

# Etherley Lane Primary School/



## Brochure 2017-2018



Etherley Lane Primary School  
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This brochure gives information about the school which we hope will be useful to parents, prospective parents and prospective staff. Although correct at the time of publishing it may be necessary to make changes during the school year.

If you wish further clarification of any part of the brochure or would like to arrange a visit to the school, please contact the office to make an appointment to see Mrs Bennett, the Head teacher.

If you require assistance accessing our school please call us on 01388 603105 or 07792 985 416 and we will be happy to help you.

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## VISION STATEMENT AND AIMS

### Vision

To develop a high quality collaborative learning community of continual school improvement where all children will feel happy and safe and reach their full potential.

### Aims

- To provide a fully inclusive school which promotes tolerance and understanding and encourages all pupils to have high personal goals and aspirations.
- To provide a curriculum which is rich and exciting and encompasses local, national and international dimensions matched to the needs of a changing intake.
- To equip our pupils with the necessary skills, attitudes and values to enable them to become responsible and worthwhile members of their community.
- To educate the whole child to the highest possible standard, increase their life experiences and widen their horizons.
- To encourage good standards of behaviour, show respect for themselves, others and the environment.
- To teach children knowledge and skills so that they can communicate through a variety of means and media.
- To ensure creativity is fostered, self expression and imagination developed.
- To ensure all children are IT literate and prepared for the challenges and changes in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- To help children to develop lively enquiring minds, be resilient, independent and reflective.
- To develop the social, moral and cultural knowledge and understanding of pupils and encourage personal development including promoting a healthy and active lifestyle.

**THE GOVERNING BODY**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Appointed By</b>	<b>Responsibilities</b>	<b>End date</b>
Mrs A Hird	Co-opted	EYFS	June 2019
Mr P Dunn	Co-opted	Humanities	June 2019
Mrs R Storey	Co-opted	Community Cohesion, PSHCE, Equality and Diversity	November 2019
Rev J Purdy	Co-opted	RE	May 2020
Mr K Black	Co-opted	Mathematics	January 2020
Mrs M Caulton	Co-opted	Inclusion/CLA/Safeguarding	November 2019
Mr P J Wilson	Local Authority	Science, Pupil Premium	November 2019
Mrs H Stainthorpe	Parent	English	January 2020
Mr S Parry	Parent	PE	June 2020
Mr P Smith	Parent	Computing	October 2017
Mrs Mangles	Parent	Teaching and Learning/OPAL Play	December 2020
Mrs K Bennett	Head teacher	Equal Opportunities	
Mrs T Elder	Teaching Staff	Health and Safety	February 2018

The Chair of the Governing Body is Mr. P. Wilson. Any correspondence should be addressed to c/o Etherley Lane Primary School. Note: Current responsibilities of Governors may change during 2017/18.

**COMPLAINTS**

If you are concerned about any matter relating to your child in school please make an appointment to speak to a member of staff. You must judge whether your concern can be dealt with by discussion with your child's teacher or whether you should see the Headteacher. If you feel the matter has not been dealt with by the Headteacher then you should follow the schools complaints procedures available from the school office and contact the Chair of Governors.

**TEACHING STAFF**

Mrs K D Bennett	Headteacher	Assessment
Mr A Soulsby	Year 6	KS 2 Leader, English
Mrs A Summerson	Year 5/6	MFL
Mr M Holt	Year 5	Computing Curriculum
Miss R Wade	Year 4	PSHCE
Miss A Strophair	Year 3/4	RRSA, Humanities, CPD
Mrs Miller	Year 3	Deputy Head, SENCO
Miss V Hope	Year 2	KS1 Leader, RE, Community Cohesion
Mrs E Wakes	Year 2	Music
Miss S Navin	Year 1	PE
Mrs A Jones	Year 1	Art ,DT
Mrs T Elder/Mrs R Burlison	Reception	MAT
Mrs S Jeavons	Reception	EYFS leader, Mathematics
Mrs C Walker	Release Teacher	
Mrs L Wilson	Release Teacher	

**SUPPORT STAFF**

Mrs A Poulton	Secretary
Miss R Clegg	Administration Assistant
Mrs C Horsman	Higher Level Teaching Assistant
Mrs S Guy	Higher Level Teaching Assistant
Mrs J Laidler	Higher Level Teaching Assistant
Mrs M Thompson (Mat Leave)	Higher Level Teaching Assistant
Mrs N Gregory	Teaching Assistant
Mrs C Black	Teaching Assistant
Mrs A Yates	Teaching Assistant
Mrs L Lonsdale	Teaching Assistant
Mrs N Graham	Teaching Assistant
Mrs J Walton	Teaching Assistant
Miss A Wilkinson	Teaching Assistant
Mr M Lumley	Caretaker
Mrs P Hutchinson	Cleaner
Mrs C Kenny	Cleaner

Mrs C Alderson	Cleaner
Mrs T Ward	Supervisory Assistant
Mrs J Hauxwell	Supervisory Assistant / Breakfast Club Assistant
Mrs L Leslie	Supervisory Assistant / Breakfast Club Assistant
Mrs J Thornton	Supervisory Assistant
Mrs J Walton	Supervisory Assistant/Breakfast Club Assistant
Mrs C Gordon	Supervisory Assistant
Mrs H Stainthorpe	Supervisory Assistant
Miss H Curry	Family Liaison Worker
Miss H Clarey	PE Apprentice L3

## STRENGTHS OF OUR SCHOOL

We are proud of all our achievements and successes over the years and this is supported by our very good personal and social education. The children at Etherley Lane are encouraged and taught to have a responsible and caring attitude towards one another. Older children are given the opportunity to become playground buddies, wet playtime monitors, water bottle monitors, milk monitors, door monitors, librarians and prefects. Pupil voice is strong groups include School Council, Eco Warriors, Healthy Schools Group, Fair trade Steering Committee, RRSA Group and Learning Council.

### School Council

Our School Council meets at least once a month and includes representatives from both infant and junior phases. This group has raised money for a variety of causes and represents the pupil voice of our school. They are committed and determined to make improvements to the school community.

### Ofsted

The school was last inspected in January 2016 and the report states that we are a good school, our strengths are in school leadership, all leaders and governors are ambitious for the school to become outstanding.

### Awards

The children and staff are actively involved in a number of initiatives; some have led to school accreditation while others provide a wide range of opportunities for the children. The initiatives serve to celebrate our on-going commitment and endeavour to provide an outstanding curriculum for all our pupils.

### Eco School Silver Award

Our school is committed to sustainable development, which includes: caring for ourselves, each other and the environment. The Eco Warriors meet at least once a term and include parent and Governor support. This group has raised awareness of environmental issues within the school community. They have been fundamental in developing the school grounds and keeping them tidy, they have promoted and participated in recycling projects, sustainable travel, energy usage and biodiversity. This group have a designated display board in the school library.

### Arts Council England Artsmark Gold Award

We have achieved Artsmark Gold validated by Arts Council England. We achieved this for excellence in the following areas of The Arts:

Dance	Drama	Creative Writing
Art	Music	

We encourage Arts groups to visit our school to work with the children in these areas. We have an after school club dedicated to Performing Arts in which the children have the opportunity to take part in singing, drama and performance. Children are given many opportunities to be creative; examples are evident around the school. Many children play musical instruments and some participate in Arts Discover Awards.



### Enhanced Healthy School Award

In order to achieve the Enhanced Healthy School Standard we had to provide evidence relating to four themes;

- Personal , Social, Health and Citizenship Education
- Healthy eating
- Physical activity
- Emotional health and wellbeing.

Our Healthy Schools Group consisting of representatives from each class and parents meet regularly in school.

### International School Award.

We were delighted to receive the International School Award in July 2014. We have had a partnership link with Ecole des Marais in Pierrepont and we have a very successful partnership with The Celebration Co Ed in Nepal. In 2012 their staff visited Etherley Lane and two members of staff from Etherley Lane visited Kathmandu. In 2014 a further two members of staff from The Celebration Co Ed visited our school and two teachers and two governors visited Nepal. In 2014 we established a new link with Jamaica.

### Investors in Children

We currently hold the Investors in Children Award. The School Council were involved in meetings with staff from the County Council and produced a report to highlight their activities and involvement in decision making within our school.

### Fairtrade

In April 2016 we were thrilled to be awarded the Fair Achiever School Award by the Fairtrade Foundation. The Fairtrade Steering Group consists of pupils from KS1 and KS2 and they meet each term.

### Educate and Celebrate

We are an Educate and Celebrate good practice school in Durham, this means that we have shown our commitment to equality & diversity. We were delighted to participate in the Durham Schools Showcase 2015 and have been awarded silver status.

### County Durham Young Carers Charter-Accredited

For several years we have been accredited by the Local Authority for our commitment to Young Carers, our Family Liaison worker leads on this work.

### Youth Sports Trust

In 2015 & 2016 we were delighted to be awarded the Silver Quality Mark by Youth Sport Trust for our commitment to PE and Sport.

## PRACTICALITIES AND ORGANISATION

### Admissions

The admission limit for Reception aged pupils in 2017/18 is 49. When the number of requests for places exceeds this the LA follow the Admissions Appeal Statement. The authority's published admission criteria is in the following order of priority; Children in Public Care, Medical Reasons, Family Links, Distance.

### Disabled Pupils

Admission arrangements for pupils with disability will be in line with those for able bodied pupils. Modifications will be made to these arrangements in line with the needs of the pupil. The school receives advice on the needs of disabled pupils from the Local Authority and the school follows this advice to prevent those pupils being treated less favourably than other pupils.

### Induction

We aim to ensure that every child receives the best possible start/transition to school and to provide a two way exchange of information between home and school which is relevant to the children's background and development. Information will be exchanged by means of an induction pack which will contain all documents for starting school. Staff and our Family Liaison Worker will ensure the smooth transition of pupils into the school.

### School Uniform

Children are actively encouraged to wear our school uniform as it fosters a sense of community and belonging. Our school uniform is comfortable, warm, easy care and mix and match. School uniform consists of:-

- Royal blue sweatshirt / cardigan
- White / yellow polo shirt or cotton shirt.
- Navy blue/grey/black trousers / skirt / shorts.
- Blue and white cotton dresses for summer.
- Black school shoes.

Uniform should be ordered on the internet, <http://www.border-embroideries.co.uk/> support to do this can be received from the school office. The following items can be purchased:

- |                                   |                   |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| • Royal Blue Sweatshirt           | White Polo Shirt  |
| • Royal Blue Cardigan             | Yellow Polo Shirt |
| • Royal Blue Fleece               | Reversible Jacket |
| • Baseball/Legionnaire/Beanie Hat | Fleece            |
| • Book Bag                        | PE T-Shirt        |

All the above uniform items show the school badge. We hope that the children are proud to be identified with their school in this way.

**Clothing not purchased with the school logo must conform to the above colours and must not have designer logos. Please ensure all clothes are labelled with you child's name.**

Children in Key Stage 2 go swimming and require a towel, costume and hat on the appropriate day. If they are not well enough to do so please send an explanatory note. The class teacher will inform parents in which term the class will be swimming.



Items of School Uniform



Book Bag

### **Jewellery**

The wearing of jewellery in school is considered to be undesirable and on the grounds of Health & Safety should not be worn with the exception of a watch. If a watch is worn, the school will not accept any responsibility should it become lost or damaged. See responsibility for personal property. No smart watches.

### **Earrings**

If your child must wear earrings, please ensure that these are of a small stud type only. These must be removed for P.E. lessons by the child, or covered with tape to prevent accidents.

### **Money**

There will be times when children need to bring money, other than for school lunch, to pay for visits etc. It greatly assists the teachers and the school secretary if the correct money is sent with no change required. It is also helpful if it is sent in a sealed envelope clearly named.

## SCHOOL ROUTINE

### Our School Day

9.00am	School begins (pupils can enter from 8.45am)
10.30-10.45am	Infant morning break
10.45-11.00am	Junior morning break
11.45am-1.00pm	Lunch Break Key Stage 1 & Reception Classes
12.15pm- 1.00pm	Lunch Break Key Stage 2
2.00pm-.2.15pm	Infant afternoon break
2.15pm-2.30pm	Junior afternoon break
3.15pm	School Finishes



Please make sure your child gets to school on time. Punctuality is important as arriving late disrupts your child's education. Pupils who arrive late, after the doors are closed should report to the main entrance and not try to gain admission elsewhere as this can breach our security. Pupils arriving late for school will be entered in the Late Book, persistent lateness will be carefully monitored.

### Morning Supervision

The morning session starts at 9 a.m. with a warning bell at 8.58 a.m. Supervision is provided from 8.45 a.m. Pupils should not be in the school grounds before this time. The Senior Leadership Team welcome pupils in to school and wait at the gates between 8.45am and 9am. When pupils come into school they make their way straight to the classrooms. Staff are on duty throughout the school.

### Breakfast Club

Children who eat breakfast concentrate and perform better during the morning than children who skip breakfast. Children can arrive at school anytime after 8am for a healthy breakfast provided by our Breakfast Club team at a cost of £1.50 per session. The Breakfast Club offers at least one activity in addition to breakfast. Parents are welcome to drop off their child at any time between 8.00am- 8.30am. If you are entitled to Free School Meals, we offer your child a free breakfast, proof of entitlement must be brought to the school office.

### Break time

Infant pupils participate in the national Fruit Scheme, and are offered a piece of fruit at morning break. Junior pupils sometimes receive spare fruit from this scheme. Any pupils can bring in their own fresh fruit or prepared vegetables (e.g. carrot sticks) for consumption during morning break. Children are not allowed to bring sweets, crisps etc. for consumption at break times.



### Lunch

The school kitchen provides a nutritious cooked meal. Each day the children can choose from a selection of dishes including a vegetarian option and enjoy a freshly prepared hot meal. Dinner money is collected on Monday mornings. It should be brought in a sealed envelope with name and number of meals required written on the outside. Cheques for school meals should be made payable to Durham County Council and have your address on the back.

Children who prefer to bring a packed lunch should do so in a named lunch box and include a drink. Please note that hot drinks, glass bottles and flasks can be dangerous and are not allowed. We encourage children to bring a healthy packed lunch. At least one week's notice is required if children wish to change from school meals to packed lunch or vice versa. Please contact the school office to discuss any administration/school meals matters including eligibility for free school meals. The cost of a school meal from Sept 2016 is £2.00 per day). From September 2014 all infant pupils are eligible for a free school meal.



### Water Bottles

We feel that access to water is essential to the welfare of our children. Your child is provided with a water bottle when they start school. Water is provided to drink as part of the daily 'Brain Gym' activity.

### End of the day

Lessons end at 3.15pm, staff try to ensure that the children are out as soon as possible after this but delays sometimes occur. If you are unable to meet your child for any reason please try to contact the office to let us know what alternative arrangements you have made.

We recommend Reception children are collected from Lyndsay Street gate, Years 1 & 2 at Clarence Street gate and Key Stage 2 pupils to leave school at the park gate. Those with younger siblings in school are allowed to leave by the same exit as the youngest sibling.

### Absence

Our attendance rate for 2015/16 was 95%. Any absences must be marked as unauthorised if the school does not receive an explanation for it. Please make sure that the school is notified of your child's absence by telephone, letter or email. It is a legal responsibility for parents to provide a reason for a pupil's absence. It is helpful to know in advance of any medical appointments requiring absence for part of the day. Children can be collected for these purposes by a parent or other known adult from the main school door.

Parents are contacted in the event of an accident or illness at school. To this end an "urgent contact" record is held for each child with all relevant information e.g. telephone numbers of friends and relatives, family doctor etc. It is vital that these details are kept up to date. Please inform the school immediately of any changes.

**Holidays During School Time**

From September 2013 the Head teacher may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. If you do have exceptional circumstances then a formal Leave Of Absence request must be made in writing to the Head teacher, a form for this purpose is available from the school office.

**School Holiday 2017/2018;**

Return to School	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> September 2017
Break Up	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> October 2017
Return to School	Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2017
Break Up	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2017

**2018**

Return to School	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2018
Break Up	Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2018
Return to School	Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February 2018
Break Up	Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> March 2018
Return to School	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> April 2018
Break Up	Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> May 2018
Return to School	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> June 2018
Break Up	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2018

**KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE****Security**

We have a safe and secure building with fully fenced grounds. During the school day all gates into the school grounds are closed. Everyone who wishes to go beyond the main reception area must sign in and wear a visitor's badge. As this security measure is in the interests of all pupils we would appreciate your cooperation in its implementation. Parents should not enter restricted areas of the school at any time, without a visitors badge this includes going up and down the main corridor. All adults in school on a regular basis have had security clearance from the police and wear a badge to prove this. These include staff, governors, helpers, students and outside agencies.

Security gates have been fitted within the school grounds. The gates will be opened at 8.45 a.m. and will be locked at 9.00 a.m. They will be opened again just after 3.15 p.m. to allow parents to collect children from the school gates and will be locked again after pupils have left the grounds at 3.30pm. Once the gates are locked access to the school will only be possible from the Clarence Gardens entrance, all other gates will be locked.



### **Medical Matters**

We have qualified first aiders in school to treat minor injuries. We also try to ensure that a first aider will go with classes on out of school visits. Parents will be notified with an accident report slip if a child has had a minor accident in school that day.

If your child is injured or becomes ill while at school we will contact you immediately. To help with this please ensure that you provide the school with up to date contact telephone numbers. If you cannot be contacted and we feel that hospital treatment is necessary, a member of staff will escort your child to hospital. Staff will continue to try and contact you. Your child may be examined by the school nurse from time to time, your permission will be sought. Children will also have their eyesight and hearing checked during their time in school.

### **Medicines**

We must have written permission before medication can be administered in school. Please go to the school office and complete a medication record sheet and hand the medicine in there to a member of staff. An adult must be responsible for bringing and collecting the medicine on a daily basis. Do not send medicine to school with your child.

All medicines will be locked away but inhalers will always be accessible. All medicine should be clearly labelled to verify pupil's name, dosage, frequency, duration of course of treatment, date prescribed and expiry date. If this information is not legible then medication cannot be administered.

### **No Smoking Policy**

Our school endeavours to provide a secure, happy and healthy environment in which learning can flourish therefore the Governors have agreed that smoking will not be allowed anywhere on the school premises. Also as part of our school curriculum the children are taught about the health risks and dangers of smoking.

### **Car parking and walking to school**

The area around the school is residential, please park carefully avoiding parking across residents' driveways. As part of our School Travel Plan and to reduce congestion around the school we operate a Walking School Bus - this starts at 8.40am and returns to B&Q car park at 3.30pm. Parental consent is requested prior to participation. Please contact the school office for a consent form.

### **Mobile phones**

In order to safeguard all of our pupils, children are not allowed to bring mobile phones, tablets, smart watches and other technology that could connect to the internet in to school.

### **Publication of Pupil Photographs/Competition Entries**

Pupils often have their photograph taken as a class group or individually to celebrate achievements, these photographs may occasionally be used in local newspapers and with other outside agencies who work with the school. Pupils also have the opportunity to enter a range of competitions, the entry forms for these competitions sometimes request pupil's home addresses. Where this has happened we contact parents to have their agreement to disclose such information to a third party. In order to reduce paperwork and to enable staff to easily access a list of pupils who have permission for their photographs to be used in newspapers, parents are asked to complete a consent form.

### Responsible Internet Use

As part of the curriculum we provide supervised access to the internet. Knowing how to use the World Wide Web and e-mail effectively and safely is essential in our world today. Our school operates a filtering system that restricts access to inappropriate materials. Whilst every endeavour is made to ensure that suitable restrictions are placed on the ability of children to access inappropriate materials, the school cannot be held responsible for the nature and content of materials accessed through the internet. The school will not be liable for any damages arising from your child's use of internet facilities. Please take some time to go over our E Safety Rules for responsible internet usage. These are sent home with new entrants and the agreement should be signed by pupil and parent and returned to school.

### THE EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE CURRICULUM

The Foundation Stage Curriculum is for children in the reception classes and underpins all future learning by building on what children know and do. Children develop rapidly during the early years, physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially. Their development is viewed as a whole and the curriculum reflects an understanding of this. There will be opportunities for children to engage in activities planned by adults as well as those they plan or initiate themselves.

There are 3 prime areas and 4 specific areas of learning:

1. Personal, Social and Emotional Development
2. Communication & Language
3. Physical Development
4. Literacy
5. Mathematics
6. Understanding the World
7. Expressive Arts and Design



Teaching and learning will take place in many different ways, through exciting activities and the provision of a wide variety of experiences both indoors and outdoors. Play is acknowledged to be an important way to develop independence, confidence, self worth and an understanding of others. Children learn best if they are enjoying school, they will develop skills and knowledge at a pace appropriate to their stage of development through play-based activities both indoors and outside.

### Assessment

Foundation Stage pupils are assessed on entry and work towards the early learning goals which most children achieve by the end of the summer term.



## KEY STAGE 1 AND 2 CURRICULUM

From the Foundation Stage the children will move into Key Stage 1 (Y1 and Y2) followed by Key Stage 2 (Y3-Y6). A new Primary Curriculum was introduced in September 2014 and the school is currently in the process of implementing these changes in Key Stage 1 and 2. We teach all subjects in the National Curriculum, curriculum areas are taught through projects, topics and themes, as well as traditional subject-based lessons. All aspects of the curriculum are relevant to the needs and experience of pupils and relate as much as possible to the world in which they live. Lessons are taken by all pupils unless other special agreement has been reached.

In all aspects of their education children are encouraged to acquire skills and knowledge and develop good attitudes to work. The children are encouraged to be creative and every opportunity is taken to develop their confidence, knowledge, self esteem and life skills. Through the curriculum we aim to celebrate diversity and challenge discrimination.

### English

Children develop skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing. This enables each child to express themselves clearly and imaginatively and to communicate with others effectively. Children learn to become enthusiastic and critical readers of a variety of texts. They learn to understand how language works by looking at patterns and structures in spelling, grammar and whole text. All children are given the opportunity to participate in Big Writing and acquire specific skills which they can apply to a variety of curriculum areas. Children are also given reading books to take home; parents are encouraged to read with their child every day and comment in their child's reading record.

Drama is a natural way of exploring feelings and investigating a wide range of situations, both personal and related to an academic curriculum area.

### Mathematics

The children will develop their mathematical skills: number and calculations, understanding measures, awareness of shape, data handling, logical reasoning, problem solving and the ability to see abstract connections and patterns. Children will acquire key skills and practice these then apply them to other curriculum areas.

### Science

Science stimulates children's natural curiosity about phenomena and events in the world around them. Children are taught specific knowledge and learn how to develop and test out ideas through practical experiments and observations. This encourages creative and critical thought. Science focuses on life processes and living things, materials and their properties and physical processes. General scientific enquiry methods are developed through all of these areas.

**Computing**

ICT prepares children to take part in a rapidly changing digital world. They learn to find, explore, analyse and present information in the form of pictures, text, sound, music, film, animation, e-mail, charts and graphs using a variety of equipment. We aim to develop children's skills with technologies and then allow them to practice these skills from other curriculum areas using technology as a tool. Every classroom has an interactive whiteboard and laptops. Children are also given the opportunity to use iPads and other digital equipment.

**Physical Education**

PE involves children in learning about themselves, their capabilities, potential and limitations. Through PE children develop physical competence and confidence. PE includes games skills, dance, gymnastics, athletics, swimming and outdoor problem solving adventures.

**Religious Education**

This is taught in line with the Durham Agreed Syllabus for RE. It involves the children finding out about key beliefs, traditions and practices of major world religions and views. It gives each child the opportunity to relate what they find out to their own feelings and encourages an atmosphere of respect and reflection. We have a daily act of Collective Worship when the school comes together for a time of reflection, celebration and learning. Parents may request that pupils are withdrawn from R.E. and / or Collective Worship, on religious grounds. Such a request should be made in writing to the Headteacher.

**Geography**

Geography provokes and answers questions about the natural and human world. It develops knowledge of different places and environments, key vocabulary, an understanding of maps and a range of investigation skills. This subject also helps children encounter different cultures and societies, inspiring children to think about their own place in our world and their influence upon the environment.

**History**

Children investigate the past in Britain and the wider world. History develops curiosity and gives children the opportunity to find out how we know about the past, what we might not know and the issue of differing opinions and evidence. The children consider what parts of the past were like how different societies were organized and what beliefs and priorities influenced actions. Children develop a chronological framework for their knowledge of key events and people in history.

**Design and Technology**

This is a practical subject and is about investigating, designing, making and evaluating things. Children learn key skills and knowledge and apply these to a challenge. Children develop creative problem solving skills, persistence, and the capacity to work with others, evaluating and changing ideas for improvement. The children work with a variety of materials and tools.

**Art and Design**

Children use colour, form, texture, pattern and a range of materials to communicate what they see, feel or think. They explore ideas and work of others artists and designers. Art stimulates creativity and imagination and develops fine motor skills. The children undertake art activities related to other curriculum areas.

**Music**

Children listen and respond to a wide a variety of music, they are involved in singing, and playing instruments. They follow music, improvise and compose their own music. It is a powerful and unique form of communication. In Key stage 2 children have the opportunity to learn to play and perform to an audience; we work closely with the Durham Music Service.

**Languages - French**

During Key Stage 2 children have the opportunity to learn French. We liaise with our partner school Ecole des Marais in Pierrepont in France.

**Personal, Social, Health and Citizen Education**

PSHCE gives children the knowledge, skills and understanding they need to lead confident, healthy and independent lives and to become informed, active and responsible citizens. It encourages children to develop their emotional intelligence and build on their knowledge of factors contributing to a healthy lifestyle and develop respectful relationships with others. We have regular open assemblies and activities relating to this subject area. We embed Global Citizenship within all curriculum areas. PSHCE is part of the explicit as well as hidden curriculum.

**Behaviour**

We believe that everyone has a responsibility to behave with care and respect towards others. In order to achieve this we follow a fair and consistent whole school system based on positive affirmation for hard work and good behaviour. Known consequences for inappropriate behaviour are enforced. Our school is working towards the Rights Respecting School Award and we seek to embed the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child into our curriculum. We use a Restorative Approach in school, this requires pupils to think about themselves and how they deal with one another and to work on healthy relationships and learn how to manage conflict.

**Health Education**

As part of Health Education, pupils will be taught about the human body. Growth and development in humans will be taught and the reproduction of plants. The large range of maturity in classes means that any questions which arise about human sexuality will need to be dealt with sensitively by the teachers.

The school nurse will talk to the Year 6 pupils on "Growing Up". Parents will be informed if this is going to take place. Parents have the right to withdraw pupils from Sex and Relationships Education lessons. Such a request should be made in writing to the Headteacher.

### **Assessment**

This is an integral part of our teaching and learning process and is a tool which aids our planning and learning. Teachers use assessment for Learning and Assessment of Learning. Children are encouraged to work with their teachers to identify where they are with their learning, what their target is and what steps they need to take in order to achieve their target.

As well as ongoing teacher assessment the children have more formal assessments which take place throughout their school life. Results of statutory assessments in Y1, Y2 and Y6 are given with the annual report which parents receive in the summer term.

## **CATERING FOR INDIVIDUAL NEEDS**

### **Equality of Opportunity**

Staff continually monitor their classroom practice to ensure fairness of contact, spending as much time as possible with all children regardless of gender, race or ability.

A range of differentiated activities is offered within planned work so that every child, from the least able to the more able and talented is stretched and challenged. Equality of accessing the curriculum is assured for the children whom English is a new or additional language.

We intend that every child will achieve his/her full potential and that high teacher expectation is required to fulfill this aim.

### **Special Educational Needs**

The school aims to identify pupils with special educational needs as early as possible and provide appropriate support. The code of practice for pupils with special educational needs is fully implemented within the school. The Deputy Headteacher is the SENCO and works closely with colleagues to identify and put in action the process of assessment of need by the appropriate professionals. The curriculum may be adapted to meet the special needs of pupils. The success of the school's SEND policy is monitored on an annual basis, a copy of which is held in school. The school provides additional information about the local offer for pupils with special educational needs on the school website. If you have any concerns or questions please contact Mrs Miller in the absence of Mrs Miller please contact Mrs Bennett.

### **More Able and Talented**

More able and talented pupils are catered for through differentiation as well as small group work. There are opportunities for children to take part in extra-curricular activities. Please contact Mrs Elder for further information.

## BEYOND THE CURRICULUM

### Extra Curricular Activities

Extra Curricular opportunities help to enrich the curriculum. Over the past couple of years opportunities for extra curricular clubs have included;

#### After School

- Rugby
- Cricket
- Football
- Dance
- Infant Multi-Skills
- Infant Fun
- Athletics
- Gardening
- Netball
- Walking Club
- Performing Arts
- Sugar craft
- Cookery
- Choir
- Homework
- Art
- Needlecraft

#### School time

- Fair trade Steering Group
- Learning Council
- Recorder
- School Council
- Healthy Schools Group
- Eco Warriors
- RRSA Steering Group
- International Group

These clubs are available to some or all year groups and during certain terms. Information on extra-curricular clubs is sent by letter.

### **Educational Visits**

All children have the opportunity to go on educational visits. These are chosen to enrich and to consolidate children's learning. Visitors are also invited to enhance the curriculum.

In order to finance such activities, the school will invite parents to make a contribution, of approximately the average cost per child, towards the cost of such visits and activities. Due to limited cash resources, the school reserves the right to cancel any activity for which it feels unable to bear the discrepancy between contributions and the costs.

The Education Reform Act 1988 states that any costs for residential and non-residential activities which take place outside school hours must be met by parents of pupils taking part in the activity.

The Governors reserve the right to exercise their discretion in financial recovery concerning replacement of repair costs arising from breakages, damage or any sort of loss caused by the action of the pupil.

### **HOME, SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY LINKS**

At Etherley Lane we feel it is important to maintain close links and cooperation between school, home and the community. We believe that working with parents as partners can help our pupils to realise their full potential and set them on the right path to become good and worthwhile members of the community.

In order to develop these links and positively encourage involvement in all aspects of school life we have;

- Open evenings
- Meet the Teacher
- Weekly Newsletters
- Sports Day
- School Concerts/Performances/Assemblies
- Parent/Grand parent helpers
- Parent Focus Groups
- Governors
- Annual questionnaires
- Interest groups to work on initiatives
- PTA (Friends of the School) and fund raising events
- Students from local school and colleges
- Family Learning

### **Reporting to Parents**

Two open evenings are held termly. In addition groups of parents will be invited into school as the need arises to hear about particular curriculum issues and developments. Towards the end of the Summer Term all parents will receive a written report detailing their child's progress.

During the year you or the class teacher may have a concern or question about your child's progress, an appointment can be arranged to discuss the issue.

### **Keeping Parents Informed**

Parents are kept informed of school events through regular newsletters and termly information sheets and the school website. Please let us know if two copies of letters are needed for parents who live apart. Parents will also receive information about extra curricular clubs, visits, class assemblies and other events. Parents may also receive text messages via teachers to parents and can access the school web site for further information.

### **PTA - Friends of Etherley Lane Primary**

All parents and staff are automatically members of our PTA. This is guided and organised by a committee, which is made up of volunteers. This group organise fundraising and social events throughout the year. Please inform Miss Curry if you would like to be involved in the Friends of Etherley Lane School.

### **Helping in School**

Parents and Grandparents are encouraged to help in school in an area they feel comfortable with. Parent support is also valued on out of school visits. This help is much appreciated. Please contact Miss Curry if you would like to support our school in some way.

### **Links with the Wider Community**

Our links with the local community are being developed through working with:

- The Young Enterprise Scheme
- Visits from the Fire Brigade, Community Police and School Nurse.
- Liaison with other schools in Community of Learning, School Sports Co-Coordinator Work, National and International links.
- Local Ministers leading acts of Collective Worship
- Dogs Trust
- Durham Road Safety Team
- Street Wardens
- Hays Travel
- BCTV
- Butterwick Hospice
- Parent Support Advisor / Family Liaison Worker
- Sustrans
- JRSO
- Junior Neighbourhood Watch
- Bishop Auckland Leaders of Excellence
- Bishop Auckland Town Team
- Durham Teaching Schools Alliance
- Young Carers
- Family Learning Organisations
- OASES
- Thrills and Skills
- EEL
- Bishop FM
- Auckland Castle



## HOMEWORK

We believe that homework is an essential part of children's learning. We fully recognise the need for rest and the importance of developing outside interests but we recognise that homework can play an active part in developing the knowledge and skills of our children.

Ideally the setting of homework should be interesting and pleasurable and refers to any work activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time.

Homework should be;

- Taken home and returned carefully
- Returned on the requested day
- Completed carefully and thoughtfully
- Shared with parents and carers
- Done in a quiet and comfortable place.



Amount of Homework - per week

Class	Approximate Time	Subjects
Y6	2½ hours	English, Mathematics & Challenge
Y5/6	2½ hours	English, Mathematics & Challenge
Y5	2½ hours	English, Mathematics & Challenge
Y4	2 hours	English, Mathematics & Challenge
Y3/4	1½ hours	English, Mathematics & Challenge
Y3	1 hour	English, Mathematics & Challenge
Y2	1 hour	English, Mathematics & Challenge
Y2	1 hour	English, Mathematics & Challenge
Y1	1 hour	English & Mathematics & Challenge
Y1	1 hour	English & Mathematics & Challenge
Early Years (reception)	Up to 1 hour	Learning Journal/Phonics
Early Years (reception)	Up to 1 hour	Learning Journal/Phonics