



Encourage the development of wisdom

Monday 7th January 2019

SPRING HALF TERM 1 – NEWSLETTER

I hope that you have all had a great holidays, and that the children are starting to calm down after all the excitement! Thank you so much, from all the staff, for all the lovely gifts and cards that you gave us. We really do appreciate your kindness.

I would like to take this opportunity to formally welcome Amber, who started in Year 4 after half-term, and Jack who starts in nursery this term. We are very happy to welcome you to our school.

Teaching and Learning Update

As a school we have worked very hard over the last year, following our disappointing Ofsted result. Growth in pupil numbers has allowed us to move from 2 classes to 3, and allowed us to ensure that we always have 2 members of staff in Early Years. Both staff and governors have accessed a range of training opportunities, and we have had support from both the Local Authority and the Diocese in our journey to put the school back on a solid foundation. The governing body and I now feel that the school is moving forward in a very positive manner, with happy, safe children who are all engaged in their learning, and access it through a range of means. We are, however, not going to rest on our laurels - there are still many things that we can do to help your children have a memorable and successful time at Embleton Primary School. We will continue to work hard to give your children the best opportunities and know that you will support us by doing your part ensuring that your children are well prepared for each day of learning.

School Funding

Many of you will be aware from the media that school funding is, as with many public services, incredibly tight. As a school we are given a set amount of money per child that attends. Unsurprisingly, the amount that we get in has not gone up at the same rate as our costs and, as in every school, our staffing costs also come out of this single funding pot. It is a continual struggle to balance the books, whilst at the same time providing your children with the quality of education they deserve. This is why I am incredibly grateful to the PFA for all the work they do fundraising, and why am incredibly thankful to all of you who support PFA events. The bag-pack and Christmas Fair alone raised over £1000, which will be spent on a variety of things we need to maintain our Beach School in the long term - for example hi-vis jackets, emergency shelter, and trolley.

Mrs Threlfall: Head Teacher

Embleton Vincent Edwards C of E Aided Primary School, Embleton, Alnwick Northumberland NE66 3XR

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PFA Bingo

The PFA Bingo is at the Creighton Hall on Saturday night. Please come along, although be aware that there are a range of members from the local community who also come and take it *very* seriously!

Workshops

There will be a range of workshops this half term to help support you in your child's learning:

- Wed 23 Jan 19 3-4pm Early Years and Year 1 Phonics and Reading Workshop
- Tues 29 Jan 19 2-3pm NSPCC Number Day - Festival of Triangles
- Tues 5 Feb 19 4.45-5.30pm Internet Safety
- Thu 14 Feb 19 4.15-5pm Year 6 SATS information

Wraparound

We continue to offer wraparound care from 7.30 am, and until 5.30 pm. Please speak to Melissa if you would like to book any sessions. We prefer bookings in advance, although can take additional children on a short notice basis if you are stuck.

PE – Years 1 to 5

This half term Years 1 to 5 will go to Willowburn each week on **Thursday** for bouldering or freestyle gymnastics. Please ensure that children wear school uniform but bring in PE kits and a water bottle on a Thursday.

PE - Year 6

This half term Year 6 will do yoga on a **Wednesday**. Please ensure that children wear school uniform but bring in PE kits and a water bottle on a Wednesday.

Beach School

We will be continuing to attend Beach School every Friday. Please ensure that children wear school PE kit to come to school. We will continue to monitor and assess the weather and conditions each week, and will adjust our sessions accordingly, whether that be by working in the dunes, going to a sheltered spot on the beach, going down slightly later, or coming back earlier. Assume that your child will ALWAYS be going and dress them accordingly. Please ensure coats are properly waterproof (not just shower proof), and that your child is wearing layers underneath their school hoodie. Please also ensure that your child is wearing warm socks - the plastic soles of many wellies do not insulate the children very well, and cold feet quickly become uncomfortable. Please make sure that your child has both wellies and trainers in school on Fridays, as if we do have to return, your child needs something to wear on their feet, other than wellies, in the classroom.

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Communication

Important information, newsletters, diary dates, class pages and weekly school and class blogs are on the school website at www.embletonprimary.com. Please use this as your first port of call for finding the information you need. If there is anything else you would like to see on the website please let us know. We will continue to send out information via email, texts and in book bags. Please make sure that if you change your email address or phone number, you let us know. This is particularly important should we need to contact you in an emergency.

If you would like to speak to a member of staff please either catch us at the beginning or end of day, email us (admin@vincentedwards.northumberland.sch.uk) or give us a call.

Payments to School

Please ensure payments to school are made promptly. This is particularly important for lunch money. Lunch money is due on the Monday for that week. The school can accept cash or cheques.

Toddler Group

We continue to hold Toddler Group on a **Friday** morning from **10.00-11.30 am** in school. If you have a 0-4 year old, or you know someone who does, we would love to welcome you along to join in the fun and activities.

School Applications

If you have a nursery-aged child, please remember that you need to apply for a school place for Reception by next week. Let us know if you are having problems accessing the form online. The form can be found on Northumberland County Council's website.

Diary Dates

Please find below diary dates. Note that the Parent Worship is on alternate Friday mornings. Additionally Parent Lunches are a mixture of Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Kind Regards

Nicola Threlfall
Head Teacher

Mrs Threlfall: Head Teacher

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Diary Dates – Spring Half Term 1

Monday 7 th January	School Re-opens for Spring Half Term 1
Monday 7 th January	PFA - Bingo Meeting 7:30pm
Saturday 12 th January	Fundraising Bingo – Creighton Hall 7:30pm
Friday 18 th January	Parent Assembly
Wednesday 23 rd January	EY & Year 1 Phonics & Reading Workshop 3-4pm
Tuesday 29 th January	Parent Lunch
Tuesday 29 th January	NSPCC Number Day – Festival of Triangles. 2-3pm
Wednesday 30 th January	Skipping Workshop – Willowburn Year 3 & 4
Friday 1 st February	Parent Assembly
Tuesday 5 th February	Internet Safety Workshop 4:45-5:30pm
Wednesday 13 th February	Parent Lunch
Thursday 14 th February	Year 6 SATS Information Session 4:15-5pm
Friday 15 th February	Parent Assembly
Friday 15 th February	School closes for Half Term Holiday
Monday 25 th February	School Resumes for Spring Half Term 2

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