



Stoneraise School

# Whole School Newsletter

## Autumn 1st Half Term

Dear Parents

Welcome back to school after the summer holidays. We are glad to be back into school and settling in to the new academic year.

### School Building Works

School has had some significant building works completed over the summer holidays. After several years of trying to secure this funding - yes several! - the Council has spent approximately £300,000 on our school building to ensure it is fit for purpose and can cope with life in the 21st century. We have had a full rewire of all electrics, a new fire alarm, roof fixed to stop 3 out of 4 classes leaking and our main playground re-surfaced. I can say, it has been a very difficult and stressful summer but I am glad we are nearly sorted with only minor issues and glitches to be resolved. We have had contractors and staff working around the clock to ensure school could open on time, with no enforced closures.

### Term Dates

Our term dates with a covering letter was sent out last year explaining why our school days are not fully inline with other schools. Over 75% of our children year on year join Caldew School, and as a school, Caldew do not follow the County Council's suggested term dates. Last year this caused a huge problem for a large number of families who have children in both schools, resulting in several families having to take additional days away from work to look after their children. To alleviate this situation for many families, we adopted Caldew's and many other secondary school term dates. All maintained schools, regardless of term dates, are required to be open to pupils for 190 school days + 5 training days for staff. I can assure all parents this is still the case for our pupils, despite starting the school year 1 day after other schools.

### Class Hazel & New Reception Class

We have a new class this year. We have split year 5 and year 6 into two separate classes. We are delighted to welcome Mrs Armstrong as our new Y5 teacher. As 'The Ridings' homes are completed and sold, our pupils numbers are increasing. We are over subscribed and are currently looking at longterm projections for pupil numbers. With 20 reception children starting this week, and children with their names down already for next September this pattern is likely to continue. We will adapt and change school to reflect our growing popularity. We will be sharing our views on this during Parents' Evening later in the half term.

### Keystage 2 Snacks

Just a reminder, snacks for any junior children must be fresh fruit only.

### Parents' Evening

Our Parents' Evening is on Tuesday 9th October- 6pm in the School Hall. A separate letter will follow nearer the time.

### Extra Curricular Activities

As always, we will have a range of Curriculum Clubs on offer this half term. A separate letter will follow. The dates for these are available on our school website and school app.

Yours sincerely

Head Teacher

