

5th October 2017

Dear Parent

I am writing to you after an excellent September here at Hurworth School for a few updates regarding Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare during the Autumn Term. Firstly, thank you for supporting your children in terms of uniform and equipment where standards have been exceptionally high so far. We continue to work proactively on attendance and punctuality, as well as in terms of standards of conduct on transport and travelling to and from school (including those children who travel on ARRIVA transport.)

Your assistance is once again greatly appreciated.

Darlington Borough Council Healthy Lifestyle Survey 2017

Once again we are taking part in a local programme along with 6 other secondary schools in Darlington to complete a Healthy Lifestyle Survey with all students.

The survey gives us the opportunity to collect information on how our young people are leading healthy lifestyles, it will also ask the young people about how they perceive others of their own age, locally to be behaving in relation to health. For example, the survey will ask, do you eat fruit every day? How many young people your age in Darlington do you think smoke?

The information gathered from the survey will enable us to provide a curriculum that meets the needs of the students within our school, giving them information on smoking, energy drinks, relationships, alcohol, drugs, physical activity, eating habits, bullying, emotional wellbeing and internet safety. Our staff will receive relevant training, resources and support that will enable us to further support our students to develop their knowledge, skills and explore their attitudes about relevant health issues, allowing them to make informed choices, stay safe and ask for help if they need it.

There is extensive evidence for this type of work and locally and we are now seeing a change in attitudes and behaviour from young people in Darlington on health issues, with evidence telling us that local young people are making better choices about health related issues.

We hope to share key findings from the survey with you and would always encourage you to talk about these issues with your children at home. If you are interested in finding out more about this work, have any questions or would like to access information and support on these issues please contact the school and speak to myself at the School.

This builds on with our annual **Personal; Safety Week** which runs each November to coincide with National Anti-bullying week and also informs our planning moving forward.

Charity and Community Work

Due to the magnificent work of the Art and D&T Departments in association with our Finance Office, our Giving Tree is fully refurbished and on display in the Main Reception. The money raised is given to organisations that are committed to making things better for people both here in the UK and around the World; these charity drives have taken many forms, showing ingenuity and terrific original thought.

We should be exceptionally proud as a school body that all of our pupils efforts, both whole school and department led, have been a shining beacon of the generosity of heart and spirit which underpins the ethos of community and care we have among the Hurworth School populous.

We will be supporting **BBC Children in Need** this November and will also be looking to support local charities such as the **Kings Foodbank** this Christmas. With this in mind and having recently had our **Jeans for Genes** day, the final day of this half term **Friday 20th October 2017 will be a full school uniform day.**

The three schools of Hurworth village are once again supporting Hurworth Parish Church with the Link Hope Christmas Shoe Box appeal.

The deadline is Wednesday November 1st 2017

I am asking if we could collect one shoe box minimum per form class.

Here is a link to the website you can use your child has also been given information in form tutor time.

<http://linktohope.co.uk/shoebox-appeal-2017/filling-a-shoebox>



Winter Uniform

May I also inform you that from **Tuesday 31st October your child will return in Winter Uniform.** Here is a summary below:

- Plain black trousers (or skirt - plain or pleated knee length) - no leather, corduroy and denim. No leggings, ski pants, skin-tight trousers, shorts or 3/4 trousers. Skirts should be knee length when the child is sitting down - no mini-skirts or tight fitting skirts. If tights are worn they must be plain and not patterned. Many teenage and young person fashion shops sell trousers which contravene these rules in their 'school' section; these are unacceptable.
- V-necked sweater with school logo, white school shirt and 'house' tie.
- Black shoes with heels no higher than 6cm. Shoes should give adequate cover of the foot for health and safety reasons. Trainers and plimsole shoes are not acceptable and neither are leisure boots such as Rockport and Ugg boots. Shoes or boots with multi-coloured soles (soles of shoes must be plain black and not have a coloured or white line through them) or uppers are unacceptable. Shoes/boots must be plain black and not have stripes or logos of any kind visible.
- Jewellery - only one stud per ear to be worn in the ear lobe and no other part of the ear, and one watch. Rings of any type are not allowed. No other body piercing is permitted.
- No jewellery is to be worn during PE lessons, this includes recently pierced ears (it is not acceptable to cover them with plasters).
- Nails whether natural or fake must be clear and of reasonable length. No coloured nails are permitted. If a teacher feels that the nails are not of reasonable length or may be a hazard in a practical lesson they will be sent to the main office.
- Coats should be an appropriate outdoor coat - no sweatshirts, hooded tops, cardigans, tracksuit tops or coats made of denim.
- Hair must be worn no shorter than a No 2 hair cut anywhere on the head and extreme hair dyes / multi coloured hair is not acceptable for any student. Hair styles / eyebrows must not have any lines, patterns or symbols showing.
- A school bag large enough to carry an A4 file must be carried every day.
- Students must attend school with the necessary school equipment on each and every school day – pen, pencil, rubber, calculator, practical equipment where necessary e.g. PE kit, ingredients etc.



Picking Up And Dropping Of Your Child At The Start And End Of The School Day

Can I please remind parents that they should not be dropping or picking their children up from the school grounds as school car parking is extremely limited. On a daily basis we struggle to cope with the demands of staff and school visitors parking and this issue is particularly difficult at the start and end of the school day. Please note that all "school organised" taxis will collect students from the school yard and that access to the front of the school building by car is not permitted unless parents have appointments or are collecting students via prior arrangement with the school. I am aware that parking near to the school is extremely limited, but I would urge you wherever possible to also refrain from parking on the main road outside the school and use the side streets in the neighbouring estates wherever possible. Many thanks in anticipation of your continued support in this matter.

Many thanks for your help in a great start to the year.

Yours faithfully



Nicholas Lindsay
Deputy Head Teacher

