



SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

We have had a fantastic start to the new academic year and it is super to see the children back in school, all ready to learn! We wish a warm welcome to our new starters across school: Freya, Connie-Rae, Sarim-Ali, Charlie, Theo, Oliver, Alex and Sarrina. We are sure that you will have a wonderful time with us at Rothbury First!

Thank you for supporting our first school trip of the year. Our Penguin and Gorilla Classes went to visit SafetyWorks in Newcastle and learned how to keep themselves safe in a number of ordinary, day-to-day situations, such as crossing the road. They then travelled to see the Angel of the North as part of their topic work on Anthony Gormley.

Thank you to those able to make it to our Parent presentation on the curriculum. We hope that you found it useful. Our new two-year rolling curriculum is now on our website, and our topic webs for this half term have been uploaded.

We hope that the presentation about Robinwood has whetted the appetite for those Year 4 parents and children able to come to that presentation. We can't wait till February to try out those amazing activities! Letters to parents will be coming out shortly with further details.

Our 'settling in' parent consultations are scheduled for **Monday 24 September**. Appointments are made through the ParentMail system. If you have any difficulty making your appointment, please let us know.

Our Early Reading presentation has been rearranged to **Wednesday 26 September at 9am in school**. This is aimed at parents of children in our Early Years Unit. We hope that you are able to attend.

Thank you to those who sent postcards to school. We will be sharing these with the children in future assemblies.

Thank you also for supporting our NSPCC non-uniform day. We raised the grand total of £86.78 which was gratefully received. A representative from the NSPCC held an assembly with the children which centred on a child's right to be heard and to be kept safe.



READING, READING, READING:

Across school we are focusing on Reading. We really want our children to read more, and to learn to read at a much younger age. Please watch out for more details on this in the weeks to come as we can't do this without your help.

COMING SOON:

This year we are looking at a few new initiatives: "Live Kitchen" - an amazing piece of software which would enable you and your child to choose their dinners remotely and for you to pay for them online. We are also aiming to go cashless in the School Office through on-line payments for all, and we are hoping, by the end of the year, to be a paperless School Office where feasible. We also would like to 'spend some money to save some money' by upgrading all of our lighting to LED lighting, which will improve the environment for both children and staff. And our Friends of Rothbury First School have put a super programme of fund-raising events together for the year. Exciting times ahead!

HEADTEACHER & SCHOOL OFFICE UPDATE:

Dean Jackson, the Service Director of Education & Skills at Northumberland County Council, met with Mrs Mathewson and a group of Governors at the end of the first week of term. Whilst not able to offer any further financial support for the school, Dean fully understood the school's financial predicament and suggested a couple of avenues to explore which will be taken forward by Governors.

We now have a vacancy of a Parent Governor and will be sending out information on this shortly. If you are interested in the position and would like to find out more, please call in to see Mrs Mathewson.

Please note that during this term, Mrs Mathewson will be teaching a ReadWriteInc group every morning from 11.30, teaching Penguin class on Thursday afternoons, and supporting the Pocket Trumpet teacher, Mr Vallance, with the Year 3 and Year 4 children on Friday afternoons. If you need to catch Mrs Mathewson urgently, please see her either before school or at the end of school, otherwise please call the School Office to arrange a meeting or a call back.

Please note that the School Office is closed on Wednesday afternoons. If you need to contact school on Wednesday afternoons, please leave a message on the answer machine and we will get back to you as soon as we are able.



DATES FOR THE DIARY:

Mon 24 Sept	all	Bag 2 School collection
Mon 24 Sept	parents	Parent Consultations
Tues 25 Sept	Years 1 - 4	Visitor Assembly: Kirstine Davis - Mustard Tree Trust
Wed 26 Sept	EYFS parents	Reading Meeting
Mon 1 Oct	Whole school	School individual & sibling photographs
w/c 8 Oct	Years 2 and 3	Learn to Ride cycling course (free to school: grant-funded)
Mon 8 Oct	Years R - 4	Flu immunisations
Thu 18 Oct	Years R - 4 + parents	9.15 am Harvest Celebration + collection of dried food/tins for the Wansbeck Valley Food Bank
Fri 26 Oct	all	SCHOOL CLOSED - TRAINING DAY
Mon 29 Oct – Fri 2 Nov	all	SCHOOL CLOSED - HALF TERM