



St James' Garden
Witton-le-Wear
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Dear Parents,

Welcome back to what is our first full week of school for this new 2019/2020 academic year. The children have come back to school in a really settled and enthusiastic way, and I'm sure that they are all going to have a really enjoyable and successful year in school during 2019/2020.

As I do at the beginning of every school year, I have attached the most recent and up to date Attendance guidance letter from the Local Authority. Attendance continues to be a big national emphasis across all schools and sectors because good attendance obviously influences or inhibits the overall progress that children make across a wide range of curriculum areas. We hope that you find this information useful as we head into another busy academic year.

We obviously have a new teacher name to learn this year since Miss Dodds was married over the summer holidays. Miss Dodds is now Mrs Redfern, and I am sure that you would all like to join with us in wishing her every happiness for the future.

A range of clubs are commencing this week and as others are arranged, we will give you further information as it becomes available. Our new Parent Pay system is being used and embedded this term - please bear with us if we experience a few teething troubles!

As you may be aware, we undertook a lot of fundraising last year in order to purchase a defibrillator for our school grounds. We are hoping that it will be installed and working during this autumn term- this will be a great benefit to children and adults in our school and to members of the wider village community. I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who kindly donated towards this very worthwhile initiative.

Finally, can I once again say a really big welcome back to everyone and as usual we look forward to working with you over the coming weeks and months.

Yours sincerely,

Head teacher.

Head Teacher: Mark Stephenson B.Ed. (Hons) M.A.

