Belmont
Cheveley Park
Primary School

Scardale Way
Belmont
Durham
DH1 2TX

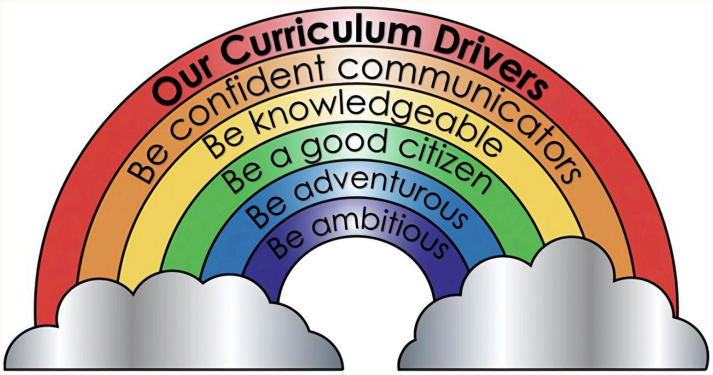
0191 386 9494
cheveleypark@durhamlearning.net

September 2026 Newsletter

Welcome back to a new school year and a very warm welcome to our children and families who are just starting with us.



At the beginning of every year, it's always useful to share our Curriculum Drivers and school rules as these underpin what we teach, why we teach it and what our expectations of all children are. Assemblies, Star of The Week awards and Team Points all revolve around these themes and as the year progresses, our children become more familiar with them.



Our School Rules

1. Care for everyone and everything
2. Show respect
3. Follow instructions the first



At school, we continue to place a strong emphasis on developing the basic skills that underpin all learning, particularly reading, writing, speaking and listening, and mathematics. These essential skills provide children with the confidence and foundations they need to succeed across the curriculum and beyond.

We know that children make the greatest progress when school and home work together and we appreciate any support you provide at home, whether that is reading with your child, practising number facts, learning spellings and encouraging good handwriting, or simply talking about their learning and celebrating their achievements.

KEY POLICIES



Over the summer, many of our statutory policies have been updated and small additions or changes have been made to some. All of the policies where there have been changes, or which are pertinent to parents and carers at this time of year, are mentioned in this newsletter - with links to the full documents. Don't forget, however, that our **key policies** can all be found on the school website.

UNIFORM POLICY



Very little has changed within our **Uniform Policy** but clarifications have been made around personal appearance particularly regarding make-up and nail varnish. *Make-up is not to be worn at all and neither are false nails, acrylic nails or nail varnish. Hair colours and hairstyles should be within the normal and natural range – no extreme hairstyles are allowed. Children may wear one small pair of plain stud earrings; however, these must be removed for all PE, sporting activities and swimming. Earrings must not be taped over or covered with plasters as an alternative to removal. Senior staff will contact parents and carers if they feel these expectations are not being met.*

PACKED LUNCH POLICY



Our **Packed Lunch Policy** has been reviewed but no changes have been made. A polite reminder regarding acceptable packed lunch contents and snacks:

In order to ensure the nutritional quality of packed lunches, please do not send sweets or chocolate bars into school – but chocolate biscuits and small cakes are acceptable, as these are in line with the school dinner policy.

In order to ensure the nutritional quality of snacks (to be eaten at playtimes), please do not send sweets, crisps or chocolate bars into school. These items will be taken off children and returned home.

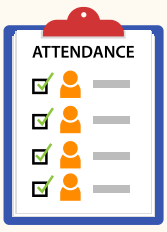
CHARGING POLICY

Our **Charging Policy** includes information regarding children being collected late either from school at the end of the day, an after school club or Tea Club. Last year, this happened on multiple occasions and, following a discussion with the governing board, it was decided that this could be addressed within this policy.

As a further review of the same policy this year, a late booking for any wraparound care (which we are able to accommodate) will now incur a £1 administration charge per child, per session. This includes late booking requests sent by email.

You can avoid the charge by booking directly through Arbor before the booking deadline (1:30PM the day before the session).

ATTENDANCE POLICY



Our **Attendance Policy** derives from a template version provided by the Local Authority and each year there are slight changes and amendments. The updated version can be read in full on our website. The only change to our day-to-day procedures for monitoring attendance relates to where a child has been absent for 5 continuous days (and this is not due to a known holiday in term time). On these occasisons, staff will carry out a home welfare call. This will happen even if parents have kept in touch with the school regularly throughout this time – this is simply to check the child is safe and offer support where needed.

BENEDICT'S LAW

Benedict's Law is new allergy safety legislation and statutory guidance introduced in England.

Our school is committed to complying with Benedict's Law by creating a safe and inclusive environment for all pupils with allergies. Through clear policies, staff training, individual healthcare plans, emergency medication provision and close partnership with families, we will take all reasonable steps to prevent allergic reactions and ensure a prompt and effective response should an emergency occur.

SITE REMINDERS

Just a few reminders regarding the school site and surrounding areas:

- No dogs are permitted on site (this includes puppies and any dogs being carried)
- Our site is a smoke-free zone. Vaping is not permitted either.
- The school car park is for staff only – please do not use the school car park for dropping off or collecting children. Please also remember to park considerately around the neighbouring streets and ensure there is access to the main school gates (this is always needed for emergency vehicles). Thank you very much for your understanding with these.

READING BOOKS



We expect children to bring their school reading book and reading diary in their book bag (or other suitable bag) every day. While children may have certain 'reading days' – staff try to take as many opportunities as they can to provide time for children to read so having their books readily available is ideal. And we kindly ask that children read at home to an adult three times per week and that the adult signs the reading diary. Thanks for your cooperation with this.

'WHAT I WISH MY PARENTS OR CARERS KNEW…': A GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND CARERS ON MANAGING CHILDREN'S DIGITAL LIVES

Parenting today can feel overwhelming - especially when childhood looks so different from what we grew up with. There's no manual, and it can be hard to keep up with the fast-changing digital world your child moves through every day. **This guide** aims to make those conversations easier and help you support your child with confidence.

FRIENDS OF THE SCHOOL







The Friends of the School will, once again, be planning a range of fundraising events for this year and the first to take place will be the Halloween disco on Thursday 22nd October 2026. (Pre-School, Reception & Year 1: 1:30 - 3:00 and Year 2 to Year 6: 3:30 - 5:00). Further information regarding buying tickets will be shared with everyone soon.

HALLOWEEN

AUTUMN TERM DATES

As always, we like to share as many dates with you as possible in advance. While there will be some more to add to the calendar, the majority of our autumn term dates (Christmas plans to follow!) are now booked in and you can find these on our school website by clicking on the following link: **School Calendar** Parents' evenings take place on Monday 3rd and Wednesday 4th November with appointments being able to be booked from 5:00PM on 19th October.

HARVEST COLLECTION

This year, staff in school have decided to donate to our local foodbanks in time for Harvest. We'd love and appreciate it if you could donate too! Please send any non-perishable items (some suggested items are listed below) into school by the end of the day on 19th October. Thank you.



It's been absolutely lovely to see the children settle so well into school this month - I'm already looking forward to the year ahead!