

Shaftoe Trust Primary School Newsletter



January 2018



Happy New Year!!!

I'd like to start by saying a huge welcome to Mrs Dubery who is on secondment to us from Prudhoe West for two terms to replace Mrs Underdown. We hope she will be very happy with us and enjoy her time at Shaftoe. A big welcome, too, to the new children and their parents who have recently joined our school. All the new nursery children are beginning to get used to the idea of being at school and are finding their feet with Mrs Miller and the EYFS team! We hope all the parents will feel welcome and we shall try to introduce you to all the things we do at Shaftoe as the year goes by. Please shout up if you don't understand something, though. We are always happy to explain our ways. Mrs Miller will be planning sessions for new parents as the term goes by and you will be given good advance notice of these. We hope to see you at some of the school wide events that are planned for this term.

Mrs Underdown

Mrs Underdown has asked me to pass on her heartfelt thanks to everyone for their good wishes for a happy retirement. She was overwhelmed by the kind comments in cards and the gifts and much appreciated the thought that went into them. She will be doing bits of supply for us when that fits conveniently around looking after her Mum and also she plans to come and hear readers or help out with raffles so we will be keeping in touch. As many of you know, as well as our assistant head, she was our SENDCo (Special Needs Co-ordinator) and I shall be taking on that role now. I will be having some help from the SENDCo from Prudhoe West initially, which will be good support for us. I hope to have the opportunity to meet with the parents of all our special needs children over the coming weeks for a catch up and sharing of ideas about the way forward.

Mrs Binovec, Mrs Miller, Mrs Dubery and I will continue to be the senior leadership team and will be working more closely with WISE and the Northumberland Hub of Schools, i.e. Prudhoe West and Adderlane, as we go forward.

Conversion Day - 1st February

It is looking more and more certain that the school will officially join the WISE Academy group on the first of February. We have heard that the Charities Commission have agreed the transfer can go ahead and so it is just the legal matters that are holding us up now as WISE and the Local Authority are still discussing what costs etc. have to be transferred. ..or rather not transferred!



We have planned to have a Celebration Day on Friday 2nd February. There will be further details coming out later, but we do hope to invite parents in during the afternoon at some point to be a part of our celebrations. Obviously we are slightly restricted by the fact that it is February and possibly wet, rainy and cold outside in our lovely grounds but we will celebrate inside! We will be giving out all the sweatshirts/cardigans on that day so that the children can start wearing them from Monday 5th February. We are busy finding out where parents can purchase other items of uniform from if you wish to change. Please remember though that we are very happy for children to continue to wear Shaftoe Trust Primary School garments until such time as they grow out of them.



Sporting events

There's a bit of a lull at the moment with school sports but I would just like to mention one person who did himself, the school and of course, his Mum and Dad proud recently. Layton Murray, in year 6, was our sole representative at the area cross country championships at the beginning of December which took place at Ovingham Middle School and we were so chuffed to hear that he finished third in his age group, breaking up the dominance of Ponteland Middle School boys who did exceptionally well, too. They occupied first place down to seventh place with the exception of Layton's third place! This is an amazing achievement! We hope to see this young man go far! Very well done, Layton!



Other bits

Teatowels - The FOST committee (Friends Of Shaftoe Trust - which is our PTA) have asked me to remind you all that the teatowels are still available and can be bought from Mrs Storrie in the office for the bargain price of £3.50!!

Dog mess - I am hoping that this is not from dogs belonging to parents and children in school, but Mr Newton has asked me to mention the dog mess that keeps appearing by the school bins and then also someone keeps putting that mess in the bins rather than in the dog mess bin just at the bottom of the steps. We would appreciate your help with this.



Dates for your diary this term so far

Tuesday, 16th January - Anna Jackson in to introduce the children to the violin.

Thursday, 18th January - First banking session

Friday, 26th January - Year 3 and 4 Gymnastics Competition

Thursday, 1st February - We should become WISE Shaftoe Trust Academy that day!

Friday, 2nd February - Celebration Day!!

Friday, 9th February - Break up for half term. Also Cake Stall at 3.15pm - All contributions very gratefully received! Please bring in contributions first thing in the morning.

Dates for celebration assemblies during the second half term have not been agreed yet

Monday, 19th February - Everyone back!

Friday, 23rd February - Friends of Shaftoe Trust event - Beetle Drive! 6pm - 8pm - I will explain this in more detail in the February Newsletter but ask grandparents what a Beetle Drive is if you don't know! They are so much fun and we will practice in school with the children so that they know!

Week beginning - 26th February - Book Week! Mrs Binovec has lots of ideas for this so watch out for further news in the weeks ahead.

Friday, 2nd March - 6pm - 8pm - Bedtime story night - Come in PJs and bring a teddy if you want! Staff reading stories to children ---with hot chocolate and cookies supper!

Week beginning Monday 12th March - Science week. Miss Fawcett and the staff are busy planning the activities for this week. More information to follow! If you are a scientist and are able to help us that week please contact Miss Fawcett!

Friday, 23rd March - Easter Discos - 5.00 pm to 6.30 pm and 7pm to 8.30 pm - with supper!

Tuesday, 27th March - Easter assembly 9am in church, with coffee back at school afterwards.

Thursday, 29th March - 3pm - Break up for Easter