



January Newsletter 2020



Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a fantastic Christmas and you are 'ready to fly' in 2020. One of my favourite events of last term was our link up with South Gosforth First School. The children (Y1-4) have all written and received letters to pupils in this 'city' school. This term we are designing travel brochures for each other and in the Summer we are hoping to meet up with our new friends.

Well done to **Da Vinci Crew** - point winners for the Autumn Term and year Two who won our attendance rocket race and will enjoy a well- deserved trip to the park this term.

The staff are 'ready to fly' at Amble First School with lots of exciting events already planned.

Read on to find out what's happening and how you can get involved..

Mrs Bruce



Swimming - CHANGE OF DAY!

A new swimming term starts for years 1 and 2 in January. Lessons will start on **Monday January 20th** (providing pool maintenance is completed). The cost of swimming stays the same at £4 per week which can be paid at the beginning of each week or few weeks in advance (£16 until February half term).



Healthy Eating

This is the perfect time to make healthy eating changes and choices for a happy new year. We have just reviewed our healthy eating policy in line with the guidance from the Dfe (Department for Education) and would like to take this opportunity to remind families of some healthy eating guidelines in school:

- Keep your child hydrated! Send a named water bottle in with your child if possible. This must only contain plain drinking water. Children who are unable to bring a bottle in will still be entitled to get a drink from freshwater classroom taps.
- Pupils are entitled to a free piece of fruit from school in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. Any pupil wishing to bring their own fruit for playtime is welcome. Again, it must be a piece of fruit (grapes must be cut up to prevent choking).
- School dinners are carefully prepared to provide a balanced meal. Packed lunch options should do the same. Pupils are not permitted to bring chocolate, sweets or sugary/fizzy drinks as part of a packed lunch.
- Pupils on packed lunch **MUST NOT** bring nuts, or any food containing nuts to school to support pupils with allergies.



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Pack your child a **HEALTHY LUNCH BOX**

Choose a variety of foods from each food group



Fruit	
+	
Vegetables	
+	
Dairy	
+	
Wholegrains	
+	
Lean meat & alternatives	
=	A Healthy Lunch Box

Here is some guidance on what packed lunches should contain. Google healthy pack lunches with your kids- there is loads of advice! Get the kids involved in designing their packed lunch - they will be more willing to eat it.

Our dinner staff are going to look for super examples of healthy packed lunches for our Golden Table award. If you have a school dinner-staff will be looking for pupils who try their best to eat up all their dinner and those pupils who have a go at new foods.

If we are concerned about a pupil's eating your class teacher or Mrs Bruce will get in touch.

Don't forget, our school nurse/Supernanny, Jane

can help if you have any concerns with your child's eating habits e.g. fussy, unwilling to try, food phobias, weight. Ask Mrs Bruce for an appointment.



Fun little foodies

Each year group is going to spend an afternoon with a company called Fun little foodies! This is part of our healthy eating campaign and our STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) teaching. Parents/carers are most welcome to come along and join in- just complete the slip at the end of this letter. The dates for each class are as follows:

- Year Four- Thursday 16th January 1:15pm - 3:00pm
- Year Three - Thursday 23rd January 1:15pm - 3:00pm
- Year One - Thursday 30th January 1:15pm - 3:00pm
- Year Two - Thursday 6th February 1:15pm - 3:00pm
- Reception- Thursday 13th February 1:15pm - 3:00pm

Special dinner day

<p><u>Cowboy Dinner Menu</u></p> <p><i>Banging Bangers</i></p> <p><i>Campfire beans</i></p> <p><i>Fireside fries</i></p> <p><i>Crunchy carrot sticks</i></p> <p><i>Icy, Ice, Ice-cream or Freshly Baked Cookie</i></p>	<p>Our children love our "Special Dinner" days and this term we are offering our ever popular "Cowboy Lunch" on Thursday 16th January at the cost of £2.20. Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to universal free school meals, therefore don't need to pay (but have to return the booking form).</p>
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If your child normally has a school lunch each day, you do not need to return the form.



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Class drop ins

Come and watch your pupils learning maths facts for life. Get ahead for the times table rock star challenge 2020 (Spring Term 2). **Time 9.00am - 10.00am.**

Year Group	Date
Reception	30.01.2020
Year One	13.02.2020
Year Two	16.01.2020
Year Three	06.02.2020
Year Four	23.01.2020

Class assemblies

Family and friends are all welcome to watch children celebrate and share their learning - this term they will take place on a **Thursday morning at 9:05am.**

Year Group	Date
Reception	05.03.2020
Year One	12.03.2020
Year Two	26.03.2020
Year Three	19.03.2020
Year Four	27.02.2020



Spelling Bee

In every year group there is a list of "tricky" words that are hard to spell because they don't "sound out" clearly. For example, "could" sounds like it should be spelt "cud."

It is really important the children learn these spellings and write them correctly in their stories. That is why we are challenging each class to a spelling bee. Each year group is bringing home a spelling mat. Your challenge is to learn these spelling between now and February 10th. On February 10th, there will be a class spelling test on 10 (year One) and



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20 (year 2, 3 and 4) of the tricky words from the mat. The top three spellers will then go on to a fun (!) final in the hall in Key Stages to find the top spellers in our school.

How to learn the spellings. Try to learn a few at a time and make it fun:

Remember everyone learns by; Doing it, seeing it, saying it, writing/drawing it, listening to it so making sure you have a variety of games and tasks is a great way to ensure that the learning sticks!

- Colourful spellings - Get Santa to deliver a spelling notepad and some felt tips. How many different colours can they write the same words in?
- Creative spellings- Can you use curly, spiky, bubble, wavy writing to spell your word?
- Air writing game- Child writes a tricky word in the air- parents have to guess. Parents write a tricky word in the air- child has to guess. Same game but draw it on your back!
- Scrabble letters- put all the letters of the alphabet on the table/floor. Say a trick word. Child has to spell as quickly as possible.
- Outdoors- Trampoline spelling - say each letter of a tricky word with every bounce! With a ball- say a letter with every throw, kick, bounce..
- Food spelling- Use raisins (healthy), smarties (not so!), cheerios or any other tasty treats to spell out the word. Eat when complete!
- Messy spellings: Use salt, shaving foam, sand etc.. in a tray. Children use their finger to write the spelling.
- Make a word search of your tricky words.
- Find your tricky words in magazines or newspapers, cut them out and stick them in your book.
- Make a Mnemonic/ pattern to remember the word e.g BECAUSE = **B**ig **E**lephants **C**an **A**dd **U**p **S**ums **E**asily

We recognise some children will find this challenge easier than others. As always, try your best with as many of the spellings as possible. All the children will receive a certificate for giving it a go!



Times Table Rock Star

Advance warning!!! At the end of Spring Term 2 (30th March) we will hold our times table rock star competition.



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Each class will be tested (in an age appropriate way!) in class on:

Reception: Doubling up to double 10

Year One: The 2, 5 and 10 times table

Year Two: The 2,3,5 and 10 times table

Year Three: The 2,3,4,5,8 and 10 times table

Year four: All tables up to X 12!!

Top performers from all classes will be invited to key stage finals in the hall to determine who are the times table rock stars.

Teachers will also be rewarding pupil with times table rock star goodies for best improvements and best effort so give it your best shot!



Our Safeguarding Schools liaison officer, Karen Kirkbride, is coming to do a PSHE session with year one. This is part of our work with Northumberland police in partnership to safeguard pupils against future domestic abuse, with early intervention.

There will be a drop in session where parents can speak with Karen to seek advice regarding domestic abuse, request an onward referral to domestic abuse support services or alternatively make a report to the Police. This will take place at **8:30am on Wednesday January 8th**. Please call in on that date at 8:30am - no appointment necessary or alternatively let Mrs Bruce know you would like to speak to Karen.



PTA Movie Night January Sale!!

Movie night is back! The children are invited to stay behind after school **until 5.00 pm** for a choice of movies. The children choose the movies nearer the date and for the knockdown price of £3 (£5 for a family of two, £7 for a family of three) get juice and a snack. If you would like your child to attend the November movie night, please complete the slip at the end of this newsletter and put it in an envelope with £3 and your child's name and movie night written clearly on the front!



Adverse Weather Plan

We have recently reviewed our adverse weather plan. In case of bad weather we will communicate in as many ways as possible to inform you of school opening\closure. Check on the school website, school facebook page, County Council website and Radio Newcastle!



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Fridge page

Date and time	Event	Involved
January 2020		
Monday January 6th	Teacher Training Day	Pupils off school
Tuesday January 7th	School open	Pupils return to school
Wednesday January 8th	Operation Encompass drop in, 8:30am	Any parent- see newsletter info
Thursday 16th January	Cowboy Dinner Day	All pupils
Thursday 16th January, 9:05am	Year Two maths drop in	Year Two parents and carers invited
Thursday 16th January 1:15pm - 3:00pm	Year Four Fun little Foodies	
Wednesday 22nd Jan	Swimming re-starts	Years 1 and 2
Thursday 23rd January, 9:05am	Year Four maths drop in	Year Four parents and carers invited
Thursday 23rd January 1:15pm - 3:00pm	Year Three Fun Little Foodies	
Wednesday January 29th	PTA Movie night	Open to all pupils Rec - Y4
Thursday January 30th, 9:05am	Reception math drop in	Reception parents and carers invited
Thursday 30th January 1:15pm - 3:00pm	Year One Fun Little Foodies	
February		
Thursday 6th 9:05am	Year Three maths drop in	Year Three parents and carers invited
Thursday 6th February 1:15pm - 3:00pm	Year Two Fun Little Foodies	
Monday 10th	Spelling Bee	Year One to Year Four
Thursday 13th 9:05am	Year One maths drop in	Year One parents and carers invited
Thursday 13th February 1:15pm - 3:00pm	Reception Fun Little Foodies	
Friday 14th 3:15pm	School closes for half term	All pupils
Thursday 27th, 9:05am	Year Four class assembly	Year 4 pupils, parents and carers
March		
Thursday 5th, 9:05am	Reception class assembly	Reception pupils, parents and carers
Thursday 12th, 9:05am	Year One class assembly	Year One pupils, parents and carers
Thursday 19th, 9:05am	Year Three class assembly	Year Three pupils, parents and carers
Thursday 26th, 9:05am	Year Two class assembly	Year Two pupils, parents and carers
Monday 30th	Times Table Rock Star s	Reception to Year Four



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Reply Slips



Special Dinner Day

Please book a place for my child (name and class) on Cowboy Dinner day (16th January).

Please delete as appropriate

- I enclose payment of £2.20
- My child is in Reception/ Years 1/2 and does not pay for lunch
- My child is entitled to free school meals



I would like to attend fun little foodies on

_____ (date)

Name of parent\carer _____

Name of child you are supporting _____



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Permission slip

Open to children from Reception to Year 4

Come to Movie night on Wednesday January 29th.

You will be able to choose from 3 different films. Choice of movie will be voted for nearer to the night.

For just £3, stay after school on Thursday until 5:00 pm and watch a movie with your friends. Juice and a snack is included in the price.

For your ticket to the movie night of the year, complete the reply slip below and put it in an envelope with £3.

Label the envelope clearly with your child's full name and class and hand it in to Miss Nowak or your child's class teacher. Please return to school in a labelled envelope.

I give permission for _____
(full name of child + year group)

to stay behind after school until 5:00 pm on Wednesday January 29th for Movie night.

Name of adult collecting your child and their relationship to your child _____

Signed _____ (parent or carer)