



St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Dipton

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Headteacher: Mrs J Burgess

We follow in Christ's footsteps

1st Nov 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

EQUINE ASSISTED LEARNING PROJECT

At St. Patrick's, we are always looking for new and exciting ways to deliver learning opportunities. As such, I recently applied for a grant to be able to offer an equine assisted learning project to our Year Six pupils as part of their final year at primary school and preparation for secondary school. I am delighted to let you know that our application was successful, and we are able to offer this project free of charge.

Equine assisted learning is a method of using horses to help with learning and coaching. A number of recent studies have shown equine assisted learning to have a positive impact on building confidence, self-esteem and developing positive relationships – all of which are skills that we aim to develop in our children. These sessions use techniques such as observing horses and working on the ground with them. They do not involve riding.

The sessions will be spread throughout the school year and will involve a mixture of work with horses and work at school, in the classroom.

The first session will take place at Holly Riding School, Burnopfield on **Thursday 17th November**. To eliminate any costs, we will walk to the riding school from school. We also ask that children are **collected directly from Holly Riding School at 2:45pm** (to avoid the walk back uphill!)

Children will need to come to school wearing old, **warm**, comfortable clothes. It would be beneficial if they could wear sturdy walking boots or wellies. They will also need a packed lunch and drinks for the day in a rucksack. If your child is entitled to free school meals, school will provide a packed lunch. Please contact the office to let us know if you'd prefer to provide your own.

Please complete the consent form, which has been sent home with your child, and return to school as soon as possible.

Further sessions will take place, throughout the year, in school and at the riding school. Dates of these sessions will follow.

I feel the benefits of this project will be extremely valuable and am extremely excited at the opportunity to offer this worthwhile experience to our children.

Many thanks,

Miss E Parry

IF YOU HAVE DIFFICULTY IN READING OR INTERPRETING THIS DOCUMENT PLEASE CALL 01207 570316

