



St James' Garden
Witton-le-Wear
Co.Durham
DL14 0BG

Telephone/Fax : 01388 488 350
wittonlewear@durhamlearning.net

Dear Parents,

Can I first of all wish everyone a Happy New Year for 2020, and I hope that you all had an enjoyable Christmas time. As I always do at this time of the school year I thought people would find it useful if I gave a few pieces of information at the start of this Spring term 2020.

Our Spring term commences today on Tuesday 7th January 2020 and our half term holiday begins Week Beginning 17th February 2020. We return for the second half of this term on Monday 24th February and we finish for the Easter holidays on Friday 3rd April 2020. Our Summer term then commences on Monday 20th April 2020.

As many of you will remember, Mrs. Caroline Cook retired in December 2019 after 15 years at our school and we will all really miss her as part of our school team. I am sure that everyone would wish to join with us in wishing Mrs Cook every success and future happiness in whatever she may be doing. I am sure that we will still see Mrs Cook in and around the village and she has already said that she would love to pop into school and see the staff and children from time to time.

I am very pleased to tell you that we interviewed and appointed a replacement school secretary at the very end of last term. Mrs Susan Thompson will be joining our school team from the beginning of this Spring term 2020 and she will be working the same hours per week as previously undertaken by Mrs Cook. Mrs Thompson provided temporary cover for us last Autumn term for a few hours each week whilst Mrs Cook was absent. Her own son attended our school several years ago so she has a good understanding of our school and Witton-le-Wear and I am sure that she will be a really good addition to our school team. Please bear with us during this first half of Spring term as I am sure that you will understand that Mrs Thompson will need to get to know our school systems, and our children and parents.

We will have a range of after school clubs commencing this term . Our new Key Stage 2 PE club will commence tonight for the next six weeks and this information was given out at the end of last term as was the information for Martial Arts club which commences this Friday 10th January. Dates for Drama club will follow shortly once we have heard from Mr Hopper with regard to his Fire Brigade shift patterns for this term.

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





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Can I also take this opportunity to clear up some confusion which seemed to be occurring at the end of last term with regard to payments and refunds for missed sessions for after school clubs. As a school we will automatically refund monies for sessions where we as a school, or the coach themselves, has had to cancel a session. We cannot, however, give refunds for sessions where children have been absent but the actual session has still taken place. We obviously still have to pay the costs for these sessions and all money collected goes towards paying these costs.

We are participating in a programme called Educate and Celebrate during the forthcoming months. An information sheet and brief questionnaire is attached to this letter, and we would greatly appreciate it if you could complete it and return it to school so that we can collate overall responses.

Finally, can I please give everyone the usual reminder about helping us with our children's attendance. Children can very quickly miss out on important skills and knowledge across all subjects if they are absent from school. Where at all possible could we please ask that you try and not book holidays during school term time and that any appointments are made for times after school has finished. Once again, can I thank you in advance for your anticipated help with this important issue.

As always, we are all looking forward to working with yourselves and the children over this Spring term 2020.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. M. Stephenson.
Head teacher.

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