



Headteacher's Update

Welcome to our first newsletter of this academic year. We trust that you all had a relaxing summer and enjoyed spending time with your children. We are all delighted with the way the children have settled in to their classes and adjusted to new routines. Our new Nursery and Reception children have made a fantastic start and impressed us all with their enthusiasm for school. This week you will have received your invitation to our 'Meet the Teacher' drop in sessions. At these sessions you will have the opportunity to meet your child's teacher, share the curriculum overview for the term, see your child's classroom and view photographs of their first couple of weeks in school. Please complete the return slip by Friday so we can ascertain numbers. If you can't make it, we will forward any information to you.

We have had a lot of work carried out during the school holidays. Our thanks must go to Sunderland Local Authority who has devolved finances outside of our school budget to fund a new main school entrance. This work will be completed by the middle of October.

We will be holding a MacMillan Coffee morning on Friday 25th September at 9.15am - 10.30am to show support for this fantastic charity. Everyone is welcome and I look forward to seeing you all there. Our calendar is very busy once again. All dates for the academic year are shown on our school website and we will continue to keep you updated of further events added.

We are all looking forward to working in partnership with you all this year.

Best wishes

Julia Watkins

School Council 2015-2016

Election campaigns begin next week for children who want to represent their class on the school council. This year, following campaigns and speeches, classes from Year 1-Year 6 will vote for a boy and girl to represent them at meetings throughout the year. Elections take place on Friday 25th September and all councillors will be presented with badges in assembly the following week. Duties this term include supporting our Harvest Festival, Anti Bullying Week activities, helping to run the KS2 tuck shop and helping to organise our Christmas Fair.

Newsletter

News

Attendance Initiative

It is really important that children attend school regularly. We aim for every child to have at least 97% attendance and above. Last academic year our attendance was a fantastic 97.2% matching the previous year. Once again we will be rewarding attendance over the year in a number of ways. Attendance is celebrated every Friday in our Celebration Assembly. The class with the highest attendance receives a certificate of achievement and will also be rewarded by an extended playtime during the following week. We will continue to present termly rewards. Children with attendance of 95%-98% will be awarded a bronze certificate, children with attendance of 98.1%-99.9% will be awarded a silver certificate and children with 100% attendance will be rewarded with a gold certificate and be treated to a VIP lunch in school served by the Headteacher and school staff. This term (from September to the end of term) the VIP lunch will be Italian. The hall will be decorated with balloons, banners and tables will be set with tablecloths, napkins and accessories. Last autumn term we had over 150 children who had 100% attendance and we hope to increase the number of children this term! Children who have attendance of 100% for the whole academic year will be part of a 'Bowling Bonanza' on the very last day of term (20th July). This includes a trip to local bowling alley with snacks and a drink.

In addition to this, the class with the highest attendance for the month will receive a surprise treat. We will have a number of spot week prizes for attendance throughout the year to celebrate attendance. We understand there are times when your child may be unwell and can not attend school, please contact the school office at the beginning of the day so that attendance registers can be accurate and updated for safeguarding purposes. If your child has a medical appointment, please ensure that the letter or appointment card is brought to school. Holidays during term time can not be authorised except in exceptional circumstances as agreed by the Headteacher and Chair of Governors. Please contact the school office with any queries about attendance or with any questions or concerns.

Enjoy a School Lunch

Since the start of last academic year, all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are now entitled to a free school meal everyday. We would encourage all parents/carers to take full advantage of this initiative. All meals are cooked fresh on the school site and provide a nutritious meal for your child. We want to ensure that children have a happy experience with school meals, and we work closely with the Council to encourage children to stay for lunch to try a wide range of foods. If you pay for meals then we request that this is paid in full every Monday morning. The cost is £9.50 per week.

Newsletter

News

Football Tickets

We are delighted that Sunderland AFC has invited school to take advantage of their popular school fundraising initiative for a home league game at the Stadium of Light. You have the opportunity to purchase tickets for the Sunderland v West Ham United game on Saturday 3rd October at 3pm. The price of tickets (one adult and one child is only £20, additional tickets can be purchased for £10 each). If you would like to take advantage of this offer please contact the school office by Wednesday 23rd September.



Bookworm Challenge

Miss Kitchen, Literacy Subject Leader will be overseeing The Bookworm Challenge this year, with all children achieving at least 10 signatures in their reading record to demonstrate reading at home. Everyone successful in this termly challenge will receive a Bookworm pen. This year, as part of our challenge, children will also be competing in their house teams (willow, pine, oak and maple) to win a reward for their team. Each week, the team with the highest percentage in each class will be awarded a coloured leaf for our Blackfell reading tree which will be displayed in our Key Stage 1 hall. At the end of each term, the team with the most leaves on the tree will be rewarded with a treat to be decided by the school council. The challenge begins w/c 21st September 2015. We hope you will continue to support us in our quest to develop a love of reading. Reception children will join this Bookworm Challenge in the Spring term.



Newsletter

Autumn Term 2015

10th September - Reception meet the teacher 2.30pm or 4.30pm
11th September - School photographs
13th September - Washington Carnival Albany Park from 11.00am
14th September - Year 6 meet the teacher 2.30pm or 4.30pm
15th September - Year 3 and 4 meet the teacher 2.30pm or 4.30pm
17th September - Year 1 and 2 meet the teacher 2.30pm or 4.30pm
21st September - Year 5 cycling proficiency
25th September - Macmillan Coffee morning 9am KS1 hall. Everyone welcome.
28th September - Year 6 to visit Nissan
6th October - Year 5 to visit Centre of Life
9th October - Year 2 to visit Washington Library
13th October - Year 4 to visit Bedes World
14th October - Year 6 to visit Beamish Museum
15th October - Year 2 to visit Grace Darling Museum Bamburgh
19th October - Harvest Festival Assembly 9.15a.m Reception parent/carers welcome to attend.
19th October - 22nd Book Fayre in school
20th October - Parent consultations 3pm-6pm
21st October - Parent consultations 3pm - 5pm
26th October - 30th October - Half term
2nd November - School closed Inset Day
3rd November - School reopens for children
9th November - Phonics meeting for Reception and Year 1 parents 2.30pm or 4.00pm
10th November - Year 2 class assembly 9.15am parents/carers welcome
13th November - Children in Need (cake sale)
16th November - Anti Bullying Week
19th November - Friendship Disco
20th November - Non uniform Day - Wear blue and bring a donation for Christmas Fair
23rd November - Anti Bullying production Y1-Y6
24th November - Movie night (whole school)
1st December - Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 to Washington Art Centre to see Snow Child
3rd December - Nursery and Reception Christmas production 2pm
4th December - Nursery and Reception Christmas production 9.15am
4th December - Christmas Fair 2pm-4pm
8th December - Year 5 and Year 6 Christmas Carol Service 2pm
9th December - Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas Carol Service 2pm
11th December - Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas Production 9.15am and 2pm
14th December - Nursery and Reception Party 1pm (no nursery session in morning)
15th December - Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas Party 1.15pm
16th December - Year 5 and Year 6 Christmas Party 1.15pm
18th December - Last day of Autumn term 100% attendance lunch
4th January - School closed - Inset Day
5th January - School reopens for children
*Year 3 to visit Bowes Museum - date to be confirmed