

Wylam First School

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Rocketing to Success!



Newsletter 6
4th February 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

This being the first newsletter of 2019 it seems appropriate to wish you all a belated 'Happy New Year' and of course Gung Hay fat choy!

I hope that you have all enjoyed the snow recently. Unfortunately its arrival has delayed the work that is to be done on the main yard but hopefully over the coming weeks the playground markings and small multi games area will be completed.

Since the Christmas break essential work has been carried out to update and improve our heating system in school. The vast majority of the work is now complete so hopefully the work will be finished in the next few weeks.

We are in the process of evaluating our curriculum and are conducting learning walks, pupil voice activities and focus case studies. Our aim is to ensure that our curriculum is engaging, relevant and challenging for all children and that our curriculum fully prepares

our children for future learning.

As you know we altered our maths programmes last year to follow the White Rose maths model. This is having a positive impact on standards across the school, particularly in reasoning and problem solving. We are currently working with our partnership schools to develop our calculations policy. Once this is in place we will hold a parent workshop to demonstrate the strategies we follow.

We are also currently evaluating our Literacy curriculum, with a particular focus on improving writing across the school. All staff have recently undergone training for Talk for Writing. You can find information about this at www.talk4writing.co.uk. Our plan is to trial this over the Spring term and launch it in the Summer term. This method focuses on the principles of how children learn and allows children to imitate the language they need for a particular topic, orally, before reading and analysing the text, then writing their own. Once in place we will be running some parent workshops to demonstrate and let you have a go.

News

Wylam Winter Tales

I'm sure many of you were able to attend some of the events that took place during Wylam Winter Tales. As ever it has been a huge success. Some of our children took part in the Wassail which formed part of the opening ceremony. Mr Daly reported back that the children sang really well, so well done! You can see some pictures of this event on our website.

We also welcomed Paul Cookson into school on Friday 25th January, who performed his poetry in our assembly then worked with Y4. The children really enjoyed this session, particularly when he made fun of the teachers!

We also hosted the comedy night at school on Thursday 31st January. It was great being part of such a fantastic event and we look forward to being involved in next year's line-up.

Primary Engineer

As mentioned in previous newsletters we have entered into the Primary Engineer Leaders' Award. At half term we will be sending home more information about this and asking the children to think about the question 'If you were an engineer, what would you do?'. Once all of the ideas are collated each class will look at a specific area of focus for our entries.

Bikeability

We have signed up to some Bikeability courses with Cycle Experience Ltd which will take place after Easter. There are 3 levels to the courses:

- Bikeability Balance - for Reception and Y1
- Bikeability Learn to Ride - Y2 and Y3
- Bikeability Level 1 - Y4.

Both Bikeability Balance and Learn to Ride courses are free but the Bikeability Level 1 will be £20 per pupil. We will be sending out all information in regards to this after half term so that you can decide whether to sign up to the courses.

Heritage Project

In the Summer term the school will be working with the Parish Council on a heritage project. We will be working with Bryan Dixon who is an artist/filmmaker with the aim of producing a performance at the Institute in July. The performance will include a film screening, art work and a drama production. Our Y4 children will work on the filmmaking with Bryan and children across the school will participate in the art and drama activities. This is going to be a very exciting project and we look forward to taking part.

200 Million Minutes Reading Challenge

The school has signed up to the 200 Million Minutes Reading Challenge which will begin on World Book Day (7th March) and ends on 2nd April. You can find more information about this on www.parentkind.org.uk. We will send out information nearer the time to explain how we will be taking part.

World Book Week

World Book Day is on 7th March. As a partnership we have organised to take part in a maths trail which also falls within that week. With this in mind we have decided to link the two together and our focus this year will be stories that link to maths (number stories, stories that sequence time etc). We will send out further information on what this will look like nearer the time.

Y3 Creative Writing Workshop

Y3 attended a creative writing workshop at the Live Theatre on Friday 1st February. This was a really great trip which inspired some great story telling. The children worked with an illustrator who created the drawings for their class book and came back to school with small books of their own to complete. This work will continue in our Literacy lessons this week. You can see some pictures of what the children got up to on our website.

Gymnastics Competition

Some of our KS2 children took part in a gymnastics competition on 18th January. All of the children were fantastic and really enjoyed taking part. Well done!

Mounted Police

On 17th January we had a visit from the mounted police. The children really enjoyed meeting and learning about the police horses and we would like to thank Mr Fyall for arranging this for us.

Reminders

Head Lice Prevention

As you will be aware head lice is a recurring issue at school. As soon as a case is reported we ensure that you are notified to help try to prevent the spread. As a precautionary measure please can you continue to check your child's hair regularly. If you spot head lice on your child then please treat immediately. As long as a child has been treated then they can return to school.

Could we also ask that all children with long hair continue to tie their hair up for school. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

PE Kit

Just a reminder that it is essential that all children have a PE kit in school. Please bring it in at the beginning of term and leave it in school until the half term where it should be taken home to be washed. The PE kit must include trainers for outdoor PE and a suitable outdoor PE kit for the colder months.

Car Parking

Please be mindful of local residents when parking. We recommend parking at the War Memorial Car Park instead of our immediate vicinity.

Information

Changes to Staffing

We are sad to announce that Kate Riley will be leaving us on 8th February to take up a position at Prudhoe Community High School. Kate has worked as a midday supervisor and after school club supervisor, and will be a huge miss to Wylam First School. We would like to wish her the very best of luck in her new role.

We are currently recruiting for an after school club supervisor - details can be found on our website or from the school office. As an interim measure Claire Short will take on this role.

School Calendar

Tuesday 5th February	Football league fixture Wylam v Broomley @ Wylam
Friday 8th February	Y4 hula hooping
Thursday 14th February	'Open the Book' assembly
Friday 15th February	Break up for half term
Tuesday 26th February	Eagles basketball team working with KS2 (6 weeks)
Thursday 28th - Friday 29th February	Heritage project development groups (Y2, 3, 4)
Friday 1st March	Y4 girls badminton at Ovingham Middle
Monday 4 th March	Reception height and weight measurements
Friday 15th March	Red Nose Day
Friday 22nd March	Early Years trip to Hall Hill Farm
Wednesday 27th March	Deadline for Leaders Award entries (Primary Engineer)
Wednesday 3rd April	Cricket roadshow assembly
Thursday 4th April	Easter church service, 2pm Methodist Church
Thursday 4th April	Break up for Easter holiday
Thursday 4th April	PTA Easter bingo
Friday 5th April	Teacher training day
Tuesday 23rd April	Back to school
Tuesday 23rd April	Reception and Y1 Bikeability balance
Monday 29th April	Parent's evening 3:30-6:30pm

Monday 29th April	Y2 and Y3 Bikeability
Tuesday 30th April	Y4 Level 1 Bikeability
Thursday 2nd May	Parent's evening 3:30-4:30pm
Sunday 19th May	Jump for Joy - choir at St Oswin's

Please continue to check our school website for the most up to date information.

Kind regards.

S Gibbon
Headteacher