25 years.

WE WISH THEM BOTH  
ALL THE VERY BEST

## COUNSELLING

If you feel that your child may benefit from weekly 1:1 counselling sessions with Ruth Bradley, please contact the school office as soon as possible.

Sessions will be held during the school day, in school, from September.



## Helping parents to understand the changes to fines for term time holidays

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following changes will come into force for Penalty Notice Fines issued for unauthorised holidays recorded by schools **after 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024**.

### Who may be fined?

Penalty Notice Fines are issued to each parent who allows their child to be absent from school.

For example: 3 siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent who allowed the holiday receiving 3 separate fines.

### National Threshold

There will be a single consistent national threshold for when a penalty notice must be considered by all schools in England of 10 sessions (usually equivalent to 5 school days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10 school week period.

For example: a 5-day holiday would meet the national threshold.

The 10-school week period can span different terms or school years.

### First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for an unauthorised term time holiday the fine amount will be:

£80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

Increasing to £160 if paid between days 22-28.

### Second Offence

#### (within 3 years)

The Second time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence the amount will be:

£160 per parent (who allowed the holiday), per child, payable within 28 days.

### Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years)

The third time an offence is committed a Penalty Notice will not be issued and local authorities will need to consider other available measures to address the absence concerns. This may mean that cases are presented before a Magistrate's Court. Prosecution can result in criminal records and fines of up to £2,500.

Cases found guilty in the Magistrates' Court can show on the parent's future DBS certificate due to 'failure to safeguard a child's education'.