



Corporation Road
Darlington, County Durham DL3 6AR
Subscribe: <http://corporationrdcps.schoolzineplus.co.uk/subscribe>

admin@corporationroad.darlington.sch.uk
Phone: 01325 244940
Fax: 01325 376702



19 September 2017

Headteacher's report

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have all had a wonderful summer with your children. The children have settled very well into the new term and are already working very hard in school. The results at the end of Early Years, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage are again very good this year and they can be found on our website. **The progress measure from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 2 shows that the school is among the top 5% in the country.** We had a monitoring visit from Lingfield Academy on Thursday 7th September and school is deemed to be doing very well.

After School Clubs

Homework Club and any after school clubs including Film Club began on Monday 11th September. If you want your child to attend Homework Club, you will need to ask the person on duty to add their name to the list each morning. Children will be set homework around improving reading, spelling, phonics and maths key skills. Children will also be given a number of projects to complete over the term and these will be sent out within the next few weeks. It is extremely important that you support your child at home especially with their reading. If you wish to discuss this, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Meet the Teacher Evenings

Class teachers will be available for an informal chat on the following days:

- **Tuesday 19th September** - Reception, Year 3 and Year 4
- **Wednesday 20th September** - Year 5 and Year 6
- **Thursday 21st September** - Year 1 and **Thursday 5th October** - Year 2

This will be an opportunity for an informal chat with your child's teacher. The teacher will also give you information on how to support our child at school and at home with their learning. You

will also be able to ask your child's class teacher any questions or voice any concerns.

Consent forms allowing your child to access the Internet and have their photograph taken will also be available for you to complete in school. We will also have forms available if you are eligible for free school meals.

The evening will also be used to introduce parents and carers to our new mobile phone APP for informing you about the amazing things your child is doing in school on a daily basis. **"MARVELLOUSME"**.

At this meeting any parents who do not have a login code will be given it to enable them to access **"MARVELLOUSME"**. This is a unique number and will not be shared with anyone else. However, you are able to share it with grandparents, relatives and friends, so they too can hear about the wonderful things your child is doing in school.

Alfie

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Alfie, our school dog

Your child may have told you about 'Alfie'. Over the summer holidays I became the proud owner of a puppy. Alfie is a cockapoo and as such does not shed his fur so is very good if children have any allergies. The plan is that he will become the school therapy dog, spending time with the children across school and listening to them read. The children have met Alfie in an assembly and have been made aware of the rules about being around him. There is a risk assessment in place and all staff are aware of this. Children are not allowed to feed him and can only touch him if they have asked my permission, when a child has touched him, they are asked to go and wash their hands. Alfie will undergo training with me to ensure he behaves appropriately around children. I have asked for volunteers to walk Alfie and when they are chosen, I will send a letter informing parents, asking for their permission to allow this. If you have any questions about this or would like to see the risk assessment, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Key Dates for Your Diary

- **Tuesday 19th September** Early Years Parents Meeting after school
- **Tuesday 19th September** Year 3 and 4 Parents Meeting after school
- **Wednesday 20th September** Year 5 and Year 6 Parents Meeting after school
- **Thursday 21st September** Year 1 Parents Meeting after school
- **Thursday 5th October** Year 2 Parents Meeting after school

Consent forms and letters will be given out at these meetings

- **Thursday 12th October** at 10:00 am is the whole school Harvest Festival in the church.
- **Thursday 21st December** at 10:00 am. Christmas Nativity.

Safeguarding update

School has very recently asked for a safeguarding review from the Local Authority, although school is still awaiting the report, the initial feedback has been very positive. New policies have been written and previous policies updated and they will be published on the school website.

Parental Support

We have been very encouraged by the number of parents who join Pam Sayer and Trevor Needham and if you would like to join them, they meet in school every Monday morning. We also have weekly meetings on a Wednesday morning, for any parent who needs support with English and again this is very successful. The children in school always need someone to support them with their reading and any parents and carers who have some time spare would be very welcome in school to support the children. We are trying to ensure the outside of school looks fresh and cared for and have tried very hard to plant up hanging baskets and planters. Again, if you have any time to help with our 'gardening' we would be very happy for you to help us with this.

Building update

Over the summer holidays the building has undergone a number of changes. In our Early Years, we now have a separate and much bigger Nursery class and the Reception classes also have a new room. The Mezzanine fiction library and the downstairs reference library have now been completed. The next task is to provide these libraries with shelving and seating. We have begun to lift the carpet tiles across school and repair and restore the wooden parquet flooring in school. This work has begun in our Key Stage Two end of school.

Staffing

Four new teachers started in September: Sophie Richardson - Year 4, Elizabeth Guy - Year 4, Eleanor Daniel - Year 1 and Dean Cornell - Year 3. Matt Smith has been acting as temporary caretaker over the summer and has done a very

good job. Steven Willis (the school patrol man) has been acting as a temporary cleaner and again has done a very good job.

School Website

The school has website which is updated on a regular basis and this can be found at the link below. There is new feature on the school website that allows anyone to change the language on the site. The tag that enables you to do this is located on the top of the home page on the left hand side.

<http://corporationroadschool.co.uk/>

Twitter and Facebook

The school has both Twitter and Facebook accounts. Just search Corporation Road to find us and click 'like' and 'follow' to find out what is happening in school.

Marvellous Me

This has been very popular and parents, carers and pupils have all shown a very positive response to this. Currently 89% of our children have at least one parent or carer engaged with MarvellousMe.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and to let you know that your children are in very safe hands.

Ann Pringleton, Headteacher

Calendar

19 Sep	Reception, Year 3 and Year 4 - Meet the teacher 3:30 PM - 4:15 PM
20 Sep	Year 5 and Year 6 - Meet the teacher 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM
21 Sep	Year 1 Meet the Teacher 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM
22 Sep	Film Club 3:15 PM - 5:15 PM Recurring event
29 Sep	Film Club 3:15 PM - 5:15 PM Recurring event
5 Oct	Year 2 - Meet the teacher 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM
6 Oct	Film Club 3:15 PM - 5:15 PM Recurring event
12 Oct	Whole school harvest festival

	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
13 Oct	Film Club 3:15 PM - 5:15 PM Recurring event



Year group news

Early Years

We have been focusing on settling in and supporting the children in building positive relationships with the adults and each other. We have had a lovely start to the term and already we have made new friends.

These are the topics we are covering:

1. All About Me - the books we are looking at are: I'm too small for school, Where is my peg? and The Kissing Hand.
Why are there leaves on the ground? The books about Autumn are The very helpful hedgehog, Autumn leaves, We are going on a leaf hunt and Pumpkin Soup. We will visit North Lodge Park

2. Emergency Emergency - talking about people who help us and looking at books about the emergency services. Visit from police and fire brigade.

3. Let's have a party - Divali, Halloween, Harvest and Christmas.

Winter / ice and moving objects

4. Spring - Goodies and Baddies - Traditional tales - the three billy goats gruff, the enormous turnip and Jack and the beanstalk.

Investigations with growing

5. Summer - Down at the bottom of the garden. Books - Bugs, mini beasts Arrgh spider!
Investigate under the stones, little beasts
6. Commotion in the ocean - Where does the sand come from? Books - Commotion in the ocean, Sally and the Limpet and postcards from the seaside. Visit the seaside.

Investigate Materials / Summer



Year 1

Our topic for this half term is **Memory Box!** This is what we will be focusing on each subject this half term

Science: Talk about ourselves, compare what we can do now to when we were younger and use our senses to investigate.

Design and Technology: Children will draw and label healthy foods for a Teddy Bears' picnic and create a Memory Box.

English: Read and sequence events from Goldilocks and the Three Bears.

Art: Paint family celebrations to show special memories.

History: Look at and describe old and new toys, playground games and types of transport.

Maths: Count forwards and backwards, adding and taking away through problem solving, sequencing events during the day and completing patterns of number, shapes and colours.

Music: Factual songs and rhymes.

A quick reminder that P.E is Every Tuesday, so please ensure your child has their full P.E. kit in school, hair is tied up and earrings are taken out. Spellings will be sent out on Wednesdays and tested every Tuesday. It is also important to read at home.

Year 2

During our Towers, Tunnels and Turrets topic this term we will be learning about castles. We are going to visit Brancepeth Castle to look at the structure and rooms of a castle, comparing the castle to our own homes.

In English, we will explore texts which link to our topic, using our topic knowledge to develop the detail in our writing.

In Maths, we have started the year looking at place value. We are working hard to learn our number bonds and addition facts. In Year 2 we will also start learning our times tables.

For Science this half term, we will investigate 'Can you make a paper bridge?' We will need to learn about the different types of bridges. An important part of the investigation will be learning how to make paper stronger.

For homework, please remember to read regularly and learn your spellings and number facts.

Year 3

The children have made a fantastic start to their first term in Key Stage Two – already producing some interesting writing in English and impressing with their reasoning skills in maths. We will be using Charlie and the Chocolate Factory as the stimulus for our writing and we have started reading it as our class book.

Our topic is called 'Scrumdiddlyumptious' and so a lot of our work will be based around food. Topics we will be covering this half-term include Sikhism in RE, how to bake bread in DT, tracking the journey of a banana in Geography and investigating the 'five-second rule' in Science. We are also hoping to have a tour of Morrisons to find out more about products from around the world.

Please continue to read with your child, as well as help them learn their times tables. By the end of Year 3 children need to know their 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 10 times tables off by heart and the related division facts. Any help you give them at home will benefit them greatly.

Year 4

This time of year is an exciting time for the children in Year 4. This year will be about consolidating and extending their knowledge from Year 3. At the start of the term, we discussed class rules, our rights and new beginnings. We are confident that this will lead to a year full of fun and hard work! This term, we will be starting 'Awe and Wonder Monday', which will see a wide range of curriculum coverage including RE, History, Geography, Science and Art. Our topic is 'I am Warrior' where we will look at Roman history.

On **Thursday afternoons**, we will be attending swimming lessons at the Dolphin Centre. This is a fantastic opportunity and a vital life skill for the children to learn so please make sure the children have their swimming kits with them.

For homework, the children will be expected to read, learn spellings and practice times tables up to 12 x 12. Please read every night with your child and sign their reading record. Reading records and books must be returned to school daily to ensure we keep up to date with progress and finished books can be exchanged.

Year 5

Year 5 have had a positive start to the year! The children have settled in nicely to their new learning environment and we have already begun working hard on our new curriculum. Our topic for the half term is 'Pharaohs' and we will be focusing on learning about Ancient Egypt. In English, we have been researching death and the afterlife in this ancient civilisation and writing non-chronological reports about it. In Maths, we have been focusing our learning on number and place value in numbers up to a million. We have recently studied Islam for our 'awe and wonder day' in R.E. This involved learning about Islamic artefacts and a visit to the local mosque. The experience was fantastic because it was great to see so many of our children engaged with learning about this religion. It was also nice to continue to develop links with the local community around school.

For homework, the children will be expected to read, learn spellings and practice times tables if necessary. Please read every night with your child and sign their reading record. Reading records and books must be returned to school daily to ensure we keep up to date with progress and finished books can be exchanged.



Year 5 and 6 visit to the local Mosque

Year 6

Year 6 is an important year for the children at Corporation Road. It is their final year of primary school and with that comes a future of endless possibilities. At the start of the term, the children discussed careers that they see themselves doing and the steps they will need to take to achieve them. Rules and responsibilities were big on the agenda, therefore the Year 6 children came up with their own – an agreement between teacher and pupils. This can only lead to a fun year, filled with respect and hard work.

This term, we will be starting 'Awe and Wonder Monday', which will see a wide range of curriculum coverage including RE, History, Geography, Science and Art. Our topic is 'Revolution'.

For homework, the children will be expected to learn spellings and times tables, if necessary. Alongside this, reading will be a huge focus in Year 6. Please read every night with your child. Question them about the characters, discuss new language and most importantly, develop a love of books.

We look forward to an AMAZING year.

PE

We have another busy year ahead in PE and it has started with our House Rounders competition. The winning house was Christopher Columbus, well done to all!

We will be holding a sponsored penalty shootout in school. The children will take at least 3 penalties against Mr Q, the Darlington FC mascot. Sponsor forms and details will be given out by class teachers.

Upcoming events this term include: Tri Golf, Cross Country and Sportshall Athletics.

PE Kits

A reminder- please could parents name all items of clothes including PE kits.

When the children do PE many jumpers and tops go missing; it is hard to locate items to their correct owner when they are not named.

Thank you for your continued support.

Stay in touch

There are several different ways to keep in touch with what is happening in school.

Please visit our website for key information, resources and links to help you work with your child:

<http://corporationroadschool.co.uk/>

Marvellous Me is an app that you can download for free or access from the website below - hear news about your child's learning and get reminders about upcoming events. This has been very popular and parents, carers and pupils have all shown a very positive response to this. Currently 89% of our children have at least one parent or carer engaged with Marvellous Me.

<https://marvellousme.com/>

We are also on Facebook (Corporation Road Primary School) and on Twitter: @CorporationRoad

Clubs

Monday - Thursday – Homework Club, 3:15-4:15pm (Y1, Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6)

Every Tuesday – Science Club (KS2) will be starting up soon – details to follow

Every Wednesday – Craft Club (Y1 and Y2) will be starting up soon – details to follow

Every Thursday – Football Club, 3:15-4:30pm (Y4, Y5 and Y6)

Every Thursday – Energy Club (Y1 and Y2) will be starting up soon – details to follow

Every Friday – Film Club, 3:15-5:15pm (Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6)