

Wylam First School

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Rocketing to Success!



**Newsletter 4
3rd December 2018**

Dear Parents/Carers

Just 3 weeks to go!!!

I can't quite believe that we are in December already. This term has been very busy and full of lots of exciting events for our children and families which have been fantastic.

Thank you to all who took the time to complete our parent questionnaire. This really is important to us and fully supports our self-evaluation and improvement plans. The results of the questionnaire are in the information section of this newsletter. One of the key

themes highlighted from parent responses was that although parents were happy with the level of communication from school they did not feel that they received enough information about their child's progress and how they could help their child at home. Another area that, based on parent feedback, that could be improved is homework. As a result I would like to set up a parent focus group in January to discuss this further. Ideally we would like one or two representatives from each year group to attend. If you are interested in taking part in this group then please could you contact the school office. When registering your interest could you also please let us know if you would like this to take place during school hours or after school hours. Thank you.

As you will be very much aware we are in full rehearsal mode for our Christmas performances. The children and staff are working very hard to produce their shows and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff for all of the extra work they are taking on to ensure that each performance is fantastic!

Our school Christmas tree arrived in school today but it is looking very bare. Children are very welcome to bring in 1 decoration for the tree from tomorrow to help us to make it the centrepiece of the school.

News

Children In Need

I hope you have had an opportunity to have a look at the pictures on our website of our Children In Need Ramble. We had a fantastic day at Slaley woods with children across the age ranges taking on different challenges. KS2 managed to complete a 6K course, KS1 a 4K course and EYFS a 2K course which was amazing. The children thoroughly enjoyed the day and because of your support in gaining sponsorship for the event, helped the school to raise an amazing £1838 for Children In Need. Thank you so much for your kind donations for such a worthy cause. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Miss Armitt who organised the event and all of the parent volunteers who were able to come along with us.

Karen Quinn - Yard Development

At the beginning of November we invited Karen Quinn, our local councillor, into school to talk about the ambitions we have for the school and, as ever, our struggles with financing our ambitions. As part of our conversations we spent some time looking at our main yard and discussing the changes we would like to make to it to support healthy lifestyles and well-being. Karen was impressed by our vision and as a result has offered to donate some of her budget (£7200) to the school to help to develop the yard. This money, along with £1500 from the PTA, will be put towards adding a small MUGA (multi use games area) on the yard and some line markings, including a circuit training trail, and a daily mile track. This is fantastic news and hopefully the work will be completed early on in the Spring term.

Christmas Card Competition

At the end of November Year 3 entered Guy Opperman's Christmas Card Competition. This competition was open to Year 3 children across Tynedale and Ponteland schools. Our children worked really hard on their cards. On Wednesday 21st November Guy announced the winner, live from the Houses of Parliament, and amazingly Ailsa won!! Ailsa's card will now be sent to thousands of people in the constituency and to Theresa May. As part of her prize Ailsa has been invited down to London on 5th December. Well done Ailsa, we look forward to finding out about your exciting trip! All children who took part received a certificate for their efforts.

Poppy Appeal

This year our school managed to raise £272.70 for the Royal British Legion's poppy appeal. Well done!

Eden Francis

On Friday 16th November we had a visit from Eden Francis, a European Championship Gold Medalist. She put the children through their paces in a quick blast circuit training activity then led an assembly. The children really enjoyed her visit. Some of our children also raised a little money for Eden to support her on her journey to the Olympic Games in Tokyo in 2020. Well done!

Football Competition

On 16th November some of our Year 3 children took part in a football competition at Mowden. We entered 2 teams in the competition and both teams did exceptionally well. We achieved 1st and 2nd place. Well done!

RGS Drama Project

On Thursday 22nd November Mrs Shaw-Kew brought some of her students from RGS into school to work on a joint drama project with our Year 4 children. The children had a fantastic time. Thank you to the Year 9 students from RGS who were fantastic ambassadors for their school and to Mrs Shaw-Kew for organising and running the event.

Christingle

On Sunday 2nd December Mr Daly took members of our choir to St Oswin's Church to take part in the Christingle event. The choir sang beautifully and were fantastic ambassadors for the school. Unfortunately we did not take any pictures of the event. If you were there and managed to take some pictures please could you send some into school via the admin email address.

Nursery Pram Service

On 29th November our Nursery children went along to St Oswin's to take part in their pram service. They had a lovely time and were extremely well behaved.

The Woodland Trust

Today Emma from the Woodland Trust came in to hold an assembly in school. We have signed up to take part in the Green Tree School's Award and are only 2 points away from our Bronze. We will keep you informed via our newsletters and our website how we get on.

Reminders

Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Dinner

Our Christmas dinner is on Friday 7th December. Children are welcome to come to school in their best festive knits or Christmas clothes. It is always a fantastic day in school and Mrs Sanders' lunches are legendary!

PTA Christmas Fair - donations

Just a reminder that it is our PTA Christmas Fair on Friday from 5pm. A message was sent out at the end of last week reminding you of the donations that are needed to make our fair a success. Toys/gifts, bottles/chocolates, donations for the refreshments stall and the jar tombola donations can be dropped off from today. Thank you in advance for your support with this and a huge thank you to the PTA who work so hard to make this a success.

Winter Wonder Pals

We are selling 'Winter Wonder Pals' to raise funds on behalf of the Tynedale Hospice. These small cuddly toys come in 4 different types including a pink or blue unicorn, a snowman and a spotty dog. They are available to buy for a donation of £2. If you would like your child to purchase one please send them in with £2. Unfortunately we have only been given 2 boxes containing 40 cuddly toys and we are unable to get any more, so it will be first come, first served.

Last day of term - Christmas fun day

On 21st December (last day of the Autumn term) we will be having a Christmas fun day. Again children are more than welcome to come to school in their Christmas jumpers. On that day our Year 4 children will also be singing at Charlie's Corner in the morning and we will have our Christmas service at St Oswin's church from 1:30pm. Please Come and join us there. Parents will be able to take their children home from the church service. If parents cannot attend then children will come back to school and can be picked up from the normal time.

EYFS Christmas Workshops

Christmas workshops are taking place this week across Reception and Nursery. We look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

Information

Changes to Staffing

Mrs Cooper-Davies has decided to leave Wylam First School at the end of the Autumn term. She has worked here for a long time and has been a fantastic member of school staff. She will be missed by all and we wish her the very best of luck for the future. Mr Daly will be taking on the full-time role in Year 1 in the interim.

Street Dance Performance

Our Street Dance class has been taking place over the Autumn term. On Thursday 13th December the parents of the children taking part have been invited in to watch their end of term performance. Please come into school for 4:30pm. The class finishes at 4:45pm and children can be taken home then.

Picking up at the end of the school day

When collecting your child at the end of the school day please can we ask that you stand back from the school doors to allow the teacher to see parents clearly. Once you have collected your child please can you move away from the door quickly. If you need to talk to a teacher at the end of the day please can we ask that you wait until all children have been released. If you need to go into school to check the cloakroom or the lost property boxes, again can we ask that you wait to do this once all of the children have been safely handed over to their parents. Thank you for your support with this matter.

Results from Parent Questionnaire

My Child Likes school.	98% Yes
My child feels safe at school.	100% Yes
My child is making good progress at school.	93.7% Yes
The school makes sure that my child is well looked after.	100% Yes
My child is taught well at school.	93% Yes
The school keeps me informed of the progress my child is making	73% Yes
School staff are approachable and I am able to talk to a member of staff when I need to.	97% Yes
The school helps me support my child's learning.	93% Yes
The school helps my child to develop skills in communication, reading, writing and maths.	97% Yes
I am happy with the curriculum that the school delivers.	91% Yes
The homework that my child receives is appropriate.	80% Yes
I am happy with the extra-curricular programme at the school (music tuition, PE competitions, after school and lunch time clubs.	81% Yes
There is a good standard of behaviour in school.	98% Yes

The school deals with any cases of bullying effectively.	27% Yes 73% Not sure
My child feels safe and happy at break and lunch time.	95% Yes
The school responds well to any concerns that I have	98% Yes
The school supports my child to understand e-safety.	95% Yes
The school helps me to understand e-safety and how I can keep my child safe online.	86% Yes
The school has an effective Religious Education curriculum.	87% Yes
The school has an effective PSHE curriculum (Personal, Social, Health and Emotional).	95% Yes
I am happy with the level of communication.	92% Yes
I would recommend this school to another parent.	100% Yes

School Calendar

2nd December	Choir singing at the Christingle service at St Oswin's
3rd December	Woodland Trust Assembly
3rd December	Willow tunnel weaving
7th December	Christmas jumper and Christmas dinner day
7th December	PTA Christmas fair
11th December	Choir singing for the Friends of Wylam at the Institute
11th December	EYFS Christmas performance (9:30am - 10:30am) KS2 Christmas performance (1:30pm - 2:30pm)
12th December	KS1 Christmas performance (9:30am -10:30am) KS2 Christmas performance (6pm - 7pm)
13th December	EYFS Christmas performance (9:30am - 10:30am) KS1 Christmas performance (1:30pm - 2:30pm)
13th December	KS2 dodgeball event
14th December	EYFS trip to Northern Stage - The Three Bears at Christmas
17th December	KS2 trip to Queen's Hall - Robin Hood
18th December	EYFS Christmas party KS1 Christmas Party
19th December	KS2 Christmas Party
19th December	KS1 trip to Tyne Theatre - Cinderella
21st December	Christmas Fun Day! Y4 singing at Charlie's Corner Christmas church service at St Oswin's Break up for Christmas Holiday
8th January	Return to school (teacher training day 7th January)
10th January	Eye tests for Reception
24th January	Beginning of Wylam Winter Tales - Wassail
25th January	Wylam Winter Tales assembly

31st January	Wylam Winter Tales comedy night, 7:30pm - 9:15pm - school hall
Friday 15th February	Break up for half term
Monday 25th February	Back to school

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

Kind Regards

S Gibbon
Headteacher