



Upper Durham Dales Federation

Rookhope, St John's Chapel and Wearhead Primary Schools

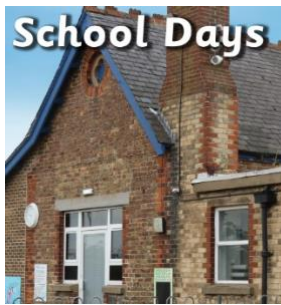


Executive Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Hodgkinson s.hodgkinson@uddf.co.uk
Federation Deputy Headteacher & SENDCo: Mr Richard Sains r.sains@uddf.co.uk

Newsletter 1- 9th September, 2022

I hope you all had a good summer break. It's been great to welcome several new pupils to our schools and Mrs Roberts- Lilley to our staff this term and to see the children settling quickly into routines this week and producing some good work. We had an exciting first day back, with Rookhope watching the Tour of Britain at Eastgate and the other two schools watching the tour in St John's Chapel. I thought it would be useful at the start of term to provide a quick update of what's happening across the federation.

Our learning this term



Our EYFS/KS1 theme this term is 'School Days'. In the School Days project, your child will have the opportunity to take part in a traditional Victorian class and will learn about the differences between schooling in the Victorian era and schooling today. They will learn about objects found in a Victorian classroom and how they were used. The Y2 pupils will research Samuel Wilderspin, an important figure in the development of schooling for young children in the Victorian era, whose ideals are reflected in schooling today. They will learn to describe the passage of time through study of past, present and future tense vocabulary. We hope to visit Beamish museum school later this term to enhance this project.

Our KS2 theme this term is 'Dynamic Dynasties'

In Dynamic Dynasties, your child will learn about periods of ancient Chinese history. They will explore a timeline of the first five Chinese dynasties and learn about the legends surrounding the beginning of Chinese civilisation. They will take a deep dive into the history of the Bronze Age Shang Dynasty and explore evidence found in the ancient city of Yin. They will study oracle bones, learn about religious beliefs and explore bronze artefacts that set the Shang Dynasty apart from other civilisations. They will also study the hierarchy of the Shang Dynasty and discover who was powerful and who was powerless. They will look at warfare and find out how bronze technology gave the Shang Dynasty an advantage over their enemies. They will learn about the life of the great military leader, Fu Hao. The children will then look at significant aspects of life after the Shang Dynasty, including the work of Confucius in the Zhou Dynasty, the short but significant reign of Emperor Qin Shi Huang of the Qin Dynasty and the importance of the Silk Road created by the Han Dynasty. To end the project, your child will find out how ancient China's lasting legacy can be seen in the world today.



Lunch money

As we currently have only one administrator working across the federation, we have had to make a few changes to our administrative procedures. Lunch money is now £2-25 per day for KS2 pupils and £2-70 for preschool pupils. Please send monies in an envelope that is clearly labelled with your child's name and what the money is for. Cheques should be made payable to **Durham County Council**. If you wish to pay for the half-term, the cost is **£76-50 for KS2 pupils**.

Breakfast club

Breakfast club is available each day from 8am at SJC and Rookhope. The cost is £2-25 per day. Please book with Mrs Wroe by the previous Friday if possible. Wearhead pupils are welcome to attend SJC breakfast club on Thursdays and Fridays and sessions can be booked by emailing us p2324.admin@durhamlearning.net or letting Mrs Wroe know.



Concessionary discounts are available for pupils in receipt of pupil premium. Please contact Mrs Wroe for further information.

Telephone Calls and admin days in school

On days when Mrs Wroe or Mrs Hodgkinson are not on site, your school's phone line should be diverted to one of the other schools but occasionally we forget to transfer the lines. If this happens, please contact one of the other schools to speak to us, as teaching staff are not always able to take your calls during the teaching day.

Telephone numbers are:

Rookhope – 01388 517268

SJC- 01388 537332

Wearhead- 01388 537265

Mrs Wroe's administrator days in school are:

Monday – Rookhope

Tuesday- SJC

Wednesday- Wearhead

Thursday & Friday – SJC

Mrs Hodgkinson's days in school are:

Monday- varies according to meetings, federation needs etc

Tuesday- Wearhead

Wednesday- Rookhope

Thursday & Friday- SJC

School uniform – new and preloved

We have small stocks of school uniform left in school but will no longer be ordering school uniform through school. To purchase further uniform items, please order online

www.schooltrends.co.uk

If you have any preloved items of school uniform in good condition that are no longer required, please bring them into school for the benefit of other families. These items will be offered for sale for a small contribution to school funds.

Clothing bank



As part of our commitment to sustainability and caring for our environment, we now have a clothing bank on the school site at SJC. Please consider donating items to the clothing bank. We receive a small contribution to school funds for each collection, which helps us to fund activities like Christmas parties.

Weduc



The quickest and most efficient way for us to update you about events in school is to post notices on our Weduc app. This can be installed on any mobile phone. A login has been created for every family. If you are unsure of your login details, please contact the school office.

Violin lessons

We have a new violin teacher this term, Ms Kathryn Coulls. Lessons for violin players from all three schools will now take place on Thursday afternoons at SJC, so pupils from Wearhead and Rookhope will need to bring their violins on the bus.



School shoes



Just a quick reminder, that children no longer need indoor shoes. Please send your child to school in a pair of black school shoes or dark coloured trainers, with a pair of boots or wellies they can change into on wet or muddy days. If the weather conditions are good and the ground is dry, children will not be changing footwear at playtimes and lunchtime.

PE and swimming days

Monday - PE and Forest Schools

Friday- Y5/6 pupils swimming, all other pupils will have a PE lesson



If your child has their ears pierced and is unable to remove their own studs, please take them out on PE and swimming days before they attend school.

Opportunities to join our governing body

We currently having vacancies on our federation governing body. It is a rewarding role, working towards a shared goal of providing a high-quality education for children in our schools. Our governors meet regularly to look at the big picture and the federation's long-term goals. If you are interested in becoming a school governor, please contact me for further details s.hodgkinson@uddf.co.uk

Dates for the diary

22/09/2022	Visual Arts Launch day Y5/6 @ Killhope
13/10/2022	Dance launch day Y3/4 @ Killhope
Wb 03/10/22	Parents' consultation meetings
27/09/22	Macmillan fundraiser- Coffee morning challenge – details to follow
14/10/22	Harvest event Collection for Weardale foodbank
21/10/2022 - 31/10/2022	Half term
18-11-2022	Children in need
14 th -18 th November	Anti- bullying week- ' <i>Reach out</i> '
05/12/2022	School photos
06/12/2022	Pantomime @ the Gala theatre, Durham
07/12/2022	Flu immunisations
08/12/22	Christingle
W/B 05/12/22	SEND review meetings
15/12/22 TBC	Christmas performance @ SJC Town Hall
13/12/22	Christmas lunch
19/12/22	Christmas party
20/12/22	Schools close for Christmas break

****Dates to be arranged for visits to Beamish (EYFS/KS1) and museum visit for KS2****