

Edition 4
18.09.26

Weekly News



REMINDER- SCHOOL TELEPHONE LINE IS OPEN MONDAY-FRIDAY 8.30am-4.00pm



Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Governors,

It has been another busy week in school with lots of fantastic learning going on across all the classes. We hope your child is sharing with you all the new things they have been getting up to this week. Please can we remind you to keep your contact details up to date with our office staff.





Starting School in September 2027

Will your child turn 5 between 1 September 2027 and 31st August 2028?

If so, you need to complete an application online to Durham County Council to tell them which school you would like your child to attend from September 2027.

Visit www.durham.gov.uk/primaryschoolplaces where you can access a useful guide to help with your application. The easiest way to apply is online.

If you are unable to apply online, paper application forms are available on request from Durham County Council.

You still need to apply if your child attends our Nursery and you want a place in our Reception and if your child already has a sibling at our school.

Applications opened 1st September 2026 and close midnight 15th January 2027.

The offer of a school place will be made on Friday 16th April 2027.

For more information please contact

School Places and Admissions Team

www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions

Telephone 03000 265896

<https://www.durham.gov.uk/article/2189/Apply-now-for-a-primary-school-place-deadline-15-January-2027>

Temporary Use of All Four School Entrances

From **Monday 21st September**, we will be temporarily using **all four school entrances** at the start and end of the school day.

This arrangement has been agreed by the council due to an unforeseen delay in the completion of the fencing works on site. Using all four entrances will help us to maintain safe access to the school while minimising congestion during drop-off and collection times.

Please use the following gates:

- **Gate 1:** Nursery and Reception
- **Gate 2:** Years 1 and 2
- **Gate 3:** Years 3 and 4
- **Gate 4:** Years 5 and 6

Staff will be available to support children and families and to help direct anyone who is unsure of where to go.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation while these works are completed and will keep families informed of any further updates. Thank you for your continued support in helping us to keep everyone safe.

A Message from Mrs O'Rourke



I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all of the parents and carers who have taken the time to share such kind messages and well wishes this week after learning that this will be my final term at Sugar Hill.

I have been truly touched by your words and support. It has been a privilege to be part of such a wonderful school community and to work alongside our incredible children, families and staff over the years.

Although there is still a busy and exciting term ahead, I am looking forward to making many more special memories with our Sugar Hill family before the end of the year.

We are delighted to invite you to join us for our **Macmillan Coffee Morning**, where we can come together as a school community to support the fantastic work of **Macmillan Cancer Support**.



Whether you can stay for a hot drink and a chat, enjoy a slice of cake, or simply pop in to show your support, every donation will help Macmillan continue to provide vital care and support to people living with cancer and their families.

There will also be a **raffle with tickets priced at just £1 per strip**, with some wonderful prizes up for grabs. Thank you to all our staff who have donated raffle prizes and cakes to help us raise as much money as possible for this worthwhile cause.

This is a wonderful opportunity to meet other parents and carers, spend time with our school community and support a charity that makes a real difference to so many lives.

We look forward to welcoming you and thank you, as always, for your continued support.



The safety and wellbeing of all our children is our highest priority. We have pupils in school with **severe nut allergies**, and even small amounts of nuts or accidental contact can cause a serious allergic reaction.

We kindly ask all parents and carers to check packed lunches, snacks, treats and other food items carefully before sending them into school. This includes products that contain nuts as ingredients, as well as items that may contain traces of nuts.

This reminder is especially important in light of **Benedict's Law**, which reinforces the importance of protecting children with allergies and ensuring that schools take all reasonable steps to reduce risks and create a safe environment for every child.

We appreciate your support and cooperation in helping us keep our school community safe. If you are unsure whether a product is suitable to bring into school, please err on the side of caution and choose an alternative item.

Thank you for helping us protect children with allergies



Safe Children Brighter Futures ♥

Kindness Includes Everyone ♥

NUT AWARE SCHOOL
Keeping Every Child Safe

All Different
All Welcome
All Safe ♥

OUR SCHOOL
OUR COMMUNITY
A SAFER TOMORROW ♥

PLEASE DO NOT SEND FOOD CONTAINING NUTS INTO SCHOOL

We have children in school with **serious nut allergies**.
Even a small amount of nuts or accidental contact can cause a severe allergic reaction, which can be life-threatening.

WHAT TO DO...

- Check lunchboxes and snacks carefully
- Do not send products containing nuts
- Avoid foods that may contain traces of nuts where possible
- Remind children not to share food

WHAT NOT TO SEND...

- Nuts of any kind (e.g. peanuts, tree nuts)
- Products containing nuts (e.g. peanut butter, nut spreads)
- Cereal bars, biscuits or snacks that contain nuts
- Chocolates and confectionery with nuts

Please also be aware of products that may contain traces of nuts.

SUPPORTING BENEDICT'S LAW ♥

Benedict's Law highlights the importance of protecting children with allergies and ensuring that schools take all reasonable steps to reduce the risk of allergic reactions. It supports a safer environment for all children.

AWARENESS. PROTECTION. INCLUSION.

PROTECT VULNERABLE CHILDREN

PROMOTE INCLUSION

CREATE A SAFER ENVIRONMENT FOR EVERYONE

Together We Can Make a Difference ♥

Think Before You Pack – Go Nut Free! ♥

A simple check could save a life. ♥

OUR SCHOOL
OUR CHILDREN
OUR SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

THANK YOU
for your support ♥

ALLERGIES CAN BE LIFE-THREATENING



Donations for Outdoor Play and Learning

Thank you for all your donations this week. We are keeping our appeal open for another week.

We are looking to enhance our play and learning opportunities and would be very grateful for any donations of toys and resources that are no longer needed at home.

We would particularly welcome:

- Small world toys and play sets
- Building blocks and construction toys
- LEGO
- Dinosaur figures
- Toy people and animal figures
- Pots, pans and baking trays
- Wooden spoons and kitchen utensils
- Containers and equipment suitable for our mud kitchens

These resources help to develop children's imagination, creativity, communication and social skills through play. If you have any items in good, clean condition that you would be willing to donate, we would be extremely grateful.

Thank you for your continued support. Your generosity helps us to provide rich and engaging learning experiences for all of our children

Halloween Discos

Please note the change of date for the Halloween Discos that will now take place on Wednesday 21st October.

As we look forward to our Halloween celebrations, we would like to remind everyone that children are welcome to come to school in their Halloween costumes on Wednesday 21st October. To ensure the safety and comfort of all children, please note that:

- **Masks must not be worn in school.**
- **Costumes must not include any weapons or weapon accessories**, including toy swords, knives, guns, axes, or similar items.

Thank you for your support in helping us create a fun, safe and enjoyable day for all our children.

We can't wait to see their fantastic costumes!



Children who do not want to wear a Halloween Costume can come to school in non-uniform.

Wraparound Care and After School Clubs- Active Future



We are delighted that wraparound care is gaining more interest at Sugar Hill provided by Mark and Phillipa Connell Active Future.

A separate newsletter from Active Future will be emailed to all parents and carers next week and uploaded to our school website.

Their newsletters will inform you of what is on offer over the coming weeks and how you apply for a place for wraparound care or their after-school clubs.



After School Clubs run by Active Future started last week and your child can sign up for any of the clubs even if they do not attend wraparound care sessions. Sessions run until 4.30pm and are booked directly with Active Future.

Tuesday	Wednesday
Nerf	Futsal

If you would like **more information** please call Active Future on 07964697411 or email afdarlington@activefuture.info

Bookings for wraparound and clubs are now open and can be made at

<https://pbbl.uk/4y6TcEU>

Please note that all admin for wraparound care and the after-school clubs they are offering is managed by Active Future and not the school office.



Stockton and Darlington 201st Anniversary Celebratory Day at Heighington Station is being held on 27th September 2026 at 10am until 4pm

Venue- Heighington Station, Heighington Lane, Newton Aycliffe, County Durham DL5 6QG
(Park nearby at DL5 6AP- just follow the signs)

Booking <https://sdr1825.org.uk/events/>

Description- including five steam traction engines, have a go at blacksmithing, stalls, food, live music, tours of the world's oldest railway station interiors, story telling and games for children.



Acrylic Nails

There is no single law for the minimum age for acrylic nails but we are aware most salons and insurance rules require children to be 16 or 14 with parents' permission.

We kindly ask children do not have acrylic nails when in school. Thank you.

DIARY DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR Autumn Term (1)

(please check each week for additional dates added throughout the term)

WEEK 4	
Monday 21 st September	
Tuesday 22 nd September	
Wednesday 23 rd September	Year 1 Phonics Meeting with parents and carers 2.15pm
Thursday 24 th September	Macmillan Coffee morning for parents and carers 9am
Friday 25 th September	

WEEK 5	
Monday 28 th September	
Tuesday 29 th September	
Wednesday 30 th September	
Thursday 1 st October	National Poetry Day
Friday 2 nd October	Whole School Colour Run Parents and carers invited (a separate letter will follow) Nursery and Reception at 1.15pm Years 1 and 2 at 1.45pm Years 3 and 4 at 2.15pm Years 5 and 6 at 2.45pm

WEEK 6	
Monday 5 th October	
Tuesday 6 th October	Reception Classes to Hall Hill Farm
Wednesday 7 th October	Reading Event with a Phonics Focus for Reception Parents and Carers 2.15pm
Thursday 8 th October	
Friday 9 th October	

WEEK 7	
Monday 12 th October	
Tuesday 13 th October	Parent and Carer Meetings with classroom staff 3.30pm-5.20pm (separate letter will follow)
Wednesday 14 th October	Nursery Parents and Carers invited to Stay and Play Event with a reading focus at 11am and 2.15pm (separate letter will follow)
Thursday 15 th October	Parent and Carer Meetings with classroom staff 3.30pm-5.20pm (separate letter will follow)
Friday 16 th October	

WEEK 8	
Monday 19 th October	
Tuesday 20 th October	
Wednesday 21 st October	Halloween Discos held for all year groups throughout the school day
Thursday 22 nd October	
Friday 23 rd October	School closed to all children Staff Training Day

We hope you all have a lovely weekend spending time with family and friends.

Kind regards,

Mrs O'Rourke and Mrs Legge