

Stanhope Barrington C of E
Primary School



Westcroft
Stanhope
Bishop Auckland
Co Durham
DL13 2NU

Head Teacher: Mrs D Cross

School Number 840 3087

Tel: 01388 528218

Email: admin@stanhopebarrington.org.uk

Website: www.stanhopebarrington.durham.sch.uk

Dear Parent/Carer

7th September 2022

Re: Welcome Back

What a fantastic first day back we've had. It has been lovely to see the children (and all of you too) back in school following the summer break. I really hope you all had a lovely summer and some sort of break.

I was truly impressed with how the children came back into school this morning and how well even our youngest children sat quietly and respectfully during collective worship. Many children have told me how pleased they are or how excited they are to be back. As a team, we are all excited to be back too and have a great year, full of great learning opportunities planned.

At the same time, there are bound to be some anxieties for some children and parents. In collective worship this morning we read Miley's Mind by Joanne Goodacre which uses a dog whose feelings are poorly to explore anxiety with the children. This is totally normal and many of us adults too have that 'washing machine' feeling in the first few days back.

We are encouraging the children to talk to a trusted adult if they do feel like this and I would extend that to you as adults too. If you have any worries or concerns please speak to either myself or a member of the team.

The year ahead is going to be extremely challenging for all of us for a number of different reasons. Our school is due an Ofsted Inspection which will definitely happen either this academic year or next. Although we are rated 'Outstanding' at the moment – the inspection framework is totally different to the one we went through in 2013. As a result, the criteria and inspection process is totally different and I will share more about this with you in due course.

Although an inspection is imminent, everything we do at Stanhope Barrington, we do for our children and not for Ofsted and I have done everything I can to reassure the team that I do not want them to feel under undue pressure or stress just because we are expecting an inspection.

Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Learning Trust is a company limited by guarantee (company number [10847279](#)) and exempt charity registered in England and Wales at Cuthbert House, Stonebridge, Durham, DH1 3RY



We need to continue to do what we do every day and I am confident that any inspector will see what an amazing school and team we have in Stanhope.

In addition, like everyone else, we are facing an insurmountable increase in our energy costs which have already doubled even before the increase in October. At the moment we are spending in excess of £25,000 on gas and electricity and this is set to rise in October. We are watching closely to see what action the government will take to support schools through this difficult period.

We have introduced some changes this year with a relaunch of Breakfast Club (please see the website for more information). We are opening at 7.30am, offering a wider menu and lots of exciting and fun activities each day. We have frozen the price at £3 per child per session and are offering a week of childcare for the price of 4 days.

Over the next day or two we will be sending out details of our After School Club provision which is planned throughout the year. Parents & carers can book their child into clubs now for the rest of the year to secure places. We have worked really hard to secure some different clubs in response to our pupil voice survey and parent survey in the summer term and have some really great clubs coming up.

To help parents and carers to plan ahead, I will be issuing a list of events with dates and times already organised throughout the year. These can also be found on the calendar section of our website. There will be other events or activities which crop up and you will be notified of these as they occur giving as much notice as possible.

Finally, I would like to invite you all to our Welcome Back Information Fair on Monday 12th September at 3.30pm where you can learn more about the school, our Learning Zones and Superpowers and how you can get involved – please see the more detailed letter on the website.

The whole team are really looking forward to the year ahead and although it is only our first day back – we are already off to a flying start.

Yours sincerely

Mrs D Cross

Mrs D Cross
Head Teacher