



ETHERLEY LANE NURSERY AND PRIMARY SCHOOL FEDERATION



Happy New Year and happy new term to you all!

We are thrilled to have all of our children back into school after our Christmas holidays and as always, we are so proud of how they have settled back into the school routine.

The children have been busy getting straight back into their learning and have already produced some fantastic pieces of work!

We have lots of exciting things coming up this term - please note the key dates on this newsletter for this term. We will continue to share further dates with you via text and our Facebook page.

Thank you for your continued support.

Arbor

We have successfully introduced Arbor into school and we can't wait to share it with parents and carers. In the coming weeks, you will receive further information and guidance on how to create and use your parent account. Once you have an account on Arbor, it can be used to show your child's attendance and child's information via an app or website. You will also be able to use Arbor to book parent consultations, choose your child's school meals, confirm trip attendance, to book wrap around care and make payments for school meals and trips.



After your Arbor account is created, Parentpay will no longer be used. Please can you ensure any balances are paid fully on Parentpay at this point – we will ensure you have plenty of notice of the date. If you have any credit on your Parentpay account this will be transferred back to your original payment method.

School Hours

Our school day begins at 8.40am and ends at 3.15pm. Gates are open from 8.40am to allow children to make their way to their classroom for registration. The school gates will close at 9.00am. Please ensure your child arrives at school on time to make the most of their day. If you need to report your child's absence, please contact the school office by 9.15am.



Cold Weather

Please can we ask children bring a warm coat to school each day, especially in the colder weather.

Healthy School Snacks

Please can we remind parents if your child brings a snack into school for break time, that they are a healthy option snack, for example a piece of fruit, and that no nuts are brought into school due to allergies.



Car Parking

Please can we remind parents & carers to be respectful and mindful when parking near school and to not block any driveways or access for local residents, including schools main entrance access.



Afterschool clubs

Afterschool clubs began again in school this week with a variety of activities – cinema club, art club, draw along club, colouring club and baking club. All places have been allocated and if your child does not have a place but requested a club, they are on our reserve list and will be contacted if a space becomes available.



School Holiday Dates

Term	School Closed	School Reopens
Spring half-term 2026	Monday 23 rd February 2026	Monday 2 nd March 2026
Easter 2026	Friday 3 rd April 2026	Monday 20 th April 2026
May Day 2026	Monday 4 th May 2026	Tuesday 5 th May 2026
Summer half-term 2026	Monday 25 th May 2026	Monday 1 st June 2026
Summer 2026	Monday 20 th July 2026	TBC

Planned School Trips for Spring Term

21st January 2026 – Zoolab visiting Year 1 & Year 2 in school

16th February 2026 – Year 3 Dance Festival at Bishop Auckland College

16th February 2026 – Auckland Castle visiting Reception class for Lunar New Year

9th March 2026 – Year 1 Auckland Castle Visit

18th – 20th March 2026 – Year 5 Residential

23rd March 2026 – Year 4 Tennis Festival at Bishop Auckland College



Dates for the Diary

9th January 2026 – SEND Coffee Morning

9th – 15th February 2026 - Children's Mental Health Week

13th February 2026 - Valentine's Day Lunch - Chartwells will be offering school's normal Friday menu whilst adding some delicious Valentine's Day desserts. Further information will be sent out soon.

20th February 2026 – Break up for half-term holidays at 3.15pm

2nd March 2026 – Return to school after half-term holidays

5th March 2026 – World Book Day - We will send out further information regarding World Book Day at a later date.

6th - 15th March 2026 – British Science Week

20th March 2026 – Comic Relief – We will send out further information for how we will be supporting this years Comic Relief at a later date.

2nd April 2026 – Break up for Easter holidays



If you have any questions or would like any further information, please contact the school office.

Thank you

