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## Happy New Year!



### Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to school - we have a busy term coming up - as usual! Further events and dates will start to pop up as we confirm them, so please keep checking the calendar on our website.

Children receive certificates each week during our 'Celebration Assembly' on a Friday. This term we have introduced a '**Headteacher's Award**' and each week this will be given to a child who shows exemplary behaviour or who displays an exceptional attitude towards others around our school. The first recipient was Alfie - congratulations! Details of who receives the awards are posted on the website each week, in the latest news section on the homepage.

Thank you again for your continued support - we're looking forward to a brilliant spring term!

**Kevin Moloney**

### Some Upcoming Events

- ◆ London Instalments Due  
14th January £60.00  
11th February £60.00
- ◆ School Games - Mixed Golf, Years 3/4  
Monday 21st January at Willowburn  
10.00am - mid-day
- ◆ Dunstanburgh Class Assembly  
12th February, 9.15am
- ◆ KS1 Multi-skills Tournament  
14th February at OCHS  
3.30-5.00pm



**Allsorts Fun Club**

**07598818846**

Please ring them direct to book or amend places

### Attendance matters!

You may have noticed that we no longer send out individual registration certificates to each pupil on a half termly basis (we are more than happy to issue you with one, just ask admin). We decided instead to concentrate on those children whose attendance levels may be falling and causing concern.

To this end, we are working closely with our designated Education Welfare Officer who is monitoring levels of absence and the underlying reasons for it. It really is important not to under-estimate the importance of 100 percent attendance. Even one day missed can have an effect on learning:

- ÷ 98 percent attendance means four school days missed
- ÷ 95 percent attendance means 10 school days missed
- ÷ 90 percent attendance means 19 school days missed
- ÷ 80 percent attendance means 38 school days missed
- ÷ Five minutes late each day means three school days missed

This first half of the spring term is 30 days long meaning we break up on Friday 15th February.



## Eco news...

### ...Love the planet

We had our first Eco Club session this term. The children came up with some brilliant ideas - they identified many problems in our local environment, school and even the whole planet! We will set some short and long term objectives so we can have a positive impact on our surroundings.

A great start to the topic - well done Eco Club members!!



### ...Recycle

If you still have Christmas cards lying around at home, please bring them in to school for recycling. There is a box in the hall for pupils to put them in - many thanks!



**Safer Internet Day 2019** | Tuesday 5 February  
Together for a better internet

Safer Internet Day 2019 will be celebrated globally on Tuesday 5th February 2019 with the theme: Together for a better internet. We will be using Education Packs, with complementary [SID TV films](#) in school, these are tailored for 3-7s and 7-11s. Activities for parents and carers can be found at

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2019/education-packs/activities->



Please make sure PE kits are in school; long hair is tied back and earrings are removed.

### Christmas jumper day

A big thank you to everyone who turned up in a festive jumper. We raised a fantastic **£127.16** for Save the Children.



## Adverse weather

As we get deeper into January, it seems timely to remind you of our ways of communication should we have to close the school due to bad weather. We will contact the County Council and a notice will be put on their website and local Radio Stations will also be informed. We will do our best to ensure this information has been received by the Council and the Radio Stations by 8.00am each morning. We will do our best to send a block email which will provide immediate information but an important measure would be to check the following for notification of any closures.

1. Listen to broadcasts by the Local Radio Station:

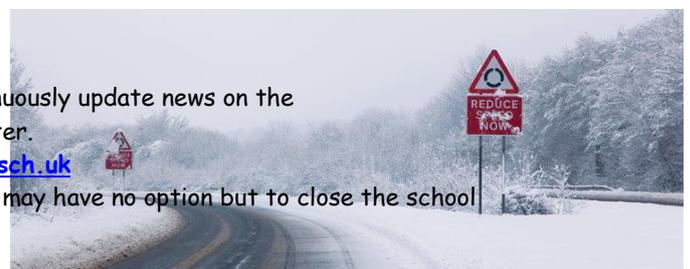
**BBC Radio Newcastle 95.4fm**

2. Go to the Northumberland County Council website:

[www.northumberland.gov.uk](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk). The County Council will continuously update news on the front page as well as posting updates on Facebook and Twitter.

3. Go to the school website [www.hipsburn.northumberland.sch.uk](http://www.hipsburn.northumberland.sch.uk)

We will do everything we can to avoid school closure but we may have no option but to close the school if there is not enough staff able to get here to ensure the safety of the children.





Last month Poppy and Erica participated in an interesting article in the Observer newspaper called 'Give Kids the Vote!' The article was generated when a professor of politics at Cambridge University questioned whether children should be allowed to vote. The Observer asked children aged 6 - 12 for their views. We are very proud that Poppy and Erica's views were included. Well done girls for some really thoughtful reflections!



Poppy raised concerns in the article about rubbish in the sea and the affect it is having on creatures. This year we will be looking at ways to become an Eco-school. Across the school we hope to encourage our school community to be more environmentally friendly and play an important part in educating and protecting our environment.



Last half term, Year 6 studied rainforests as part of their Geography topic. Having found some shocking information about the rate of deforestation and its impacts, Year 6 created reports to share with other classes in the school, including some top tips on how we can all create a more sustainable world! Having taken a particular interest in the plight of the orangutans, whose habitats in Indonesia are being destroyed for palm oil production, Etal class sent persuasive letters to big companies to encourage them to produce or source palm oil more sustainably.

You can find more information about the work we are supporting on our Etal class page on the school website.

"I wrote my letter to the Tesco CEO to try to persuade him to use sustainable palm oil in branded products. A few days later, I received a reply on how they are working towards this. We also adopted a class orangutan in Borneo's Bukit Piton Forest and named him King Louis. By adopting the orangutan we each received a certificate and will be sent regular updates of WWF's restoration of the forest so we can see the impact of the work we are supporting."

Izzy, Y6

## School Council

Our school council members have been hard at work over the past half term, meeting to discuss new initiatives and ways to improve school life. This has involved voting on activities for crew treats and making the Trim Trail rota.

Our school council actively works to include and give children a platform to share their views and opinions. Each class has school council representatives who play a key role in discussing current affairs in school. Please encourage your child to seek out their class representatives to share their views and opinions.

This half term, our school council will be working alongside our Eco Club to encourage and monitor recycling across the school.

We'll let you know how they get on!



A school dinner costs £2.30  
30 days @£2.30 = £69.00  
Winter menus are on the school website. We would ask that you keep on top of lunch payments - in advance or on the day - thank you.

A string to your bow  
Violin lessons start 9th January



Lessons cost £62.00 (12 sessions)  
Violin hire £22.00



Please pay promptly - we like cash and cheques payable to NCC. Thank you.