

# Preston Grange Primary School

Newsletter - January 22nd 2019



## Thrive

As you are aware, Miss Clark took up her post this term at school. As part of her role, Miss Clark will be implementing the Thrive Approach. Please find attached some information about Thrive, which we are planning to embed into a whole school approach. Miss Clark at the same time, will be working with both individual children and groups of children who will benefit from the approach.

## Attendance & lateness



We are currently working with the Local Authority Attendance Officer, and monitored all of the children's attendance data (Reception to Y6) for the Autumn term.

Our school attendance target is 96.5%, and the Department for Education refer to any child with absence below 90%, a persistent absentee. This is no matter the reason they have been off school.

We found that 62 children were below our school target attendance and of those, were persistent absentees. Miss Clark is managing attendance as part of her role, and subsequently sent out letters to all parents informing them that their child was below target attendance. We continue to monitor attendance on a weekly basis, and hope that despite understanding that children are sometimes absent due to illness, that attendance will improve.

In light of advice, we are also starting to monitor lateness as other schools do. We are aware that with icy weather, there may be difficulties in getting into school. However, each class from 9 - 9.20am every day are doing spelling and handwriting lessons, and if a child is late they are missing valuable teaching time.

In addition to this, on a termly basis we will be sending out a termly attendance report so that you may keep an eye on your child's own attendance more regularly. Many thanks for your support with this matter.

### **Non uniform days**

There are two non-uniform days for all children from Nursery to Year 6 coming up shortly. One is World Book Day on March 7th and the other is March 15th for Red Nose Day.

For World Book Day, we ask children to come into school wearing pyjamas, dressing gowns or onesies. More information before half term will be sent out regarding Red Nose Day.

**For all children in Chillingham Castle**, they are (over)due a non-uniform day this Friday for being the winning castle last half term.



### **Breakfast club**

For all families who use breakfast club, Mrs Royle has requested that if you have booked a place for your child on the online system and then circumstances change, please cancel your place on the booking system. This is because we may have to turn away a child who could have had that place. Thank you.

### **Parents evening**

This term, we will be holding parents evening on Tuesday March 12th. For a change, we will not be buffering two evenings for appointments, but have tried to suit parents who request late meetings due to work commitments. The booking system will go live once Mrs Royle has set up the appointments, which will run from 3.30pm until 8.30pm. Mrs Royle will send a text to parents once the booking system goes live.

### **Read Aloud month**

For those of you who follow school on Twitter, you will have seen that March is 'Read Aloud' month. We are trying to get as many people into school to read stories aloud to the children as possible.

We have tagged all of the local 'celebs' we can think of, as the children would love it if any of them came good. We are also after any Grandparents, parents or older siblings (ex pupils) who may be happy to be involved. You need to prepare nothing, we will provide the story book and ask for around 20-30 minutes of your time. If you are interested in being one of our Read Aloud volunteers, please contact the office with the date & time in March that you would be happy to come into school. Thank you very much!

### Visitors into Nursery

The Nursery are doing a topic about People Who Help Us. So far, we have arranged for a policeman, a nurse and a firefighter to come in and talk to the children about their job. We wondered if any of our parents know a doctor or a vet perhaps that may be prepared to come into school? Please phone the office if you can help, many thanks.

### Park Run Takeover

On Sunday March 3rd, Preston Grange will 'takeover' the Junior Park Run along the seafront at Whitley Bay. We promote the Park Run as a Preston Grange takeover, try to get as many of our children there as possible, and everyone has a great time doing some activity that is free. It is not a race, it's just about taking part.



Before the PGPS takeover on Sunday March 3rd, the team at Junior Park Run come into school to do an assembly to tell the children all about it and promote the event. We would love to see as many children as possible taking part, and would be grateful for your support!

### Clubbercise

Thanks to the Friends of Preston Grange for organising last night's Clubbercise family event, and thanks to everyone who came along. These will be happening every month, please watch out for details.

Tracey Taylor, Headteacher, January 22nd 2019