



Newsletter

Issue 07

23rd October 2020



Guided by God, to be the best that we can be.

We were so sorry that we couldn't invite you in to join in with our celebrations but we didn't want you to miss out! So we have videoed every class performing and you can watch our Harvest Festival by accessing it through the front page of our website. We hope you enjoy it! Thank you for your generous donations; the Kings Church were very grateful to stock up their foodbank.



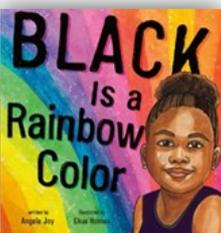
The children (and staff!) have worked very hard and are ready for a rest. We hope you have a lovely half term and look forward to welcoming the children back on **Monday 2nd November**.



Our priority this term has been to ensure the children are safe, happy and settled in class and reminding them of good learning behaviours such as listening, following instructions, trying their best, persevering and being independent which are essential to the children being able to make good progress across the curriculum. We are very proud of how they have adapted to the new routines. Staff have been able to assess the children and know exactly what the children need to do next. A huge thank you to parents who managed to keep the home learning going during lockdown despite all the pressures; it has made a tremendous difference to the children.

Next half term, although we can't welcome parents into school for our normal Open Evening, we will be sending out a short, written report for each child with their current attainment, as well as letting you know how well they are getting along socially. If there is something you wish to talk to your child's class teacher about, you will be able to arrange a time for the teacher to talk to you either outside or a quick chat on the phone.

Thank you very much to the parents who have responded to the request to join Class Dojo. Class Dojo is a secure messaging system that allows parents and teachers to communicate, which is essential should a class need to lockdown or a child needs to self-isolate. If you are already signed up to Parent Pay, your child's teacher will have sent an email inviting you to join. Please check your junk/other folder and respond as soon as possible.



BLACK LIVES MATTER

To mark Black History Month, each class has studied a significant person who has helped to make a change to the world. In Reception, they read the book, 'Black is a Rainbow Colour'. Throughout school, we have studied Y1- Rosa Parks, Y2- Mary Seacole, Y3- Harriet Tubman, Y4- Ruby Bridges, Y5- Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Winston-Jackson, Katherine Johnson, Christine Darden, and Y6- Jesse Owens. The stories about how what they did and the changes that came about because of their actions are fascinating. Ask your child to tell you about what they have learnt.

The staff have worked incredibly hard this term; every member of staff has taken on additional roles throughout the school day such as cleaning, monitoring hand washing and break/lunch duties and therefore time is more stretched than ever. Thank you to parents who have sent in kind messages of support; Mrs Applewhite (parent) found and sent in this lovely poem which sums the situation up perfectly and made us all smile.

Esther Nzenza 2020

T'was the week before half term and all through the land
The teachers were tired of washing their hands
Of cleaning the desks, and the drawers and the pens
Of reminding their class not to cuddle their friends
Of handgel and soap, of bleach and of wipes
Of passwords and google and all things that swipe
Of trying to stand at the length of a lion
From friends whose shoulders they wanted to cry on

T'was the week before half term and all through the land
The parents were trying to make up great plans
That don't involve meeting, or greeting, or places
That in these strange times don't resemble safe spaces
They look to the teachers, and all they have done
To make school inviting, inspiring and fun
To see past the problems, the issues and rules
To bring back the joy and excitement of school

Thank you being the safe place, the learning
For standing there strong with the children returning
For finding solutions that don't feel so strange
With no funds or magicians to help you arrange
For stories and spellings and phonics and play
For taking the fear of this moment away

Health & Safety



You may have noticed that our school car park gates are closed in the morning and at home time wherever possible. This is to ensure that our children are kept safe as a few parents have brought their car onto the premises to collect children and a couple of older children have cut through the carpark to meet parents. The car park is a very dangerous area and children are not allowed to be in it. We have sought the advice of our H & S consultant who highlighted that:

- Anyone entering or leaving the car park around the time children will be arriving or departing will increase the risk of an accident.
- Cars leaving the car park have to cross over a path where children and their parents will be walking, in an already congested area.
- Car park gates should be shut during these times.
- There are alternative areas where parking is already available in the neighbourhood and parents/carers should be using this to avoid traffic movement directly in and around the school at busy times.

It is essential that parents obey the rule to keep everyone safe and that they advise any other family members who support with the dropping off or collection of children. Any parents with severe mobility issues would need to contact the school for permission to use the car park although they would need to be in the car park 10 minutes before the first class leaves the school and the gate will not be opened until every family has left the premises.

unfortunately Some parents have been inquiring about Christmas cards. Unfortunately, since the virus is high and increasing at present, we need to continue to minimize risk by reducing paper/items coming into school wherever possible. Therefore we will not be allowing children to bring gifts or cards into school; we thank you for your understanding that keeping everyone as safe as possible is our number one priority.

SECONDARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS
The closing date for secondary applications for September 2021 is 31st October 2020. You can apply online at <https://www.darlington.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-years/admissions/apply-online/> or if unable to complete online, contact Admissions on 01325 406333.

SUPER LEARNER

Week ending: 23rd October 2020

Rec	Natalia Davies—for fantastic listening during phonics and maths.
	Finn Morrice—for making great progress with reading.
Year 1	Grace Park—for super home reading, fast word reading and Rising Stars reading.
	Lenny Dye—for super part-part-whole work in maths.
Year 2	Annie Wilson—for a super effort with her weekly spellings.
	Luthando Bowles—for a fantastic effort with his home reading this half term.
Year 3	Heidi Evans—for always participating and trying her best.
	Hannah Redhead—for trying hard with presentation and super effort across the curriculum.
Year 4	Myles Brown—for enthusiastic participation in all lessons and a super attitude to learning.
	Noah Linsley—for fantastic determination to complete work to the best of his ability.
Year 5	Alfie Cook—for immaculate presentation across all subjects.
	Delilah Spence—for superbly teaching the whole class Maths (move over Miss Humphrey).
Year 6	Jason Kelly—For making great progress in reading by coming to Reading Club every day.
	Kacey-Leigh McDonough—for always having a positive attitude and a smile on her face.

Learning Skills have sent their latest Family Learning courses.

- Supporting Your Child's Learning
- Time for Books
- Developing Personal Confidence
- New Career, New You

More information can be found on www.darlington.gov.uk/learningandskills or call 07932 869325

ATTENDANCE
Our overall attendance is **96.53%**. Leave of Absence will only be granted in **exceptional** circumstances and definitely not to travel abroad as children can miss even more education if they need to self-isolate when they return. Please consider the effect on your child's education before requesting Leave of Absence - thank you.

EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
	Week 7	97%	98%	96%	99%	98%	93%

DATES FOR DIARIES	
Monday 2.11.20	Return to school
Wednesday 4.11.20	Flu Vaccinations
Friday 18.12.20	Break up for Christmas Celebrations
Tuesday 5.1.21	Return to school
Friday 12.2.21	Half term holiday
Monday 22.2.21	Return to school