

## Welcome

We would like to welcome everyone back to school and hope you all had a wonderful summer holiday.

We give a special welcome to the new Reception children and our new starters.

## Class Topics

Learning themes this term are outlined below for each class:

Cherry Class (Yr 1): In maths, we will be looking at number bonds using part, part whole method. We will be looking at animals including humans

Cedar Class (Yr 2): Explorers

Willow Class (Yr 3): Rainforest

Maple Class (Yr 4): Victorians, Changing State, Changing World

## Home Time Arrangements

Please can we remind all parents that if your child is being collected by someone else at the end of the day and the name of this person is not on the Home Time Arrangement Form, parents/carers need to advise us in writing of the name of the person collecting their child/children on that day. Thank you

## Woodhorn Colliery Museum

Cedar and Cherry Class enjoyed a trip to WoodHorn Colliery Museum. As well as going into the art gallery, the children explored the site and pretended to go down the mine. This is part of our ARTSMARK project in school this year. Miss Bullen and Mr Lindley would like to thank the PTA for their continued support in helping with funding for these trips.



## School Admissions- September 2019

The on-line portal for school admissions for the academic year 2019-20 will be open as follows:

• **First Schools** 1 November 2018 and close 15 January 2019.

• **Middle Schools** 12 September 2018 and will close 31 October 2018.

Please ensure that you don't miss the deadlines and apply on-line between the dates stated, on the Northumberland County Council website. Please go to the Education page, school admissions and choose which education phase you wish to apply for.

## Family Assembly

After consideration staff have decided that we would like to change the format of assemblies. In the last year each class has put on an assembly a couple of times, but we feel that the content and quality of what we show needs to improve. With this in mind the assemblies will now be in Key Stage groups, with a wider and more varied mix of things on show. The dates for this coming term are outlined below. This is a trial and we will review this in due course. Dates for winter & Spring:

Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> Nov	3pm	KS2
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> Jan	3pm	KS1
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	3pm	KS2

## Free School Meals

Please apply if you are eligible for free school meals. This will not only increase funding for our school that we can spend on your children but you will also qualify for free milk. Please contact the school office if you would like any help with this.

## School Christmas Fair

Our school Christmas fair is on Friday 30th November 2018 from 5.30pm to 7.00pm. Please can you contact Mrs Cockcroft or another member of the PTA if you can offer support to help in any way. If you know anyone who would like a table to sell their own goods ( in return for a raffle/auction prize) would you please let us know.

## How to Look After our Rabbits

Quite a few of the classes in school had a visit from the Cheviot Vets recently. Katie and Lizzie came into school to explain to the children how to look after our new rabbits, Hutch and Ralphie (Nursery also have one called Florence). While in school, the vets gave the rabbits a health check and the injections they needed. The children were able to ask lots of questions.



## Learning to Read

Phonics is taught daily in Little Acorns, Oak, Cherry and Cedar Class. We use a scheme called Read Write Inc. In Little Acorns Nursery children start learning phonics when staff and key workers feel that they are ready. At the end of your child's time in Cherry Class (Year 1) children are required to take a National Phonics screening test. Any child who does not pass is required to re-sit the test at the end of Year 2.

In Willow and Maple Class there is a greater emphasis on spelling strategies, punctuation and grammar.

In Oak Class we will be learning phonic sounds and starting the exciting journey that is reading. Please practice your sounds every night. Little and often is usually best.

In Cherry Class the emphasis remains on building phonic skills and learning to blend and segment words.

From Cedar Class 2 onwards your child will read either individually with an adult or as part of a group for a guided reading session. Your help is essential if your child is to become a fluent reader. Please support your child by ensuring that they read at home every day.

This is also a good time for a reminder that children should be reading far wider than just their school reading book. A good reader needs to regularly read a range of fiction and non-fiction. This can include anything from comics, magazines, newspapers, information books to story and poetry books. The reading scheme book is the bare minimum requirement.

Regular visits to Wooler library are an excellent (and cheap!) way to support your child's development as a reader.

Reading widely (and being read to) will help your children to develop an imagination which is essential if they are to become good writers. If you would like any advice on how you can support your child with reading and writing please speak to the class teacher.

Handwriting: This is taught during a short formal session each day. Children should be encouraged to use their best handwriting at home when doing their homework.

## Northern Gas Networks Visit

Children recently had a visit from Alex from Northern Gas Networks. She talked about how they are going to be re-laying pipes in the streets around the school in the coming months. She explained to the children how to stay safe during the disruption!



## Equipment Your Child Needs on Which Days

Being ready for learning is essential for success in school. Please make sure your child comes to school with the correct equipment / kit to enable them to participate in all National Curriculum subjects. This information does not apply to Nursery children.

This is a reminder of the items your child should bring to school each week.

**Please make sure that the children come to school each day with the correct gear.**

**Thursday** - £2 and football kit if doing lunchtime football. Please ensure your child brings a bootbag/carrier bag to put muddy boots in.

**Swimming** - On a swimming day your child will need swimming costume / trunks, bathing hat and towel. These should be clearly named and put in a bag which is also easily identified. Everyone **must** wear a swimming hat to ensure that the children do not spend the rest of the day with wet hair. (available from school for £1.50). Please send your child in **normal school uniform** (avoiding the wearing of tights) **and school shoes** on swimming days. Please ensure your child always comes to school with a coat and a hat.

Children will need their P.E. Kit and trainers **every week**.

Indoor PE Kit	Outdoor PE Kit
PE bags should only be taken home at the end of each half term for laundering.	To be sent into school on a Monday and returned home for laundering on a Friday
Plain Black Shorts Plain T-shirt (red) Socks and plimsolls	Joggers / track suit Plain T-shirt (red) Plain Black Shorts Socks Trainers in a shoe bag
<b>All clothing must be clearly named.</b>	

**Long hair must be tied back for all lessons.**

We would like to remind you of school policy concerning the wearing of jewellery during the school day. It is not permitted for children to wear any jewellery (or beauty accessories such as false nails, nail varnish, or henna tattoos) other than small watches. If your child has pierced ears **please remove earrings before they come to school**. Failure to do so means they cannot participate in swimming and P.E as it contravenes health and safety rules. If you plan to allow your child to have their ears pierced this must be done at the start of the school summer holidays to allow them to be fully healed before the start of the new academic year in September.

## Outside learning

We spend at least one session per week learning in the outdoor environment. This takes place in all weathers so it would be helpful if all children could keep a set of warm but old clothes and wellies in school. Children in Willow and Maple Class would also benefit from bringing waterproof clothing if they have any.

## Clothes

At the end of the summer term the lost property box was overflowing. Please ensure that **all** items of your child's clothing are clearly named. Unclaimed items will be disposed of termly either via a second hand sale or by being donated to charity.

## Outgrown Clothes Donations

We are always grateful for the donation of outgrown wellies and lightweight waterproof jackets / trousers and walking boots. If you have any such items please send them into school with your child/children – thank you.

## Fruits

The national fruit and vegetable government scheme is open to children in Years Reception, 1 and 2. However, we are very happy for children in Year 3 and 4 to bring a **healthy snack of fruit/vegetable** of their own to eat at playtime.

## Open Door Policy

If you have any concerns regarding your child and school please come and talk to us. We operate an open door policy and are always willing to listen. However, do remember that if you need to speak to a teacher please make sure you do so at an appropriate time. As you will appreciate teaching staff are not available to talk to parents when class is just about to start or has started. If this is the case please ask the office staff to let the teacher know you need to speak to them and a convenient time will be arranged. Thank you for your co-operation.

If you do not need or wish to speak directly to a member of staff, there are the following other ways to raise any issues or ideas:

- Speak to a School Governor
- Speak to a member of the PTA

## Year 4 trip to Hunting Hall

"On Thursday 18th October we went to Hunting Hall Farm. It was a great day and we had lots of fun. We started in the Orchard where we looked at a range of native trees and then completed a hedgerow survey. Our favourite part was pond dipping where we had to go searching for bugs. Olivia found a leach. We also had the opportunity to look at all the farm animals, they were really cute." Ashley, Maisie and Jessica

## Parkour Club

Parkour Club has proved very popular this term. Children have used various skills like jumping, vaulting, swinging and somersaulting to get around lots of obstacles in the quickest time.

Don't forget the KS1 club starts on Monday 5th November. There are still a few places left if your child wants to take part.



## Creative Writing Workshop

Maple class enjoyed a creative writing workshop at the Live Theatre in Newcastle. Each child will shortly receive their stories which include the pictures of an illustrator who helped them.



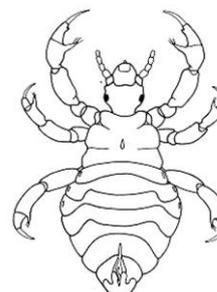
## Skipping Festival

Maple Class had a fun morning preparing for a skipping festival in Berwick which they will take part in December. They have been enthusiastically practicing in the playground ever since!



## Head Lice

We have had a few cases of head lice this year. Lindsay Airey, local hairdresser, has generously offered to come and do an after-school drop-in session to show parents how to check for and remove head lice. A date and time will be confirmed at a later date.



## Artsmark

As part of the Artsmark, Willow class had a trip to the Maltings last week for Berwick Film Festival. We saw lots of short films, some were funny and some made us think. We had a great morning. The following Monday Robin Wood, an animator came in to work with the children. They had a great time making their own short animations.



## Gymnastics

Cherry and Cedar class have enjoyed gymnastics this half term with Sam. They have been learning about balances and jumps, cartwheels and forwards rolls. It was lots of fun!



## A big thank you to the PTA

The staff and the children would like to say a big thank you to all the PTA members who have supported our events to raise money through the year. In this current school year 2018-2019 they have bought (or will be buying): resources for each classroom, as well as Forest School, Nursery and Holiday Club, given extra funds for Cherry Class to enable woodwork to take place, given each class a subsidy for a trip they may do through the year, bought Christmas presents from Santa, Year 4 leavers Dictionaries and Glendale Show entries. We are also hoping that a pantomime will be visiting school in December and this will be funded by the PTA. The ARTSMARK project that is

happening this year will also get some funds. The final £950 that is left will be put towards a new outdoor classroom for the Forest School. This is a big project and will develop over the next few years. Once again thank you for your continued and kind support, as all these events make Wooler a special place to come to school!

## Olympic Athlete

The children were very lucky last month to have Sally Scott, an Olympic pole vaulter visit with her bronze medal. She told the children how much training she had to do to become an athlete and some children even had a go at pole vaulting. The children took part in fitness circuits to raise money for school equipment. We raised £1272 for Sports for Schools. The school will receive a voucher of £585 for sport equipment. Thank you to all for this great achievement.



## Pumpkin competition

Our pumpkin competition was a big success. Thanks to Richardson Repairs for the kind donation of prizes and sweets.

Winners:

Nursery - Betsy Mackay

Oak – Brodie Scott

Cherry – Freddie Munro

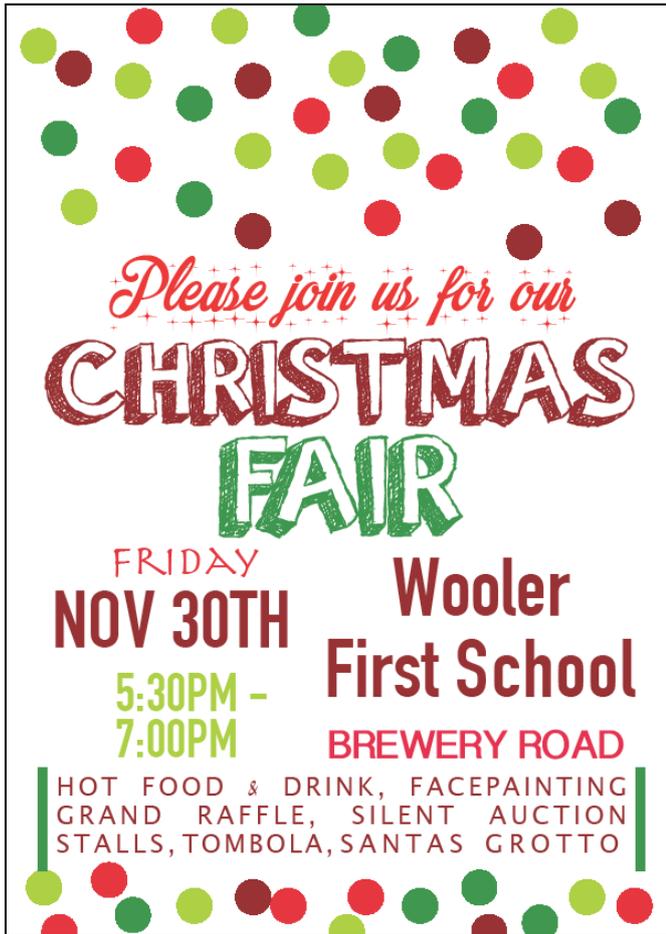
Cedar – Kara Scott

Willow – Robbie Sisterson

Maple – Bella Morris

The winners were chosen by the GMS and WFS arts council.





*Please join us for our*  
**CHRISTMAS FAIR**

FRIDAY  
**NOV 30TH**

5:30PM -  
 7:00PM

**Wooler First School**  
 BREWERY ROAD

HOT FOOD & DRINK, FACEPAINTING  
 GRAND RAFFLE, SILENT AUCTION  
 STALLS, TOMBOLA, SANTAS GROTTO

## Children's Countryside Day

Please can you take a few minutes to vote for our fantastic Children's Countryside Day:  
<https://www.avivacommunityfund.co.uk/voting/project/view/4-1657>

The Glendale Agricultural Society rely fully on funding and donations to put this fantastic event on free of charge for over 40 schools each year. The feedback we receive is phenomenal and it costs around £25,000 to stage.

If you could spare 5 minutes to click the link above and vote we could be in with a chance of getting £5,000 towards next year's costs to keep this a free event for all our children and grandchildren.

All you need to do is to enter your name and email to register, then Aviva will email you an activation link and you can vote. Simply type Glendale and hit search in the project search bar, each email address gets 10 votes. If you have already registered this will be even quicker for you.

Please feel free to send this to as many people as possible and use all the email addresses you have to vote as we need a lot of votes to win.

Best wishes

Rachael Tait  
 Events Manager



## ***Dates for your Diary***

<b>Half-term October Holidays</b>	<b>Friday 26 October</b>	<b>3:30pm</b>
<b>Return to School</b>	<b>Monday 5 November</b>	<b>8:55am</b>
PTA Christmas Fair Meeting	Wednesday 7 November	6pm - Open to all
Anti-bullying Week	W/c 12 November	Both schools taking part
Children in Need	Friday 16 November	Non-uniform day for both schools
KS2 Assembly	Friday 23 November	3pm - Open to parents
Christmas Fair	Friday 30 November	5:30pm – 7:00pm - Open to all
Nativity Play	Tuesday 4 December	2pm and 6pm – Tickets only
Skipping Festival Swan Centre – Yr 4	Friday 7 December	Times TBC
“Old King Cole” panto visit	Tuesday 11 December	PM – WFS children only
Civic Carol Service	Tuesday 11 December	6:30pm at St Mary’s Church
Christmas Jumper Day	TBA	Both schools
Christmas Parties	Monday 17 December	TBA
<b>Christmas Holiday</b>	<b>Friday 21 December</b>	<b>3:30pm</b>
<b>Teacher Training Day</b>	<b>Monday 7 January 2019</b>	<b>All day – School closed</b>
<b>Back to School</b>	<b>Tuesday 8 January 2019</b>	<b>8:55am</b>
KS1 Assembly	Friday 25 January	3:00pm – open to parents
<b>Half-term February Holidays</b>	<b>Friday 15 February</b>	<b>3:30pm</b>
<b>Back to School</b>	<b>Monday 25 February</b>	<b>8:55am</b>
KS2 Assembly	Friday 8 March	3:00pm – open to parents
Red Nose Day	Friday 15 March	Both schools
Sport Relief	Friday 22 March	Both schools
<b>Easter Holidays</b>	<b>Friday 5 April</b>	<b>3:30pm</b>
<b>Bank Holiday</b>	<b>Monday 22 April</b>	<b>School closed</b>
<b>Back to School</b>	<b>Tuesday 23 April</b>	<b>8:55am</b>
Oak Class Theatre Trip – Room on a Broom	Wednesday 24 April	TBA
<b>Bank Holiday</b>	<b>Monday 6 May</b>	<b>School closed</b>
<b>Half-term May holidays</b>	<b>Friday 24 May</b>	<b>3:30pm</b>
<b>Back to School</b>	<b>Monday 3 June</b>	<b>8:55am</b>
<b>Summer Holidays</b>	<b>Friday 19 July</b>	<b>3:30pm</b>