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Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another busy but productive week in school. Mr Birtwhistle, our new Head Teacher, visited us on Wednesday again and can't wait to get started after half term. He commented on how hard the children were working in class and their polite manner as he looked around. I told him that we have lovely children!

Our new handwriting scheme is going well and the children's books look so neat and well-presented and they are very proud of them.

Mrs Hart

We are really sorry to announce that Mrs Hart will be leaving us at Christmas – we will miss her greatly! She has worked in Early Years for many years and has taught lots of your children. She has been successful in gaining a promotion within another school. Her job has been advertised this week and we will hopefully have someone in place to start in January.

Cross Country

I mentioned this last week but because Mr Fox was not in I didn't have the detail so here they are!

18 pupils taken from across Y3 to Y6 competed at Preston Park in the Stockton Schools finals for cross country. Each race consisted of approximately 60-70 pupils. Once again, our pupils showed grit and determination in what was a long and grueling race for each individual. As a school we held our heads up high, shouting and encouraging each of our peers as they came into sight from the distance. With only the top 10 pupils to qualify for the Tees Valley Final at Stewarts Park, we have had some individual success stories. Sam in Y4 and Sebastian in Y5 both finished in the top 10 and Hannah in Y3 came 3rd and Jack finished 1st. Well done to all pupils who competed, a good job well done.

Tag Rugby

Two teams from year 6 competed (1 boys & 1 girls) in the Stockton Schools Finals at Bede College. As usual, what is now becoming a good trait with our pupils, they behaved themselves impeccably throughout the day. Competitions were tough in both the boys' and girls' competitions, with many schools evenly matched. The boys' team finished tied on points with two other schools, finally finishing second overall with a countback on tries scored throughout the day as the deciding factor. The girls' team were just as competitive, losing just 2 matches all day, finishing third overall. Well done to everyone involved!

Playground

When dropping off and waiting to collect your children, please could you keep younger children off the ramp leading to year three and four. We have already had an accident on here since the beginning of term. Thank you

Bikes and scooters

We love to see the children cycling and scooting (is that a word?) to school but we politely ask that they get off them before coming into the playground and push them. It is very busy and we would hate to see anyone get hurt. The older children are brilliant at remembering – thank you. Please don't forget to take them home on an evening as we are sometimes left with quite a few.

PLEASE NOTE THAT DOGS ARE NOT ALLOWED ON SCHOOL PREMISES.

Packed Lunches

Please note, that the children are welcome to have water with their packed lunch, provided by school, or obviously able to bring in their own drink but we are unable to provide milk to drink. Stockton Borough Council buy the food and prepare meals for the children who have a school lunch but cannot provide milk for those who don't. We hope you understand this.

School Disco

Letters have been sent regarding our school disco on Wednesday 25 of October. The cost of the ticket for years 1 and 2 includes snacks and we do need to know any allergies that your child may have.

The cost of the ticket for years 3-6 does not include snacks but we will have a tuck shop on the night.

Please send in change rather than notes in case we do not have sufficient money to give change.

Can I say a huge thank you to Rosie's dad for offering to be our DJ! We really appreciate his generosity!

Nite Light CIC

We are still collecting crisp packets for the Nite Light charity. Thank you so much to everyone for sending them in so far. We have a bag in the dinner hall for children to put crisp packets in from their packed lunches to

Holidays in term time

As previously stated, Fairfield Primary school follows the Stockton Borough Council guidance as there is no national statutory information. However, we have been made aware that the government intend to make this the same for all local authorities.

No holiday will be authorised. This means that an unauthorised mark will be given for the days they are absent. Holidays of 4 days and under will be unauthorised but no fine will be given.

Holidays of 5 days and over will be fined. This is £60 per parent, per child. We do appreciate that this is expensive but most parents do take children on holiday during term time as it is far cheaper. There may be exceptional circumstances for taking holiday out of term time so if you feel that this is the case, please contact the school office for guidance.

We do not receive any money in school from these fines as they are issued by the local authority.

Please can you ensure if you are handing a holiday form in, that it is signed by both parents, if they both have parental responsibility, if the form is not completed correctly it will be returned to you.

Attendance

If your child is unwell, please could you call the office **every day** to let us know. It is important that we know every day that they are not coming in. Thank you for this.

Links to our facebook page and the school website.

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100068208664779>

<https://www.fairfieldprimary.org.uk/>

Dates for your diary

October 11 – 13	Robinwood
w/b October 16	Parent evenings- appointments are live on our system
October 27	Last day of half term
November 6	PD day for staff – school closed to children
November 7	First day back for children
December 18	School Panto Rec – Year 6, Cinderella
December 19	Last day of term for Christmas
January 3 and 4	PD days for staff
January 5	First day back for children

I hope you all have a lovely weekend and many thanks for your continued support in school.
Best Wishes,

Mrs Dunford
Acting Head Teacher