



## Allendale Primary School October 2018 Newsletter

### Developments at School

Well, it's lovely to start this newsletter with some good news; we received notification this week that we have been successful in our bid to Northumberland County Council's Healthy Pupil Capital Fund and have been awarded £10,000 to develop our playground spaces. The school Council last year had started to make plans for the playgrounds and that work will now be carried on by this year's School Council.

The Wildlife garden is also undergoing developments with work starting on the pond next week. A dipping platform will also be installed and we've received some equipment for the outdoor classroom

Another ongoing project is the school hall. We have had display boards and our large art work put up and now we need to tackle restoring the wooden floor. If any parents have some expertise in this area, I would welcome your input / advice as to how best to tackle it.

### School Activities

On **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October**, our Y3, 4, 5 and 6 girls and boys cross country teams are going to the Northumberland School's Event in Gateshead. We've got a good tradition of doing well in this competition so good luck to our teams.

Y5 BikeAbility training starts on **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October** until **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October**. Children are welcome to keep their bikes at school for the 3 days.

On **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October**, the PTFA are holding their first social event of the year for the children. Marble Nights consist of various activities that the children can choose to do; if the weather is good, outdoor spaces are used. We would ask that if any reception children would like to attend, a parent accompanies them as it's a bit overwhelming to have so much going on. The PTFA really need help to run and supervise events such as these so if you can spare some time, it would be greatly appreciated.

On **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> October**, Curlew Class will be visiting Killhope Mining Museum.

Mr Ricketts will be training the Year 6 pupils as peer leaders on **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>** and **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October**. After their training, Y6 will be able to run lunchtime sports clubs for the younger children.

Skylark and lapwing Classes will be having a visit from the Northumbria Healthcare nurses who will be holding hand hygiene workshops on **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October**. The Nasal Flu vaccinations will also be given to all children who submitted their consent forms (excludes Year 6) on **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October**.

Curlew Class have a water vole trapping activity, (the water voles are not harmed during this – **it is** part of a conservation project), on **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> October** and **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> October**.

The PTFA are holding a Halloween Disco on **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October**, the last day of this half term. More information will follow about this in due course.

### Parents Evenings – Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> October, Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October

Forms have gone home so that you can choose your preferred evening and appointment timeframe. Please return these forms by Monday 8<sup>th</sup> October so that appointment times can be allotted.

### Harvest Festival

Our Harvest Festival Celebration will be held on **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> October at 1.45pm**. All parents, family members and friends are welcome. There will be a collection on this day for a local charity.

### Jewellery

Children should not wear any jewellery in school other than small plain stud earrings or an analogue / digital watch.

## **PE**

During PE lessons we will be attempting to get outside as much as possible until the weather turns more wintry. Therefore, it is important that all children have the correct PE kit in school for these sessions. In particular, trainers are needed for sport, as these give appropriate support during physical activities. Plimsolls are not suitable for football, rugby and cross-country running which we will be doing this term. Spare socks are vital as feet can get wet when we use the fields.

As the weather gets colder, the children may need navy tracksuit bottoms and a school hoody in addition to the normal PE kit for warmer weather. Children with long hair need to ensure that they can tie it back.

## **Earrings**

During PE lessons, all jewellery must be removed. It is not sufficient to cover earrings with tape as this can lead to a perception of safety and accidents have occurred in other schools where this has been allowed. Teachers are not allowed to take out or replace children's earrings if they are unable to do so themselves, therefore it would be helpful if earrings could be taken out at home on PE days if they are unable to do this themselves.

As an interim measure, if a child has recently had their ears pierced and are unable to remove their earrings they will be permitted to cover them, during the six week healing period only, after which time they will be expected to remove their earrings in order to participate in PE lessons. Teachers will adapt their lessons in order to minimise the risk of injury.

Any parent who intends to get their child's ears pierced is kindly asked to do this at the beginning of the summer holidays from this point forward in order to allow for healing before term starts again.

## **Gymnastics**

The gymnastics club, which runs after school on a Monday, is proving to be extremely popular as always. Many thanks to Mrs Swaile for continuing to give her time to this venture. We are always on the lookout for adults who may be interested in training up to be a gymnastics coach. Anyone who might be interested should contact the school office in the first instance or speak to Mrs Swaile directly about what this involves. There is funding available for a level 1 coaching course, which is not difficult to achieve. Additional qualified coaches would mean that the club could expand its offering to allow for even more pupils to take part.

## **Ordering School Dinners**

Many children are ordering their school dinners on arrival at the classroom in the mornings. This is creating quite a lot of delay at the beginning of the day. The Live Kitchen website allows parents to help their children to order meals from home, saving valuable curriculum time at school. You can order for the whole term in advance. If you are unsure of your login details, please check with Mrs Clarke.

## **Telescope**

The school has super telescope amongst its science equipment which was donated to us last year. As the nights are now drawing in, we would like to offer the opportunity for families to borrow it for a week or so at a time. It is fairly simple to set up and gives excellent views of the moon and stars. If you would be interested, please speak to Mrs Clarke, who will arrange for Mr Vincent to explain the set up for you.

## **Allstars**

Our breakfast and after school club is proving very popular this term. Breakfast Club is currently running from 7.30am and after school club runs until 5.30pm, although again it is extended until 5.45pm Monday to Thursday. After school activities vary each night including arts and crafts and sports hall activities. To register your child or book into Allstars, please contact Mrs Clarke in the school office.