

Gibside Info & Newsletter!



Dear Parents & Carer,

All is well for our Whole School Trip to Gibside but as I'm sure you understand there are a number of additional arrangements we have to put in place.

Half of our staff will be at Gibside from 9.15am ready to accept children.

Half of the staff will be initially at school helping to manage the mass transportation of children!

If you are taking your own child to Gibside or taking your child plus another child (which has already been arranged between you and the other child's parents)... please arrive at Gibside between 9.15 and 9.30am.

If you are either dropping your child at school to be taken by another parent / member of staff or you are taking your own child and have offered to take others, please meet at school between 8.45am and 9am.

I will be on the school yard and have matched children without transport to volunteer drivers!

It will go like clock work!

ARRIVING AT GIBSIDE

All children arriving at Gibside should be passed over to their class teacher in the new car park on the left as you go in. School staff will then walk the children up to our starting point, Green Close Field.

The day is jam-packed with activities led by a mixture of school staff and National Trust experts. Sessions will include Shelter Build, Art in Nature, Mini Beast Investigation, Orienteering, Low Ropes and time at Strawberry Castle. We will be running sessions on a rota with children doing four of the six main activities (to an age appropriate level). So any fears from families of children who visit Gibside regularly can be boxed up and binned as the day will offer enriching activities not available to the paying public.

The weather looks set to stay great so please remember to send children pre-soaked with sun cream; a cap would be a good idea too.

We will be meeting together to eat our packed lunches. An extra juice may be a good idea to avoid dehydration.

Teachers will take all pupil medicines currently held in school, if your child has inhalers etc. at home please make sure they are packed too.

Children will need **NO MONEY** as sadly we have been unable to build in 'shop time'. If you are collecting your own child, clearly it is up to you if you visit the shop before leaving.

LEAVING GIBSIDE

The children will be rounding the day off with some free time at the Strawberry Castle Adventure Play Area. They will be there by 2.15pm. Parents collecting children from Gibside are encouraged to park in the main car park and walk up to join us at the Castle for 2.30pm. There is no mad rush to return to school so by all means relax and let the children have a play - I think it will be a lovely atmosphere with so many parents and pupils from our school in one place.

Wherever possible we will be putting the same children in the same cars to go back to school. If you are seeing to your own children please leave any time after 2.30pm - there is no need to return to school.

If you are ferrying a child back to school please do so at 2.45pm so they are handed back to school staff on the main school yard by 3pm. We will then keep them until parents collect at normal time.

If your child is staying for Dance - normal dance times apply.

If your child will have been on the Y3/4 Residential, please collect them from Gibside as explained above. If you are unable to collect from Gibside, do not worry, just let Mr Firth or the school office know and they will be brought back by the staff team.

Other Newsletter Items

A huge THANK YOU and WELL DONE!

Class FN, children, grown-ups and dogs have done it! The Waggy Tails Sponsored Dog Walk was a great success and we even had the sun the whole way. Class FN are amazed at the amount they have managed to raise for the school pantomime. It totalled a wagtastic £178.10!

Mrs Wang would like to say how proud she is of everyone who took part and fundraised. Thank you!

Strawberry teas reminder

Please remember to start sending in your unwanted items which could be resold at Strawberry Teas.

We have fewer volunteers to run stalls than normal so if you are able to help please let us know ASAP.

As normal entry to Strawberry Teas will cost £1.50 for which you will get toptastic entertainment from the children PLUS a **Strawberry Teas voucher** which entitles you to a scone with fresh strawberries and cream, and a cup of either tea or coffee. Tickets can be bought in advance from the school office or at the school gate on the day.

National changes to attendance regulations

As you may have picked up from recent news coverage, the Government have taken through parliament some quite key changes in how term time holiday requests are to be managed from September 1st 2013.

The regulations now state that a school may **no longer authorise** any absence from school for term time holiday. As a result **any holiday** taken in term time from 01.09.13 will be **recorded as unauthorised**.

Our Governors have discussed the changes to national regulations and have amended our Attendance Policy accordingly. The amended policy is available from the school website and paper copies can be requested from the school office.

Parents and Carers may still apply for '**leave of absence**' to take their child out of school should exceptional circumstances occur i.e. family wedding / funeral. Leave of absence forms can be requested from the school office.

We appreciate that some families may already have booked a term time holiday for 2013-14, unfortunately if the holiday form was not filed with school before the Governors met this week, there is nothing we can do about the unauthorised code which will have to be used from September.

Drama After School Club 2013-14

If you would like to attend Drama Club please indicate below and return A.S.A.P:

Drama Club - For KS2 (Wednesday 3.15 - 4.30pm for 8 weeks from 4th September) £2 per session or £16

I give permission for my child _____ in Class _____ to attend Drama Club.

Signed _____

I enclose the full payment. I wish to pay weekly