



Lambourne Close, Bournmoor, Houghton-le-Spring, DH4 6HF 0191 3854291
e-mail: bournmoor@durhamlearning.net web: www.bournmoor.durham.sch.uk




Our **Value of the Month** for May is **SELF-BELIEF** and for June is **RESPECT**




Newsletter – May and June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the Summer term where the weather hopefully will get warmer and we will soon be able to get on the field every day, which children greatly enjoy. This is always a busy term, especially with SATs for Year 6, the Phonics Test for Year 1 and the Year 4 Multiplication Check. The Year 6 children worked so hard during SATs tests last week and we are very proud of their dedication. The dates for the next tests (Phonics Test and the Year 4 Multiplication Check) are at the end of this newsletter. We will have a Parents' Evening on Tuesday 7th July and a text to book this will follow so you can discuss your child's progress and attainment this year. Prior to this you will receive your child's end of year report so please book an appointment if you would like to discuss it.

We wish Miss Hartley a wonderful maternity leave! 


Miss Hartley will be starting her maternity leave at the end of this week and we all wish her the very best of luck. We look forward to sharing her happy news when the baby arrives in June. The children have been wonderful in Year 3/4 and Miss Hartley says they have been very helpful. A letter has been text out today to all Key Stage 2 parents with the arrangements for Miss Hartley's maternity cover, organised by Mr Seaton. Thank you for all the kind words and best wishes she has received.

Dusty Boots Tour for Y5/6 – Tuesday 2nd June 

Our Year 5/6 pupils have been invited by Bellway Homes to visit the site of the current house building. The aim of the tour is to find out all about construction, house building and safely visit the current works being completed. We are excited to visit Bellway Homes site as it allows our pupils to find out more about future careers. This tour will take place on Tuesday 2nd June. Children will walk across to the site with school staff to be met members of the Bellway team.

World Cup Lunch from Chartwells – Friday 12th June 

The World Cup starts this year on 11th June and to celebrate this Chartwells are providing a themed lunch. We are having this on Friday 12th June and children can come in sports wear or football kits on this day. If your child is on packed lunch and they would like a school dinner on that day, please contact the school office.

Sports Day – 30th June 

This year our sports day will be on Tuesday 30th June starting from 9am. On that day, children can come to school in sports clothes wearing a t-shirt in their team colour. After the class registers are taken, the children come outside to the school field to begin their competitive track and field events. If you are unsure of your child's team colour, you can ask the class teacher or phone the office. Each year we hold a race for parents so remember to wear your trainers if you want to take part!

Summer Fair – 1st July 

Our summer fair this year is on Wednesday 1st July from 3.15pm. For parents who have been before, it will be the same routine i.e. collect your child after school then come and join us on the school field. We hope to have sunshine this year otherwise it will be in the school hall after you have collected your child. We have booked Candy Entertainment to provide the bouncy castles as usual and along with this we have stalls, games, refreshments, etc. We hope you can all come along to this popular annual event. Nearer the time we will be asking for donations of toys for our stall and even closer to the day for donations of cakes for us to sell. If you have previously had a stall at our fair, or have a business and would like enquire about having a stall on the day, please contact the office.

Social Media Use 

We kindly remind all parents and carers to use social media responsibly when discussing school matters. Concerns or complaints are best addressed directly with the school so that issues can be resolved fairly, respectfully, and effectively. Negative or inappropriate comments on Facebook or other platforms can affect our school community and rarely lead to constructive outcomes. We value the continued support of parents in promoting positive communication and mutual respect both online and offline.

Early Years balance bikes



Children in Early Years will be able to practice using a balance bike in school across the week beginning Monday 6th July. A member of the School Sports Partnership team will bring the balance bikes for us to use all week on our school yard. We know from previous weeks how much the children have enjoyed learning with a coach at the start of the week and then having time to practice.

THANK YOU

Thank you to Lumley Parish funds

We had many fantastic entries to this year's Easter Egg Competition and the winners were announced at the end of last term in assembly. Winners of this Easter Egg competition were given 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize eggs. These egg prizes were bought from the funds kindly donated by Lumley Parish to our school. Here are some of the winners from this year:



Inclusion Quality Mark Submission



In 2025 we were awarded the IQM Award Centre of Excellence for our commitment to inclusion in our school and this award is assessed annually. Along with Dexter the bear from the IQM Team, we received an additional Bear that the children chose to name Daisy. The bears are handed out each week in Achievement Assembly to the class that has shown the most kindness. We are now reapplying for the IQM in 2026 and we have the date that the assessor will be visiting our school which will be on 23rd June and we look forward to that.



Curriculum grids and policies – summer term



The Curriculum grids for each class can be found on our website and these show you what your child will be learning across the year in each subject. In the summer term, children start their new topics so please click on the link for the grids: <https://bournmoor.durham.sch.uk/our-curriculum/curriculum-content/> Also, our policies are on our website and these can be found by clicking the link below: <https://bournmoor.durham.sch.uk/key-information/school-policies/>

Breakfast and our School Wraparound

Working with the Greggs Foundation, our aim is to provide each child who attends our school with a free breakfast each day. Our free daily breakfast has been going for a while now and is proving very popular. Also, we have our Wraparound Care which means we offer this to parents from 8am to 6pm. The information about this can be found on this link: <https://bournmoor.durham.sch.uk/pupils/school-clubs/>. Bookings for our wraparound are via ParentPay (to be booked in advance) and our school office staff can assist with any questions you have.



End of term disco – Monday 20th July

The summer term ends on Monday 20th July this year so our holidays officially start on the Tuesday. To reward children for all their hard work this year our free end of term disco will be on Monday 20th July for all pupils. This will be a non-uniform day for all children.

Parent Feedback

Later this term we will be sending out our Parent Questionnaires so we can get your valued feedback. We also include questions about our free breakfast and our wraparound so you can give us your opinions on this. We really do appreciate that parents take the time to complete the questionnaires each year and this helps with our next steps and school improvements. It also lets us know what we are doing well so we can continue and build on that success. The questionnaires will come out with the end of year reports.

Attendance and our prize draws

Each week the class with the highest attendance receives Barney Bear as an award. At the end of the year the class with the highest attendance (and pupils with 100%) go on a free trip to reward this achievement. Our aim is that each pupil attends school every day so they can get the maximum from their education in our school. Also, we hand out attendance prizes at the end of each term for children who are in school and on time for our daily draw. Many thanks to our local Tesco at Houghton-le-Spring who donated Easter Eggs to add into our prize bags. We appreciate the kindness shown by our local community. The guidance at the end of this newsletter is from the government regarding absences in term time (including holiday requests) and the fine system.

Key Dates



Our list of school holidays and PD days are available on our school website. You can click on the link below to find them. This will ensure that holidays are taken out of term time to allow your child to attend school. You can also find full details of holiday dates on the Durham County website. School holiday dates and PD days:

<https://www.durham.gov.uk/schoolholidays>

Dates for statutory tests

Year 4 MTC	
2-week period from Monday 1 June 2026	Year 4 multiplication check
Phonics Check	
1-week period from Monday 8 June 2026	Year 1 phonics (and Year 2 phonics retests)

HALF TERM: We close on 22nd May at 3.15pm and we re-open to pupils on Monday 1st June
PD DAY: School will be closed to pupils on Friday 19th June for teacher training day
END OF TERM: We are open on Monday 20th July and close at 3.15pm for the summer holidays
SEPTEMBER START: We are open to pupils on Wednesday 2nd September

Yours sincerely, *L A Snowdon* Mrs Laura Snowdon (Headteacher)

Please see below for attendance information regarding Leave of Absence in Term Time:

Frequently Asked Questions

What does the law say about leave of absence in term time?

It says Head Teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. The associated guidance states the need or desire for a holiday or leave for the purpose of leisure or recreation would not normally be considered exceptional. Head Teachers should determine the number of school days a child can be away from school if the leave is granted.

If my child's school refuses to authorise my term time leave of absence request, will I receive a Fixed Penalty Notice and can I be prosecuted?

Durham County Council's Fixed Penalty Notice Protocol acknowledges that regular and punctual attendance at school is both a legal requirement and essential for pupils to maximise their educational opportunities.

Penalty Notices are issued in accordance with the national framework and local code of conduct. Penalty Notices can be issued in circumstances where **10 unauthorised absence sessions (a session being a morning or afternoon registration period) have been recorded in any 10 school week period**. You can be prosecuted if you receive a fixed penalty notice and it is not paid.

Under the Education Act 1996, parents commit an offence if they fail to ensure their child's regular school attendance. Taking a child out of school for a leave of absence without permission, and where the absence amounts to 10 sessions or more of unauthorised absence in a 10 school week period is viewed as failing to ensure your child's regular attendance at school.

Payment of a Penalty Notice, where offered, is an alternative to prosecution by discharging liability for the offence. If unpaid, prosecution for the original offence under the Education Act can follow. A fixed penalty notice can be issued to **each person**

with parental responsibility for the child / children who are deemed liable for the offence / offences, but usually to the parent or parents who have allowed the absence.

Who has parental responsibility for a child?

The Department for Education (DfE) state a parent means:

- All **natural parents**, whether they are married or not;
- Any person who **has parental responsibility** for a child or young person; and,
- Any person who **has care of a child or young person i.e. lives with and looks after the child.**

The DfE further state: '**generally parents include all those with day-to-day responsibility for a child.**'



Fixed Penalty Notices for irregular attendance at school Important information for parents

1 Overview

Penalty notices are issued as an alternative to prosecution where parents have failed to ensure their child attends school regularly. They can be used in cases where absence has not been authorised by a head teacher.

The notices are used to prevent the need for court action, for example, when support has not been engaged with or is not appropriate (for example, leave of absence during term time). **Changes from September 2024 are shown below.**

2 Leave

Head Teachers are unable to grant leave of absence during term time unless there are **exceptional circumstances**.

Generally, a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation **would not** constitute an exceptional circumstance.

3 Absence

A Fixed Penalty Notice may be issued if there are **5 days / 10 sessions** of absence in a period of **10 school weeks** (where absence has not been authorised).

A notice may be issued where the 5-day level of absence has not been reached, for example, if there are several periods of leave.

4 Amount

Within a 3-year period:

The first penalty notice is **£160** if paid within 28 days, reduced to **£80** if paid within 21 days.

A second penalty notice is **£160** to be paid within 28 days.

A third penalty notice cannot be issued. **Legal action** may result (for example, prosecution).

For further information please see Durham County Council website page on school attendance or email AIT@durham.gov.uk