

Preston Grange Primary School



Newsletter - January 9th 2018

Happy New Year

We'd like to wish our families a very Happy New Year, and we hope that everyone had a lovely Christmas! It is lovely to have the children back in school today.

Non uniform day for Alnwick & Warkworth

As you will be aware, the children in school are split into Castles, and they earn castle tokens as our reward scheme in school each week. These are totalled and the winning castle each week is announced in assembly on a Friday. At the end of a term, the overall winning castle that term used to have an extra 10 minute playtime. However, after consulting with the children as to the rewards we use in school, they decided that they would prefer to have a non-uniform day in school if they are the winning castle for that term. We think that this is a great idea!

So, this Friday the children in Alnwick and Warkworth Castles are asked to come into school in non-uniform (only these children thanks) as their reward for winning last term. Well done to all of the children in these castles!

Author visit to school

On January 22nd, Miss Daley our English subject leader, has arranged for author Chris Callaghan to visit school for the day. Chris will be working with children from Year 1 to Year 6. At the end of the day, there will be an opportunity for the children to buy one of his books at £6 each if they wish. More information will follow from Miss Daley.

Healthy tuck shop

Before Christmas, the School Council spent a morning at Morrisons considering a healthier range of snacks to stock tuck shop with on Fridays. The children came up with some excellent new items, with less fat, sugar and fat. A reminder that we ask that the children only bring 50p for tuck shop otherwise they will not eat their lunch, as tuck shop is held at morning break.

Pantomime school lunch

On Thursday 18th January, there will be a pantomime themed school lunch. Your child will be receiving a special invitation to this lunch, sent home by the school catering team, which also shows the menu for the lunch that day. We are inviting children to

come into school in non-uniform that day and dressed as their favourite pantomime character if they wish. If they prefer not to come in costume, they may just wear a hat or 'prop' that belongs to the pantomime character.

Hoops 4 Health tournament Year 5

Year 5 will be receiving some basketball coaching from a Newcastle Eagles community coach as preparation for the tournament in February.

SAT meeting Year 2 parents

On Monday 22nd January we will be holding a meeting for parents of children in Year 2, where we will explain the process for, and expectations in the Year 2 SATs. This meeting will start at 3.40pm, and we would be grateful for a parent attending this important meeting, from each family thanks.

Curriculum leaflet

You will be receiving a curriculum leaflet this week, outlining the content being taught in your child or children's classes this half term. There is a section showing how you may help your child with their learning at home, and you will also have the resources that we sent out in Autumn term for ongoing support that you can give your child. Please speak to your child's class teacher if you have any questions about this half term's learning.

North Tyneside Unplugged

If you remember, we took part in the 'Unplugged' from technology day along with most schools in North Tyneside before the holidays. There is so much mounting research proving the negative effects that too much screen time can have on the children.

Certainly as a school we have noticed over the last few years, that the number of children on entry to Reception class unable to show interest in a story book has risen significantly, basic skills such as retelling nursery rhymes and counting have declined, and the number of children we refer to specialist agencies such as the Language & Communication team has risen. We feel that this is due in part to the rise in use of ipads, technology & screen time that the children access for so much of the time at home.

If you would like to hear more, Dr Martin Lee, whose research was behind the drive in North Tyneside to hold an unplugged day, will be giving two further information sessions on the negative effects, addiction and overuse of digital devices in January:

Mon 15th January 6-7pm at Valley Gardens Middle School (NE259AQ) or
Wed 17th January 6-7pm at Churchill Community College (NE287TN)

Both sessions are FREE and open to all. They are for parents, school staff and other interested adults. A further letter with details will be sent home via the children this week for your information.

Biographies - Year 6 Literacy

As part of their Literacy this half term, Year 6 will be visiting residents at Redesdale Court with a very special task in mind. Year 6 pupils will be interviewing residents and gathering information in order to write their biographies for them. The children will have to work their socks off and make sure their work is of a high standard because, in a few weeks time, they will return to Redesdale to share the biographies they have written. This will be a lovely opportunity for Year 6 to work with the wider community and we are sure they will do a fantastic job. We will keep you updated.

Collection of children

As you are aware, the school day ends at 3.30pm and collection time of children is therefore 3.30pm. We are not responsible for the children after this time, and there is no one to supervise children who are not collected.

Although we appreciate there may be a rare occasion where a parent is delayed, there are some parents who are regularly expecting that they can collect children after 3.30pm. I would like to remind parents that if children aren't collected at 3.30pm on more than one occasion, the children will be taken over to after school club, where there will be a charge of £9 each time to parents. Thank you for your support with this matter.

Some reminders at the start of a new term....

- Children must be on the yard at 8.55am for the start of the school day at 9am
- All PE kits need to be brought into school on Monday and taken home on Friday each week
- Any money sent into school should be in a named envelope
- Please re-label or name your children's clothes, coats & shoes. Their names may have faded after the first term if it is in ink.

Thank you!

Dates for your diary

Wed 10th Jan - January Nursery children initial visits with parents

Fri 12th Jan - non uniform day for Alnwick & Warkworth castles (only these children)

Fri 12th Jan - Year 5 Hoops 4 Health basketball coaching (pm)

Mon 15th Jan - Bikeability training for Y5 for 1 group (all day)

Thurs 18th Jan - football team at JSCHS (3.30pm)

Thurs 18th Jan - pantomime school lunch day (non uniform for R-Y6)

Fri 19th Jan - Year 5 Hoops 4 Health basketball coaching (pm)

Mon 22nd Jan - Author Chris Callaghan in school
Mon 22nd Jan - SAT meeting Year 2 parents
Tues 23rd Jan - Y6 to Redesdale Court (biography writing)
Tues 30th Jan - heights & weights Rec & Y6 (School nurse)
Thurs 1st Feb - Y5/6 hockey after school
Mon 5th Feb - Year 1 multi-skills at JSCHS (am)
Tues 6th Feb - Year 2 multi-skills at JSCHS (am)
Wed 7th Feb - Y6 to Redesdale Court (biography writing)
Fri 9th Feb - break up for half term

Tracey Taylor, Headteacher, January 9th 2018