



NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

EVENTS IN SCHOOL

Remembrance: Our children across school have been learning a little about why we wear poppies. We all took part in our Circle of Remembrance, and each child was involved in an art project. Part of the art project has been displayed in the window of Boots the Chemist, for which we are very grateful. We hope that you were able to see it in situ. We will be displaying it at the front of school later this week.



Lantern Parade: We are very pleased that the Rothbury Lights Committee are holding a lantern parade this year on Saturday 24th November. We want to make sure that every child has a lantern to take to the parade if they wish, so we are hosting an afternoon of lantern making on Thursday 15th November, with materials funded by the Friends of Rothbury First School. If you wish your child to have a lantern, please send in a washed 2 litre plastic pop bottle by Wednesday 14th November. We could then do with as many hands as possible on Thursday 15th afternoon to help us make the lanterns with the children. Please let the office know if you are able to help. Nursery children will make their lanterns during their Nursery sessions.

FRFS Film Night & Christmas Fair: Our Friends of Rothbury First School have arranged an amazing set of fund raising activities this year. The Hallowe'en Disco went down a treat (!) and we are all really looking forward to the next two events in November: Family film night on Wednesday 14th and our Christmas Fair on Wednesday 21st. We hope to see you at one or more of these.



Charity Fundraising: The Wansbeck Valley Food Bank would like to pass on their thanks for all of the goods given at Harvest. These provided a much-needed lifeline for people in our region. Our next charity event will be to support Children In Need on Friday 16th November. We ask children to come to school wearing non-uniform, brightly coloured socks and to "bring a pound for Pudsey".

Anti Bullying Week w/b Monday 12th November: The theme for this year's Anti-Bullying week is to **choose respect** over bullying. The aims of this week are to help children understand the definition of respect and that bullying is a behaviour choice. There will be age appropriate assemblies for children in Reception to Year 4. If you would like your child to show support for anti bullying week then they should wear odd socks each day this week please!

Coquet Voices Our Year 3 and 4 pupils are taking part in Coquet Voices, a project funded by the Bailiffgate Museum in Alnwick celebrating the unique dialect of rural Northumberland through a series of songs, spoken word and poetry work. The culmination of this will be a concert in the Spring at the Jubilee Hall. More details will be published after the Christmas Holidays.

Reading Army We plan to start our reading army at the beginning of December. If you are interested in helping children improve their reading (full training will be given) then please contact Mr Grimes via the school office (admin@rothburyfirst.northumberland.sch.uk).

OTHER SCHOOL NEWS

New starters: We wish a very warm welcome to Andrew (Year 2) and Freddie (Nursery). We hope that you and your families really enjoy your time with us at Rothbury First.

Volunteers: We are very grateful to the parents and other volunteers who come into school to help us. For the next four weeks Miss Little will be assisting Mrs Duffield and Mrs Walton in our Elephants Class as part of her teacher training.

Governor updates: Our longstanding Chair of Governors, Robert Famelton, resigned this term. We are sure that you will join us in thanking him for his sixteen years of service to our school. We are pleased to announce that Susan Watson has accepted the position as his replacement and we wish her well for her tenure. Susan has also moved from being a Parent Governor to a Co-Opted Governor. We therefore have two Parent Governor vacancies. If anyone is interested in finding out more about being a governor, please contact our headteacher, Nicki Mathewson. The invitation to apply for governorship will come to you in the next couple of weeks.

Scholastic Book Fair: The book fair is returning following our successful fair last year. We made over £400 in commission which has been spent on more books for our children in school. It will be running again the week beginning 19.11.18, the first session being Tuesday 20th November at 8.30am. Please come along and browse our selection of books and stationery. It's a great opportunity to buy gifts for Christmas. We look forward to seeing you there.

Live Kitchen: We are working towards Live Kitchen being up and running in January 2019. This will enable school dinners to be chosen in advance from the choice offered, and payments made electronically. We think it is a really exciting initiative and can't wait to get it started. We thank Rothbury Parish Council for their financial support of this venture.

Music in School: Every Year 3 and Year 4 child is learning to play the pocket trumpet this year, and we are very pleased with their progress! Children from Reception and older also have the option to purchase County group music lessons to learn to play the violin. Children from Year 1 and older may purchase group lessons with Mr Wallhead to learn to play either the keyboard or the guitar. If you would like further information about any of these activities, please call into the school office.

Wind Damage: We were unfortunately affected by the recent high winds and lost a tree on our northern boundary and part of the fence on the car ramp into school. We would like to thank Lee Charleton and Malcolm Snaith for their speedy response to school and for making these areas safe for our children. We have been assured that the contractors for the wooden play equipment will be on site before the end of the month.

Jewellery: Please may we remind parents that jewellery of any kind is not allowed in school. We strongly request that any children wishing to have their ears pierced wait until the start of the summer holiday so that their ears will be healed by the start of the following year. For those who have recently had their ears pierced, earrings must be covered with tape at all times to reduce the risk of accidents during play/PE. Please would you ensure that your children adhere to this policy.

Social Media Links: For all the latest updates in school follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/rothburyfirst/> or on Twitter @rothburyfirst.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

November:		
w/c Mon 12 Nov	Whole School	Anti-Bullying Week
Tues 13 Nov	YR-4	Visitor Assembly - Rev. Ed
Wed 14 Nov	all	FRFS Film Night (after school)
Thurs 15 Nov	YR-4	Lantern making
Fri 16 Nov	Whole School	Children in Need
w/c Mon 19 Nov	all	Scholastic Book Fair
Tues 20 Nov	YR-4	Visitor Assembly - Rev. Ann
Wed 21 Nov	all	FRFS Christmas Fair (early evening)
Sat 24 Nov	all	Rothbury Lantern Parade
Mon 26 Nov	Y3-4	Dave Be Safe workshops
Tues 27 Nov	YR-4	Visitor Assembly - Aileen & Elaine
December:		
Mon 17 Dec	all	Christmas Performance at Rothbury All Saints Church (early evening)
Tues 18 Dec	YR-4	Visitor Assembly - Rev. Ed
Thurs 20 Dec	Y1-Y4	Trip to Beamish Museum
Fri 21 Dec	Whole School	Christingle
Mon 24 Dec to Fri 4 Jan: SCHOOL CLOSED FOR THE CHRISTMAS BREAK		
Mon 7 Jan: SCHOOL OPENS AT 08.50		

Term dates for 2018-2019 are available on the Northumberland County Council website:
<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Education/Schools/Holidays.aspx#schooltermdates>

Please note that school will be closed for Teacher Training on the following dates:

Friday 28 June 2019



THE SCHOOL CAR PARK

A reminder that our school car park is primarily for the use of school staff, school transport and visitors to school.

If you wish to use our car park, follow our car park code:

- **School staff and school transport have priority** over the car park spaces
- **Drive slowly** – 5mph on the ramp and within the car park
- **Reverse into spaces** to reduce the chance of a child being knocked over
- **Accompany your children AT ALL TIMES.** If you are getting more than one child out of the car, take the other child to the fence to wait for you. Hold your child's hand whilst in the car park and walk them to the gate.

Staff and visitors have witnessed parents letting children out of the car to walk/run to the gate on their own whilst the car is still running. Children have also been seen running around cars both before and after school, and when attending a club.

- **Keep the centre aisle clear**

We have been sent photos of cars blocking the aisle and blocking the school entrance which is a safety hazard to school.

- **Keep the emergency gates clear AT ALL TIMES**
- **Switch engines off when waiting** to reduce air pollution

We do appreciate the difficulties of dropping children off/collecting them by car however the safety of our children must be foremost.

Please consider other means of bringing children to school.

Something to think about: a recent survey of how our children come to school showed that most children who are driven to school would rather walk, cycle or scoot.

NO SMOKING ON SCHOOL PREMISES

A reminder that all of our school premises which include **the buildings, the school fields, the yards and the car park** are a NO SMOKING ZONE. This means that smoking is not permitted on any part of our school premises. **This restriction also applies to electronic cigarettes.**

Please make sure that these notices are passed on to whoever drops off/collects your child, including from after school clubs.