

FORTNIGHTLY NEWSLETTER

Only 8 Fridays until Christmas!...

Welcome back to the second half of the Autumn Term. This is always a very busy 8 weeks with everything from School photographs to Extravaganzas, Performances and parties to look forward to.

There will be many, many things happening, both in school and outside of school, leading up to the festive period; therefore we encourage everyone to download our school app to keep updated with the latest information. The app contains everything you would expect in a mobile phone app. There is also a function to allow users to register on the app.

Scan the QR code or search in your app/play store for our school and download accordingly.

To register, please click on the cog in the top right corner of the app. The unique school code for the school is **8764**.

You will be asked to enter an email address so we can verify you.

When you have registered you will be able to select your preferences, choosing the year groups from which



you wish to receive notifications. You can choose

more than one preference. This is a handy parent/carer tool we would love to be utilised more.

The first important date for your Christmas Calendar is FRIDAY 1ST DECEMBER—Where the winners of the Christmas

-  NO BIKES
-  NO SKATES
-  NO SCOOTERS

Holywell Village light competition will be announced in our Family Assembly by Seaton Valley Councillors. After school, there will be a ceremony to switch on the lights in the village. The winner of the light competition gets to push the official 'turn on' button. We hope as many of you as possible will turn out to support the event and the competition winners. We are told that festivities commence at 4pm but more details to follow.



Please note the use of mobile phones on the school site is not permitted. Please ensure phones are turned off when entering school.



Governor Information

I am Father Phil Hughes-Vicar and Area Dean of Bedlington:

I have returned to the Governing body at Holywell1st School, as our Church Representative Richard Gascoyne is leaving the area next year. I promised that I would continue the good work and be a dedicated Governor, also as a

member of the Strategic Policy and Direction Committee.

As you know, the School means a lot to me and I have visited and led assemblies for 10 years now. I am a trained teacher, and have been a School Governor at many schools in the past. I am delighted to be a School Governor again, and will support the children and staff alike.



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Save the Date....

- 11th to 14th December will be Christmas Performance week

11th—Years 1-4 pm

12th—EVFS am

13th—Years 1-4 am

14th—EVFS am

Please be aware that these are preliminary dates/times so may change if required - we just wanted to give you early warning.

Making Learning An Adventure

Important Dates:

09.11.17 9am—Year 1
Class Assembly

16.11.17 9am—Year 3
Class Assembly

01.12.17—Village Lights
switch on

07.12.17 4pm —Christmas
Extravaganza

18.12.17—Special Visitor

20.12.17—Christmas
Dinner

22.12.17—School breaks
for Christmas holiday.

08.01.18—Teacher
Training Day

09.01.18—School resumes
for the Children

09.02.18—School breaks
for half-term

19.02.18—School resumes
for the children

29.03.18—School breaks
for Easter

16.04.18—School resumes

07.05.18—School closed—
MAY DAY

Golden Table Winners:

20.10.17—Layla, Ella
Ta & Ryan

03.11.17—Sophia, Ella
C, Zane

Best Class Attendance:

W/E 20.10.17
Reception — 98%
attendance

W/E 03.11.17
Year 4 — 99.4%
attendance

Well Done everyone!

Celebrating Sporting Success

Before the half-term holiday, some of our football team players attended an inter-schools competition at Astley High School.

They played exceptionally well and managed to reach the semi-finals.

We are super proud of the players and thank them for representing our school so successfully. Well done everyone!



School Photographer Visit

The school photographer will be in school on Tuesday 7th November. Please ensure that children are in their uniforms and well presented. Siblings from other schools will be photographed first from 8.30am to 8.50am babies and toddlers from 8.50am to 9.10am and the remaining school after that.

Failure to attend the correct time slot will result in photographs not being taken due to time constraints.

Reception Applications

The online admissions portal for First and Primary schools opens on **6th November 2017** and will close on **15th January 2018**. This is for September 2018 Reception places.

PAF SOCIAL NIGHT—Movie themed

Our PAF Association have arranged a social night for the ladies of the PAF and female parents/carers on Friday 24th November at the Fat Ox public house. An evening of fun and cocktails including a movie themed quiz is promised.

Entry is £2 for more information please contact the PAF members directly.



Stars of the Week:

W/E: 20.10.17 Nursery, Evan, Ethan, Marcy, Eden, Courtney

W/E: 03.11.17 Lucy M, William, Benjamin H, Lexi D, Charlie P, Gracie. Lily C.

Message from the Governing Body regarding pursuit of Penalty Notices for unauthorised holiday absences IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Our school Attendance Policy states 'Excellent attendance promotes excellent learning. Regular school attendance is essential if children are to achieve their full potential. In the year 2016-2017 our school's attendance % fell below the national average for the first time. After analysing the data it has become apparent that school is not affected by higher than average illness (we are below average for this) but holiday taken in term time.

The relevant governing body committee discussed this issue at great length and reluctantly agreed to instruct Northumberland County Council to issue Penalty Notices to all parents/carers of pupils who take unauthorised holiday during term-time and meet the relevant criteria.

The Governing Body's expectations for attendance are clearly expressed in the Attendance Policy issued to all parents/carers in September 2017 but a copy is available on the school website in the 'Policies' section.

http://www.holywell.northumberland.sch.uk/website/attendance_registration/103284

	National 2016 (primaries)	School	+ or - school compared to National 2016
Attendance	96%	95.8%	-0.2%
Absence due to illness	2.6%	2.4%	-0.2%
Absence due to holiday	0.4%	1.3% (1.0% unauthorised) (0.3% authorised)	+0.9%
Persistent absentees	8.6%	7.5%	-1.1%
Pupil Premium	N/A	5.6%	
Free School Meals	7.0%	7.6%	+0.6%
Free School Meals in past 6 years	6.4%	5.9%	-0.5%