



A Small School with a BIG Heart

Ellingham C of E
Primary School

Autumn Term 2017
Newsletter 1



Welcome back to our 'new' Primary School and especially to our new starters, including Mrs Jenny Blyth and Mrs Jill Dodds. This term our Creative Curriculum is Fighting Fit. The children will be accessing a variety of exciting health and fitness activities.

We finally have our new hall. Thank you to the parents, governors and visitors who joined us last week in celebrating the opening.

Just a reminder that we start school at 8.55am, the front door locks and registers close at 9.00am, with the first lesson starting promptly then. Many thanks to those parents who bring their children by car who are now arriving more promptly.

We are delighted with the enthusiastic start that all of our new pupils have made to this exciting, new school year. We want you to feel part of our school community, so please let us know how we can be of help. Thank you for your support in sending your children smartly dressed in their uniforms and well prepared to learn.

A warm welcome to our new parents throughout the school. Please ask us if anything is unclear. Queries can be dealt with quickly by Kathy in the office or an appointment can be made if you would like to see a teacher. We have an open door policy and are always happy to help.

R - Y2 continue to have free school meals as part of the new government initiative.

Lunch costs this term have changed. As you are aware there is an increase to £2.30 per day and Y5 and 6, £2.60 per day.

For Y3, Y4 and Early Years the cost is £11.50 per week. £75.90 for the first half of the term, £92.00 for the second half and £167.90 for the whole term.

For Y5 and Y6 the cost is £13.00 per week. £85.80 for the first half of the term, £104.00 for the second half and £189.80 for the whole term.

Please pay milk money, £12.85 per child, on Monday if you have not already done so. Milk remains free for all the children who are under 5 and is available to all children at lunch time as an alternative to water.



Y1 - 4 are swimming this year. There will be a total of 14 swimming lessons this term at a cost of £4.00 per session. We are now subsidising swimming ourselves. We are very grateful to those parents who pay on a regular basis and would ask those parents that are struggling to at least make a donation. No earrings are permitted for PE or swimming. Please make sure your child can take their earrings out themselves. If they have only just been pierced please speak to Kathy if you have not already done so.



It is extremely helpful if **EVERY** piece of clothing is named (**including pants, socks and shoes**) and that the younger girls are not wearing tights. It is very difficult to help the children get dressed quickly after the lesson if they can't remember what they were wearing and nothing is named!

The Fairtrade healthy tuck shop is open on Thursday lunchtimes, so that snacks and drinks can be purchased to eat after swimming or PE. Geobars cost 50p and fruit juice 50p

We continue to be able to donate the proceeds to our linked school Kazinga in Uganda. The Y5 and 6's will be responsible for running it.

The facility of large arrears on lunch money that are settled at the end of the term is, unfortunately, no longer available. Lunches will need to be paid on a weekly basis, or half termly / termly up front. Any lunches not taken will be credited to the next term.

Please have a PE kit in school. Always bring a coat. Don't forget your kit if you are swimming on Thursdays. Please stay away from school for 48 hours if you have been sick or have diarrhoea.

For those children bringing a packed lunch from home, please remember we have Healthy School status. Please try and make the lunch as healthy as possible. No fried snacks, fizzy drinks or sweets will be allowed. Please get in touch if you are not sure what you can send. We no longer need to be a nut free school, we will let you know if this changes.

We apologise that there is currently no cold lunch option, we will let you know when this will be resumed.

We are very happy to accommodate medically diagnosed allergies when cooking for your children - we now have a form to ascertain the medical diagnosis and the severity of the allergy. Please ask Kathy for the form.



All money needs to be sent in to school on a Monday morning in a clearly marked envelope detailing what you are paying - please do not send in loose cash with a child who has just been told 'give it to Kathy', or cheques that have no indication of what they are paying! In future any payments received like this will be returned as they take too long to process.

All cheques, unless advised otherwise, need to be payable to Northumberland County Council.

You are able to pay in school or over the phone with your credit or debit card. This facility is only available on a Tuesday.

We have started a sports club in school on a Tuesday lunchtime- run by Paul Yeadon and/or Callum. The club will be open to a rolling programme of Key Stages and we will let the children know. Further sports club provision will be finalised shortly.

Together Time, an afterschool club which involves bible based stories arts and crafts for R - Y6 will start again next week and has been moved to a **Thursday** after school. Due to the change of day please let Kathy know if your child will still be attending. **IF YOUR SCHOOL TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS ARE CHANGING BECAUSE OF A CLUB PLEASE LET YOUR DRIVER KNOW. There will be no Together Time on Thursday October 19th; instead, we will be holding our Harvest Festival Service at Ellingham Church at 6pm.**

IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH THE DRIVER. THE MORNING TIMINGS ARE VERY TIGHT. DRIVERS CAN ONLY WAIT A LIMITED AMOUNT OF TIME SO AS TO AVOID UNNECESSARY WAITING TIMES, PLEASE ALWAYS LET YOUR DRIVER (OR ANOTHER PARENT AT THE SAME STOP) KNOW IF YOUR CHILD IS NOT GOING TO BE ON THE BUS. PLEASE DO NOT ASK YOUR DRIVER TO PICK UP FROM A DIFFERENT PLACE OTHER THAN THAT DESIGNATED BY COUNTY. THE DRIVERS VEHICLES ARE TRACKED!

Your child's access to all of our online resources, eg. Active Learn and School 360, is all done now by one username and password. This is usually username: first name . surname, passwords start with a capital letter and end in 1. Your child will be given a reminder card within the next couple of weeks.

Uniform can be easily ordered online from www.border-embroideries.co.uk

There is a free delivery service to school once a month or you can pay the postage to your address for a quicker delivery. We encourage our pupils to be smartly dressed with grey trousers / skirt and a school hoodie or sweatshirt. Please could the children wear sensible school shoes. This portrays a smart image and identifies the children easily when we are out of school. Every child must have a school PE kit, including the PE hoodie, it looks much smarter when we are at team events. If your child doesn't have a PE kit in school they will still be taught outside in their uniform and school shoes.

Please **DO NOT PARK IN THE COMPOUND NEXT TO THE CAR PARK THIS IS FOR STAFF ONLY.**

We are working on incorporating this into our car park and will keep you informed. We now have 6 school transport vehicles. 2 of these vehicles need to park in the school car park in the afternoons, so please kindly give them priority.

The front of the school is for the use of the school transport **ONLY** at the start and end of the day, to arrive and depart safely. The disabled bay is in regular use by parents and volunteers who have been awarded disabled badges.. Be advised

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that from next week, for two weeks, the staff may not be able to park in the compound due to the access road being closed. This will put additional pressure on the parking and we ask you to be vigilant, patient and put the safety of the children first.

All Newsletters, texts and other important letters will be sent electronically unless a hard copy is requested. Please speak to Kathy. It is your responsibility to update your details in ParentMail PMX so that you receive them. We have no access to your information and cannot make any changes.

If you have not yet sent the orange annual permission slip back into school, please do so as a matter of urgency.

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