



A Small School with a BIG Heart

Ellingham C of E
Primary School

Headteacher's Monthly Update

Buildings

We hosted a 'Builder's Tea' this week for the pupils and staff to say 'thank you' to our builders for making us such a great, new hall ahead of schedule.

Our Early Years pupils will be saddest to see their builder friends leave - and I'm sure some of the builders will miss their enthusiastic apprentices too!

We will be holding an 'official' opening at 10 am on Friday 8th September. We will have a brief singing performance by the pupils and ribbon cutting with Lady Belinda Gadsden. We hope that some of you may be able to join us.

Staffing

Over the last couple of weeks, we have been able to have Mrs Blyth and Mrs Dodds (two of our new teachers) join us to prepare for next academic year - you may have met them at Sports Day. The teaching staff will have a planning meeting this week to prepare topic information etc. so we can update the creative curriculum information on the website and holiday homework tasks.

Miss Pringle is still unable to return to work in September - we wish her well as her second pregnancy progresses.

Josie, unfortunately, will spend the summer with her broken leg in a plaster cast - we wish her a full, speedy recovery. I would like to give a huge thank you to Mrs Lester and Brenda Frier for keeping the kitchen running smoothly.

Mrs Wilkinson 'semi-retires' on Friday, but will be with us for 3 afternoons each week until she fully retires in December. We will all miss having her here with us full-time.

Feedback

Thank you to everyone who completed a questionnaire - we appreciate your feedback.

93.3% of responses were entirely positive in all areas.

6% had at least one negative response or 'don't know'.

3% had three negative responses. (30 questionnaires returned)

Recent Actions

You requested a clearer homework strategy - an updated policy and procedures was adopted and is having a particularly positive impact in Key Stage 2, where pupils are clearer about expectations and sanctions, such as having their student planners signed.

You expressed concerns (along with us) to school transport, about the level of support pupils were receiving on one of the mini-buses - this has resulted in the contract being removed and changes in place for next year.

You asked for effective communication routes - monthly headteacher updates were established, along with a parent governor e-mail contact.

You asked us to increase competitive sports and PE - I have worked with Alnwick Partnership PE subject leaders to increase the number of regular inter-school competitions throughout the year, as well as some additional football matches. This will be further extended next year, with hopefully a football and rugby mini-league system in place. We will, of course, all benefit from our new Hall for PE, music, drama etc.

Future Developments

Adventurers will resume in our new Hall later in the autumn term, but with a change of day. It will be on **Wednesdays** from 9-10 am, with Linda Turner (our Early Years Governor) helping to set-up and lead the sessions. Start date to be confirmed.

Once our new Hall is in use, I am hoping to explore the possibility of offering some out-of-school provision before and after school. Perhaps a term-time homework club; a breakfast club or a games club etc.? Please let me know what you think.

Many thanks,

Diane Lakey July 2017