



## Allendale Primary School End of Term Newsletter

We actually chose a sunny day to hold Sports day! Thank you to all the supporters and well done to all the competitors.

The Skylark and Barn Owl beach day has been rearranged for Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September - something for the present Y1 and Y2 children to look forward to in the first week back. Unfortunately we can't control the weather and it was a cold, wet, miserable day when they should have gone which would have spoiled their enjoyment and limited the activities. We were unable to arrange it for another day this term due to the tide times and Mr Hopper's prior commitments.

Just a reminder that school starts at 8.55am and children can arrive from 8.45am when a member of staff is on duty. Children should not arrive in the EYFS unit or playground before 8.45am as they will be unsupervised.

All parents and carers will have received their child's annual school report. Please could all reply slips to acknowledge receipt be sent to school by Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July.

If you would like to order milk for the Autumn term and have not already done so, please could you let Mrs Clarke know by Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July.

We are holding a short concert next Wednesday afternoon at 2.30pm - nothing fancy! This is mainly to perform some of the songs which Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6 learnt for the Haydon Bridge Schools singing festival but Reception, Y1 and Y2 will be joining in and singing some songs as well. Parents or friends are very welcome to come along. As it will be near the end of the school day, children will be able to go home straight after the concert but class teachers or Mrs Clarke must be informed if there is someone else collecting your child.

The Y6 leaver's assembly will be on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July at 9.15am; parents welcome; on the subject of Y6, well done to all the Y6 who have achieved so well in the very challenging SAT tests this year.

Sadly Mrs Koranteng will be leaving us at the end of term to pursue a different career. She will be missed by the children and staff. In happier news, Miss Guttridge is expecting a baby in 2018, congratulations to her.

For September, children should bring their reading books and records/ home - school diaries in a reading folder or plastic wallet. More children are now bringing big bags / satchels and we simply don't have room to store them. On a similar note, PE kits need to be in a PE kit drawstring bag or similar small soft bag. This is so that they can be stored safely in the new PE drawers in the cloakroom or in lockers in Curlew and Kestrel Classes. This is to prevent any accidents where children fall over / slip on kit on the floor or big bags which end up on the floor.

In line with the latest advice from the Education Welfare Officer, we will no longer be able to authorise any **prolonged or frequent** medical absences unless proof of a doctor's appointment, medication etc. is provided.

Thank you to all the parents who have returned the recent snapshot survey; your responses really do help in shaping what we do in school. We had 28 surveys returned; results as follows:

**Communication:**

100% receive the monthly newsletter.

97% read it each month, 3% sometimes read it.

74% rarely visit our website, 17% visit it monthly and 9% weekly. *(It is a legal requirement that we have a website and certain information has to be available there).*

74% know that we have an events calendar on the website.

87% stated that e-mail is the most effective way to be informed about events. *(At least this prevents paper copies going astray!)*

67% thought that an outdoor noticeboard would be useful. *(If we were to have one, only notices / reminders that have been sent via email would be displayed so as not to exclude those parents who do not collect their children from school).*

**Curriculum:**

100% thought the open afternoons were useful to share children's work.

75% would like the open afternoons extended for working parents. *( We will look to extend this next academic year).*

36% were aware that every class has termly curriculum information on our website.

32% would prefer French to be taught

32% would prefer Spanish

36% do not have a preference

*(Comments were very positive about the balance we have in the curriculum - not just all about maths and English).*

**Homework:**

89% thought that there was just the right amount of homework

4% too much

7% too little

*(We are in the process of collating all the comments about communication, curriculum and homework and will be looking at how we can make improvements in these 3 areas, especially in the use of home-school diaries and homework diaries and how parents are given feedback about homework.)*

From September, there will be a small increase in the cost of Allstars. **Allstars is a non-profit making service** and we have held the charge at the same level for 3 years but costs have risen quite significantly in the last year which we must address to keep the provision viable. Breakfast Club will be £5.00 per session, with an extra £1.00 for breakfast.

After school club will be £5.00 per hour, with an extra £1 for snacks if required. We will still operate a reduction of £1 for any siblings.

I hope that everyone has a safe and enjoyable summer holiday. We're really looking forward to September and have already started planning and booking activities. Thank you as ever to all parents and families who support the school and make it a happy successful place.

Mrs A Hawkins

Headteacher