



Wylam First School

Rocketing to success

Newsletter 2
03.10.22

Dear Parents/Carers

It is October already and the summer now feels like a distant memory, especially with the change in weather and the dark nights drawing in!

I have been incredibly impressed with how the children have settled back into school and how hard they are working. The year 4 children are taking on extra roles to support the wider school and are proving to be extremely trustworthy and responsible. The Student Council has now been elected and their first task is to evaluate the school's behaviour policy and prevention of bullying policy, along with planning our **Friendship Week** which will take place between 15th and 18th November. Our Play Leaders continue to work hard supporting active lunchtimes and our extra-curricular programme is now up and running.

It was lovely last week to welcome parents into school for our Literacy workshop. We hope that you found this useful. We have a Maths workshop arranged for 9 November which will follow the same format, so we hope you can join us for this. We also hope that you will be able to join us for our Harvest Festival this year. Further information about the event can be found below.

News

New To meetings

Thank you to everyone who attended our New To meetings at the beginning of term. I hope that you found them useful. The purpose of the meetings was for you to get to know your child's new class teacher and hear key information for the year ahead. The presentations have been uploaded to the website (pupil section, click on your child's class). This is where you will also find the curriculum information for the term ahead, homework challenges and class newsletter.

Playground equipment is open!

On Friday the day finally came when we were able to open our new playground equipment. Abbie, who helped raise a considerable amount of money towards the project, was our guest of honour and opened the equipment for us. Most children were able to have a try before the rain came!

As you will imagine this type of equipment requires a robust risk assessment. This is in place during school hours and the use of the equipment will be supervised at all times. As the equipment is for primary aged children (Reception - Y6) there are some pieces of apparatus that younger children are unable to access. This has been explained to the children. We are also currently waiting for a few adaptations to some pieces of the apparatus so that it can be accessed by all.

We are responsible for the safety of the children using the apparatus during school hours but before and after school it is essential that parents monitor their child if they are playing on the equipment. Thank you for your support with this.

Reading workshop

Thank you to all who attended our Literacy workshop last week. There was a fantastic turn out. The main focus

of the workshop was to look at how we teach reading throughout the school. Don't worry if you were unable to attend. All of the information will be uploaded to our website this week (click on curriculum then Literacy). This week you will also receive information regarding our online reading library where you will be able to access the reading book your child is reading in school.

Reading helpers

If you have any spare time and would like to come into school to listen to the children read and share books with the children then please contact the school office or Ms Dodds directly.

Break the Rules Day

On **Monday 31st October** we will be holding a Break the Rules Day. This is the first fundraising event for the PTA. Children can choose to come to school breaking the usual school uniform policy. This can mean that they choose to wear fancy dress, colour their hair, wear non-school uniform - anything goes! As it is Halloween, children may also choose to come to school dressed in their Halloween costumes. Any rule breakers will be asked to pay £1 to take part. More information regarding this will follow. Just make sure you don't tell Mrs Gibbon!

Y1 Theatre Trip

Last week our Y1 children went to see 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea' at the Theatre Royal. They had a wonderful time and were very excited to tell me all about it when they got back to school. I have also been extremely impressed with the writing they have done whilst studying this book. The stories they have created have been amazing!

Harvest Festival

We have planned our Harvest Festival for **Tuesday 18th October**. We would like to welcome all parents to come along and celebrate with us. We are going to follow the same format as last year. Our Y4 children will run the event, as part of their allotment curriculum, which links to Science and DT. The children will prepare some delicious soup from our vegetables, apple juice from our apples and serve this to you on the day, along with some bread and tea and coffee, for a donation to our allotment project. They will also lead the Harvest Festival with readings while each year group sings harvest songs. The event will take place in the main yard, weather permitting, from 1:30pm.

Along with this we are collecting donations for the West End Food Bank which can be brought along on the day. We are all very aware of the hardships families are facing at this difficult time so any donations towards this collection would be regretfully received.

Information

PTA Update

The PTA held its first meeting of the term to set out plans for the year ahead. It was lovely to see so many new faces at the meeting. This year the focus for the PTA will be to help fund reading resources. We are looking to improve our home reading book library to link with our new phonics scheme, and also create topic resource boxes for each of our curriculum areas. Already there are a range of events being planned to support fundraising for this. The PTA will also be launching the '**give a book campaign**' again this year. This was incredibly successful last time we ran it and focused on improving classroom libraries with a range of books that celebrate diversity.

At the meeting we discussed something called The **WILD Passport**. Please see the description below: *The **WILD Passport** is a skill, knowledge and competency based outdoor learning curriculum and progression monitoring system. Providing a five year curriculum, the WILD Passport has 125 Learning Outcomes split over five separate competencies to take learners from the very foundations of woodland skills right through to an advanced level.* [The WILD Passport](#)

We have been looking at this to compliment and improve our outdoor learning programme. After discussions at the meeting, Rebecca Robson explored funding for such projects and has managed to secure £400 of funding towards the purchase of the passports. Brilliant!

NSPCC assemblies

Over the coming weeks we will be holding our NSPCC assemblies entitled **Speak Out, Stay Safe**. The **Speak Out, Stay Safe** programme aims to help children understand abuse in all its forms and to recognise the signs of abuse in a child friendly way. Children are taught to speak out if they are worried, either to a trusted adult or Childline. You will receive a letter shortly outlining the programme with links to the online resources. If you have any concerns or would like to discuss this with school then please contact Mrs Gibbon.

Spellings

Some parents mentioned at the Literacy workshop that they would appreciate having the weekend to practise spellings. Currently the new spellings are introduced on a Monday and sent home for the children to practise. The test takes place on a Friday. If you would like to receive the spelling list on a Friday then please contact the class teacher who will either upload the spellings onto Google Classroom or give you a paper copy. The spelling book will continue to come home on a Monday.

Macmillan Cake Sale

Thank you to everyone who braved the rain and wind to come along to our cake sale on Friday and to all who donated cakes. We managed to raise £180 for the charity which is fantastic. Thank you to the Y4 pupils who stayed behind after school to run the sale. Well done!

National Tutoring Programme

We have been allocated a sum of money through the National Tutoring Programme to support pupils to consolidate their learning. This will begin after the October half term and will run for a period of 5 weeks. We will inform you shortly if your child has been identified and what your child will be working on.

Reminders

PE Kit

Just a reminder that there is an expectation that children wear our school PE kit for PE lessons. Information about this can be found on our school website. Football strips, even if they are blue, are not part of the school PE kit and should not be worn. Thank you for your support with this matter.

Sickness

If your child has a sickness bug, please ensure that they remain at home for 48 hours after the last episode of sickness. This is to prevent the spread to other children.

Head Lice

It hasn't taken long for the return of this little pest! To try to combat the spread of head lice please can we ask that all long hair is tied up for school and that hair is checked regularly. If head lice are spotted please treat the hair immediately. Once hair is treated the child can come into school. If we spot head lice in school we will ask you to collect your child to treat their hair. They can return to school as soon as this is done. Thank you for your support with this.

School Calendar

Tuesday 4th October	Newcastle University workshop - Y3 The Big Bang
Tuesday 18th October	Harvest Festival 1:30pm (parents invited)
Thursday 20th October	Last day of ½ term

Friday 21st October	Teacher training day
Monday 31st October	Back to school Break The Rules Day
Tuesday 1st November	Parents Evening
Thursday 3rd November	Parents Evening
Wednesday 9th November	Maths parent workshop
Christmas 2022	
Monday 12th December	KS2 Christmas performance 9:30am KS1 Christmas performance 1:45pm
Tuesday 13th December	EYFS Christmas performance 9:30am
Wednesday 14th December	KS1 Christmas performance 9:30am EYFS Christmas performance 1:45pm
Thursday 15th December	KS2 Christmas performance 1:45pm
Friday 16th December	Christmas Lunch + Christmas Jumper Day
Monday 19th December	EYFS Christmas Party
Tuesday 20th December	KS1 Christmas Party
Wednesday 21st December	KS2 Christmas Party
Friday 23rd December	End of term Christmas Service 1:30pm Last day of term
Monday 9th January	Teacher training day
Tuesday 10th January	Back to school

Best wishes.

S Gibbon
Head Teacher