



St. Wilfrid's News



September 2018

Welcome back!

It has been a really busy start to the New Year and it has been lovely to welcome everyone back to St. Wilfrids and to say hello to all of our new starters.

We also want to welcome parents to our school. Last year you said you found the meet the teacher night useful but that there wasn't enough time to chat and it was difficult to manage if you had more than one child in school. This year each class will invite parents to an activity afternoon in the next three weeks. We will repeat these afternoons later in the year and will be holding whole school events for parents.

We have a "dates for your diary" list at the end of this newsletter to give you a guide to what is happening- **please remember that we may have to change things and we will let you know if that happens.** You will receive separate invitations for the class events.

You will notice that we have a Sports Day date and a reserve date for next summer. We were disappointed that we had to cancel last year after staff and children had put so much effort into planning the day. We have moved Sports Day earlier and have planned an additional day which we will use if the weather cancels the first date.

Storm Ali

Thank you to everyone for following the changed collection arrangements on Tuesday evening and to Mr Clarke for helping me to manage the car park to ensure everyone left the site safely. I would also like to thank the neighbours who rang school to alert us to the debris flying from rooftops along the lane and the possible danger to our children.

Can I please ask all parents and visitors to report anything that they see regarding safety including any persons on site who you have a concern about, to myself or any member of staff so that appropriate action can be taken?

Health and Safety and Lockdown Practice

Our health and safety governor, Mr. Wilkins carried out a health and safety inspection of the inside of the school building on Wednesday 19th. He will be returning to inspect the exterior and grounds at a later date. As part of his inspection we had a Lockdown Drill. Lockdown happens when there is a threat from outside the building- this can be something as simple as a dangerous dog on the loose to more serious terror related threats. During lockdown all doors are locked, the children are very quiet, the school appears empty and the door and telephone are not answered. In a real situation school leaders are told what to do by the emergency services until the situation is under control. The drill went very well and is one more way in which we keep children safe.

School Lunches

As you may know our lunches are cooked off site and our contract is with the Pax Christi academy group. In the summer they changed contractors and first impressions from the children (and staff) are that the portions are bigger and the choices are better and tastier. There is also an option for a packed lunch where children can choose from a range of sandwiches, fruit and yoghurt and a drink. Children do not have to pre-order and example plates of each meal are on display as they come into the hall so that they know exactly what each meal contains.

Unfortunately the company do not have access to an online ordering and payment system which means that the school has to process all payments manually. Thank you so much for sending the lunch money in envelopes to your child's class teacher. We are looking for an online payment method but we do have to check the security of any internet based system with Northumberland County Council so this may take some time.

First Holy Communion

Fr. Quinn has asked us to include the following;

"First Communion applications have been advertised at church all summer. The closing date of 30th September is approaching.

If you wish your child to make First Communion you need to see Fr. Quinn at St. Wilfrid's Church as soon as possible. **No applications can be accepted after the closing date.** Children in year four and above can apply."

It is essential that all children wishing to make First Communion are registered by 30th September. If your child missed the programme in previous years you can apply this year.

PTA

Our PTA asked everyone what they would like to see as fundraisers and activities this year. We have a range of events over the year and these are on the calendar attached to this newsletter. The PTA are raising money to fund buses for trips for each class so that every child benefits and the cost is kept to a minimum. If we raise additional funds this will be used for equipment for Forest School and the Key Stage Two play areas. If you know of any grants that the PTA can apply for please let us know.

The first fundraiser is next Friday (28th). We are having a non-uniform day -come into school in your own clothes for a small donation.

Links with Blyth Library

Mrs Dooner has been meeting with Blyth Library staff to arrange closer links between the school and the library. **Borrowing from the library is completely free** and we will soon be sending you a form so that all children can join and borrow books.

There are also lots of free activities at the library including a coding computer club. Places are limited but we will be letting you know what is on offer as soon as we find out.

Pupil Voice

We are delighted to announce that our new head girl is Katie Hood and new head boy is Vince Joseph. They will be assisted by deputy head boy and girl Leland Gibson and Ellie Brown.

Our new captains and vice captains of the ten houses were elected last week. They are;

House	Teacher leader	Captain	Vice Captain
St. Bede	Miss Richards	Ruby Reavill	Callum Hetherington
St. Aidan	Miss Hancock	Amelia Hanlon	Summer Soulsby
St. Hild	Mrs Yaqub	Emily Kiggins	Sophia Dalkin
St. Oswald	Mrs Price/Mr Watson	Maisie Anderson	Bella Cruci
St. Margaret Clitheroe	Miss Walker	Gabe Kelly	Liam Barclay.
St. Ebba	Mrs Winter/Mr Winter	Kingslee Guthrie	Saskya Nixon
St. Columba	Miss Jennings	Ellie Mae Dodd	Lewis Tate
St. Ninian	Miss Crammond	Cassie Mc Glen	Lily Stafford
St. Cuthbert	Mrs Wilson and Mrs Langley	Farryl Anderson	Taylor Atkinson
St. Benet Biscop	Miss Pittendrigh	Leah Clouth	Fraser Mc Michael

Children from the top of Key Stage two will also be buddying up with new starters in reception and will be working with them throughout the year.

St. Wilfrid's Toddler Group

Our toddler group meets on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings from 9.00 until 10.15. It is open to under threes and their parents and carers and is very relaxed and friendly. Bring your little ones along and have a chat and a coffee while they play. Thanks to Melissa for running the group.

Uniform backpacks for Key Stage Two

We have been given a limited number of brand new plain black backpacks. These are available **free** from school on a first come first serve basis. Please see the school office if you would like one.

Staff news

Congratulations to Mrs Price and her husband who welcomed their new baby girl last week. Mum and baby doing fine.

Also well done to Mr. Alderson who completed the Great North Run and raised money for Cancer Research.

Dates for your diary

Class	Teacher	Event	Date	Time
			September	
Prudhoe	Mr Watson	Parent afternoon	18th	2.30
Newcastle	Miss Pittendrigh	Parent afternoon	19th	2.30
Durham	Miss Walker	Parent afternoon	20th	2.30
Barnard	Mrs Yaqub	Parent afternoon	25th	2.30
Dunstanburgh	Miss Crammond	Parent afternoon	26th	2.15
Chillingham	Miss Jennings	Parent afternoon	27th	2.30
PTA Non uniform Day	Whole School	Dress in own clothes for a small donation	28th	All day
			October	
Lindisfarne	Miss Hancock	Parent afternoon	3rd	2.30
Bamburgh	Ms King/Mrs Trood	Parent afternoon	2nd	2.30
Warkworth	Mrs Winter	Parent afternoon	4th	2.30
Informal Parent Evening	All classes		16th	3.15-4.15
Spooky Science Day	All classes	Dress up day	23rd	All day.
Fire Service Visit; All classes. Thursday 25 th – times TBA				
PTA Movie Night	All welcome		25th	3.15-5.00
School breaks for half term Friday 26th and returns Monday 5th November.				

			November	
Whole school	Children in Need Pudsey Bear Day	Non uniform, Penny collection.	16th	All day
			December	
PTA Movie Night			6th	3.15-5.00
Nursery, Mitford and Alwick classes (EYFS)		Christmas Performance	10th	1.15
Nursery, Mitford and Alwick classes (EYFS)		Christmas Performance	11th	9.15
Durham, Newcastle and Prudhoe classes		Christmas Performance	11th	1.15
Durham, Newcastle and Prudhoe classes		Christmas Performance	12th	9.15
Key Stage Two		Christmas Performance	12th	1.15
Key Stage Two		Christmas Performance	13th	9.30
Nursery Alwick Mitford classes		Party	Monday 17th	
Journey to Christmas	All house groups.	Performance Liturgy	18th	5.30-7.00
Pantomime	All classes		19th	a.m.
Durham, Warkworth, Chillingham, Barnard			Tuesday 18th	
Dunstanburgh, Bamburgh, Lindisfarne			Thursday 20th	

School closes Friday December 21st and reopens Monday January 7th.

			January	
Formal Parent Evening	All classes	Individual appointments for parents	8th	3.30-6.00
Formal Parent Evening	All classes	Individual appointments for parents	9th	3.30-6.00
			February	
PTA Disco			14th	3.30-4.30 EYFS and KS1 4.45-5.45 KS2

School closes for half term 15th February and reopens Monday 25th February.

			March	
World Book Day	All classes	Dress up	7th	
Formal Parent Evening	All classes	Individual appointments for parents	19th	3.30-6.00
Formal Parent Evening	All classes	Individual appointments for parents	20th	3.30-6.00
PTA Movie Night	All welcome		28th	3.15-5.00
Mother's Day tea party	All welcome		29th	3.15-4.15
			April	
Easter Liturgies	Groups of classes. To be confirmed.		1st-5th	2.30

School closes for Easter Friday April 5th and reopens on **Wednesday April 24th**

			May	
Ford Castle Residential	Year 5		8th,9th, 10th	
Key stage 2 SATs	Year 6		13th-17th	
PTA Movie	All welcome		23rd	

night				
School closes for Summer half term Friday 24th May and reopens Monday 3rd June.				
			June	
Informal Parents Evening	All classes		4th	3.30-4.30
Father's Day Picnic	All welcome		14th	3.15-4.15
PTA Summer Fair	All welcome		25th	3.15-4.30
			July	
Sports Day	All classes except nursery		4th	1.15-3.15
Teacher Training day. School Closed Friday 5th July All day				
Reserve Sports day	All classes except nursery.		9th. <i>Only if first date is cancelled.</i>	1.15-3.15
100% Attendance Trip	Children with 100% attendance.		11th	
Leavers mass and presentation	Year 6 parents		18th	P.m. Time tbc
Year Six Prom	Year Six pupils		18th	6.30-8.30
School closes for summer Friday July 19th.				