



Friday 3rd November 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

This has been our first week back after half term. I know that many of you were involved with school during the holiday. There was a great turnout for the Comic Workshop with Seven Stories as part of the Juice Festival at the beginning of the week. Lots of children and their families also visited the Great North Museum: Hancock during the holiday to look at the objects they have been exploring in class. I visited on Wednesday and loved seeing the museum full of families from our three schools. The follow on work this week has been diverse and of high quality and I have seen children creating some very interesting writing. Don't forget that you are welcome to come and see the work on the afternoon of Thursday 23rd November from 2pm.

This morning in Golden Assembly we made a film of children singing which will be used within the Concordia project. Some people have been interviewed about the importance of singing in creating a positive school ethos.

We have a little focus on support for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities this week so that people are more aware of how this operates in school. There will be other themes in coming weeks.

Miles Wallis-Clarke
Headteacher



Letter-join at home

We can now offer at home access to Letter-join so children can practice their handwriting at home using the same resources we use in school.

Once logged in, you will be able to watch how to form all the letters of the alphabet using the same style that we use at school. You can then trace over the letters and words on your tablet or print out the worksheets from your PC for real handwriting practice.

We are limited to the number of users who can log in to this account, so please only log in with this username and password/swipe code for your own personal use.

How to log in to Letter-join

DESKTOP AND LAPTOP LOG-IN

Simply go to www.letterjoin.co.uk and log in, using the Desktop log-in boxes, with these details:

User name: hot
Password: spur

Letter-join will work on the following browsers on PCs:

- Google Chrome
- Safari
- Firefox
- Opera

We cannot recommend using Internet Explorer for Letter-join.

IPAD AND TABLET LOG-IN

Go to www.letterjoin.co.uk, select the Tablet Login button and log in using these details:

User name: hot|
Swipe code (starting at top left):



Letter-join will run on the following tablets:

- iPads running at least iOS7 through the Safari browser.
- Windows 8 tablets (8 inch and bigger) using the built-in browser.
- Android tablets (8 inch and bigger) using Google Chrome, Firefox or Opera.

Achievement for All at Hotspur Primary

The leadership of Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) is a key part of my new role as Deputy Headteacher at Hotspur. I work very closely with the **Assistant SEND Coordinator, Harriet Barrie**, to enable all children to make progress so they can achieve their best, become confident individuals and make a successful transition into the next step on their journey. Harriet has a wealth of experience and knowledge working with children with special educational needs and has previously worked at the Percy Hedley Foundation.

As I reflect on what attracted me to this role, I realise that what shone out so brightly was the school's ethos in having high aspirations for the achievement of all pupils and a passionate staff team that carefully matched provision to the needs and strengths of the children they taught, embracing children with SEND. What I quickly came to realise was that beyond the named leaders involved in the day-to-day operation of SEND, all staff members were part of the SEND team striving to ensure equality for all children in accessing a rich and varied curriculum within an inclusive, safe environment. Since starting my new post in September, it didn't take me long to see that Hotspur lives and breathes its vision and core values considering every child as a unique individual and helping them flourish.

Harriet and I work with children who have been identified as having additional needs, alongside their families, teaching staff and other professionals who may become involved. At Hotspur we recognise that parents / carers know their children better than anyone else and value their important role in their child's education.

When an additional need is identified, we work together to consider and provide effective pastoral and teaching approaches, strategies and interventions, plus any appropriate equipment, to ensure that the child's progress is well supported. This information is then communicated to everyone working with the child, including parents / carers as part of a review, written correspondence or during parent/ carer consultations. Some of our current interventions include Memory Magic, ReadingWise, Sound Linkage and Toe by Toe which are skilfully delivered by Teaching Assistants in response to the needs of the children.

The wider SEN team also includes:

Learning and Equalities Champion
Family Support Worker
Lead Thrive practitioner
Kalmer Counsellor

Steve Crosthwaite
Philippa Betterton
Leanne Pearson
Cherylene Forster

Thrive, an approach that identifies and addresses the emotional development needs in children, is becoming increasingly embedded across school. Thrive further develops the learning provision and helps children build resilience and resourcefulness as they engage with learning. Gaining a greater understanding of our children and their needs allows them to have individualised and effective support.

To find out more about our SEND provision please visit the school website.

Kevin McVittie

Friends of Hotspur

You can play an important role in improving our school by becoming an active member of our newly reformed Parent Teachers Association (PTA), Friends of Hotspur.

For many years Friends of Hotspur, operating as a parent/carer led group, have provided the school with invaluable support, funding many of the fantastic opportunities and activities that make our school so unique.

In recent times they have found it increasingly difficult to attract the support needed to fulfil the responsibilities of organising and running regular fundraising events such as the school fairs and discos. The burden seems to have fallen on a very small group of volunteers, who struggle to manage the workload alongside other commitments.

As a result of this Friends of Hotspur, alongside the school and its governors, have taken the decision to have a fresh look at how you can:

- volunteer your time to make a difference in our school community;
- connect with other parents; and
- stay informed.

As a school we would like Friends of Hotspur to have parent/carer representatives from across the age ranges. To increase capacity we would like to name up to 4 parents from each of EYFS, KS1, LKS2 and UKS2; creating a team of around 16 people. This group would work alongside staff members in a PTA format to consider a variety of ways people can get involved.

If you are interested in becoming part of the new team we would like to invite you to attend a meeting next Thursday (9th November) 4.30pm – 6pm. This meeting will be an opportunity to hear more about our plans, develop a team of people and start to plan the upcoming Christmas Fair. If you require childcare to attend the meeting please speak to a member of the school admin team by Tuesday 7th November.

To ensure the Friends of Hotspur becomes an effective and sustainable group it is crucial that members of the team can:

- attend the following meetings across the year (childcare can be provided with advance notice):
 - ⇒ Thursday 8th February 2018 4:30 – 6.00pm
 - ⇒ Thursday 10th May 2018 4:30 – 6.00pm
- take a role in the organisation and preparation of at least 1 key event:
 - ⇒ Christmas Fair - Thursday 7th December 2017
 - ⇒ Spring Disco - Tuesday 13th March 2018
 - ⇒ Summer Fair - Friday 29th June 2018
- encourage other parents and carers to be a part of event preparations.

If you are unable to attend the meeting but would like more information please contact the school by emailing: admin@hotspur.newcastle.sch.uk using 'Friends of Hotspur' as the subject.



Golden Children This Week



Ouseburn Community Centre Annual General Meeting
Thursday
16th November 2017 at 6pm

Come & get involved in your Centre
Come & Find Out what's going on
Let us know what you would like to see at your Centre

Hear about Asset Transfer Progress & how OCC responsibility will be passed from Newcastle City Council to the Centre Trustees

Buffet to follow

All Welcome

Parent Governors Elections

Nomination forms are now available from the school office or on our school website. Nominations will close next Friday (17th November).

Y6 Trip To Northumbria

On Thursday our Year 6 pupils went on an educational visit to Northumbria University to learn about all different aspects of student life. They arrived to a warm welcome and were put into groups with various other schools and allocated a Student Rep to ask lots of different questions and learn a little bit more about what University is like.

They started the session with some games such as 'splat' and 'eyes down thumbs up' to get to know each other better and to warm up they took part in a game of dodgeball.

Next up was a treasure hunt based activity to find out which character stole the trophy! Clues were math based puzzles and also some handwriting analysis to establish the culprit. As a team building exercise there was a bridge to rebuild as the villain had knocked it over. The different groups used different materials such as sticks, straws and pipe cleaners to rebuild the bridge to which our own Hotspur's Got Talent team won a prize for the best bridge. After lunch everyone was shown around the campus and had to list different things beginning with letters of the alphabet from what they had seen. Ella and Scarlett in 6Y had a really enjoyable day to which they "learned how to work together, that you can get a degree if you go to university but that it is very expensive!!" As you can see this was a fun packed day with a brief insight of what it's like to be a student at university.

