



# What's On at West

growing future stars

I am concerned with the number of parents/carers I have coming to me stating they have not received information which has in fact been included in our weekly school newsletters. Our newsletter is sent out without fail each week. This is on a Thursday on a normal 5 day school week. **I urge you all to take the time to read the newsletter on the day it is published** so that you don't miss information which in turn means your child misses out. I appreciate people have busy lives, but it is unfair that the school receives criticism for poor communication, when in fact the communication is sent out but not read.

Parents have suggested we use the text messaging system more actively but unfortunately this is not possible. There is a cost associated with this service that the school cannot afford with the pupil numbers we have. A more affordable way in which we could send direct reminders out for deadlines and events, would be through the 'SchoolComms' app, however at present only a third of parents have this. We are looking into this option at the moment so I would ask the 193 of you who do not have the app (yes we can tell if you do or don't have it!) to download it as soon as possible and ensure you have alerts set up. Once we see an increase in users, then we can look to start using this system to make our communication even more effective.

**If you have not received the newsletter by email there are always paper copies outside the school office and it is posted on the website on Thursday afternoons.**

## This Week in School

**Reception Class Photo in Courant:** This photo was taken yesterday, Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2017 and will appear in the Courant on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

**Teacher Training Days:** A reminder that as stated on the recent holiday dates list we sent out with the newsletters dated 14<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> September 2017; **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> and Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2017** are teacher training days so school will be closed to all children. Shining Stars Kids' Club will be open over those two days (7.30am – 6.00pm) - £12.00 for half a day and £20.00 for the full day. Places are still available. Please book online as normal or contact the school office if you require more information. Children attending Kids' Club will require a packed lunch.

**School will close for the half term break today, Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2017.**

**Pantomime Payments:** A reminder that all pantomime payments must be made in full by Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2017. As this is an experience rather than an educational visit as such, it must be paid for in full in order for your child to take part. A number of parents have still not paid the balance for their child's ticket, despite repeated reminders. **If money is not paid by Friday, we will be informing the theatre that those tickets are no longer required and those children will remain in school on the day of the visit.**

Please contact the school office if you have a problem paying this amount by the deadline or are unsure if you still owe.

**Robinwood 2018:** We previously requested a deposit of £25.00 to secure your child's place on this trip. As stated in the letter sent out to parents in June 2017; a further £100 needs to be paid by Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017. The balance will be requested during January 2018. Thank you to those parents who have already paid.

## Coming Up:

### Parent Meetings:

Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2017, 3.50 – 6.50pm	Whole School (including nursery)
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2017, 9.00 – 3.50pm	Nursery only
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2017, 3.50 – 6.50pm	Whole School (including nursery)

Many parents have booked their appointments successfully; If you are having problems doing so or if you are a parent who does not live with their child and are unable to book online; please contact the school office and we will be happy to book an appointment for you.

If you are unable to attend on any of the above dates, please contact your child's teacher directly to arrange an alternative.

Reports: If any parents do not live with their child and would like an additional report please let us know.

**Winter Menus:** Copies of these menus were sent out with last week's newsletter. The menus have also been uploaded to the school website and paper copies are available from the school office. The new menus will start on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2017 (Week 1).

**Dinner Money:** Next half term is eight weeks long. Dinner money will be £10.00 per week or £80.00 for the half term.

**Swimming Money:** Swimming money for next half term will be £4.25 per week or £34.00 for the half term.

**Year 4 Pupils:** We have been informed by County Hall that several parents have still not completed their application for a place at middle school. This includes parents who have completed their application online but, due to problems with the online portal, their application may not have gone through successfully. Can all parents please check that they have applied successfully to ensure your child gets a place at their chosen middle school. The portal for online admissions for Year 4 children moving up to Highfield next September (2018) closes on **31<sup>st</sup> October 2017**. You should have received a letter from the Local Authority informing you of this. If you are having difficulty accessing the online portal, please contact the school office and we will give you a paper form to complete.

**Reception Admissions:** The Online Portal for Admissions to Reception in first and primary schools will open on **1<sup>st</sup> November 2017** and close on **15<sup>th</sup> January 2018**. **Parents need to apply for a place at Prudhoe West Academy even if their children are already at Prudhoe West Nursery.**

Please use the link below for more information:

<http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Education/Schools/Admissions.aspx#onlineschooladmissionapplication>

We are holding an open morning/afternoon for any parents who are unfamiliar with the school who might want to have a look around prior to making their child's school application. These will take place on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November at 2pm and Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November at 9am. If your child is in Nursery and you would like to attend one of these sessions, please let the office know. Please also share this information with others who may have children ready to start school in September 2018.

 **Poppy Appeal:** Poppies will be on sale in school from Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2017. Children need to bring in a 'silver' or 'gold' coin to make a purchase. We have also taken delivery of poppy wristbands priced 50p; reflectors priced 50p; friendship bracelets priced £1.00 and slap rulers priced £1.00. There is limited supply for all items, first come first served. Please ensure your child knows what they want to buy when they bring their money to school to support this worthy cause.

**Karate Camp:** Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2017. £15.00 per day, £60.00 per week or £80.00 for the week and grading. The camp will run every day from 9.00am – 3.00pm. Everyone will need a packed lunch. Children can come along in their normal clothes with their karate kit in a bag to keep it clean. On Friday afternoon (27<sup>th</sup> October) there will be a grading for anyone who is ready to move on to the next belt. For more information; call or text Peter 07912 533 164 [www.seikenryu.co.uk](http://www.seikenryu.co.uk)

**Congratulations to Class 2 who had 99.57% attendance last week.**

Well done to all the classes who achieved our 95% target.

Last week our overall attendance was **96.36%**.

Please make every effort to ensure your child gets to school each day to help us improve even more.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>% Attendance</b>	<b>94.58</b>	<b>99.57</b>	<b>99.09</b>	<b>99.26</b>	<b>97.86</b>	<b>96.79</b>	<b>97.78</b>	<b>99.26</b>	<b>93.6</b>	<b>96.92</b>

Poor punctuality means your child misses valuable learning time and that lessons are disrupted for all other pupils.

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Website: [121-northumberland.eschools.co.uk/website](http://121-northumberland.eschools.co.uk/website)  
Telephone: 01661 832288  
Email: [prudhoe@wiseacademies.co.uk](mailto:prudhoe@wiseacademies.co.uk)

**School Meals Menu**  
The first week back to school will be the **Week 1 Menu**.  
Please see the school website for more details