



Acting Head Teacher: Mrs A Dunford
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Dear Parents and Carers,

Well it is the end of a very busy first half term in school. The children have, as usual, been amazing and worked very hard! They are very settled and calm throughout school and have made this term a pleasure!

Can I say a personal thank you to all of you who have been kind with your words during my stint as Acting Head. I really appreciate your support and look forward to going back to my role as deputy, with Mr Birtwhistle taking over after half term.

Thank you very much to Mrs Clayton who has been a fantastic deputy and all of the staff in school too as they have supported and helped me throughout – it really has been a team effort!

Halloween Disco

We had the best time ever at the Halloween disco on Wednesday night. In fact, one of our year five children said it was the best night of his entire life!! The children were amazing and looked fabulous in their costumes. It was difficult to recognise lots of them.



A huge thank you to Mr Reay who very generously did the disco free of charge which massively helped our school funds. Also, we couldn't have done it without Mrs Marshall being the driving force and spending hours in Aldi buying sweets!

We raised over £1100!

It is definitely something that will be a regular feature on our calendar.

Year One sports

Some of our year one children took part in a multi-sport event this week and had a great time trying out new sports. As usual, the behaviour was excellent and the children were a credit to you.

Nursery raffle

Thank you to our very generous nursery parents for raising a whopping £365.93 from their raffle. The funds will go towards nursery outdoor equipment.

Wellies and waterproofs for nursery and reception

A little plea. If you have any wellies that your children have grown out of, or waterproofs, we would love to take them off your hands for the children to wear in the outside area. Just hand them in to the school office or class teacher. Many thanks

Mr Prowse

It is with sadness, I have to tell you that Mr Prowse, our caretaker, will be leaving us at the end of the first week back after half term. He has worked at our school for 16 years and has been a familiar, friendly face on the school gates each morning. We wish him all the best in his new job. Thank you for your many years of service Kev!

Reception Books

A polite request that books that have been sent home to read with your child are returned as soon as possible please so that we can rotate them. We have just invested in lots of books to be taken home and it is such a shame that we can't send them home if we don't have enough. Many thanks for your support with this.

Holidays in term time

As previously stated, Fairfield Primary follow 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.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT DOGS ARE NOT ALLOWED ON SCHOOL PREMISES.

Useful Links

Links to the following are all now available direct through our school gateway app. If you haven't already please can you download this, you can directly access;

- Facebook
- Main School Website
- SBC School calendars (Not PD Days)
- Parents Evening
- Newsletters
- Free School Meals applications
- Marvellous Me
- Ordering School Meals

We don't just use the Gateway app for useful links, it is used for all after school childcare bookings, after school activities/clubs, any trips, consents etc, therefore it is essential you have access to it. You can get started using the link below or by downloading the app via the app store.

<https://login.schoolgateway.com/0/auth/login>

Dates for your diary

November 6	PD day for staff – school closed to children
November 7	First day back for children
November 10	Flu Vaccinations
November 28	School Photo Day
December 7	Christmas Dinner
December 12	Year 3 Treasure Hunt
December 15	Mental 'Elf' event with MIND charity (details to follow)
December 18	Cinderella Pantomime Rec – Year 6
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 restful half term and recharge for the lead-up to Christmas!
Over and out.

Best Wishes,

Mrs Dunford
Acting Head Teacher

A Thank you to Mrs Dunford & Mrs Clayton from all the staff and children at Fairfield Primary School

*The whole school would like to say thank to Mrs Dunford and Mrs Clayton. They have done a fantastic job as Acting Head and Acting Deputy Head since Mr Ruffell left us in April! They have been the best leaders we could have asked for. They have worked incredibly hard for all the children and staff, and have both gone above and beyond for us as a school. As we welcome Mr Birtwhistle after the half term break, I'm sure you'd all like to join us in saying a big
THANK YOU!!*

We would also like to thank all our staff, who have pulled together in these last few months, stepping up when needed and always putting the children first. As we head into the new term with our new Headteacher, we want to wish everyone a lovely half term break.
