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Newsletter 6
13th January 2020

2020
happy new year

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the roaring 20s! I hope that you all had a fantastic Christmas and we wish you all a Happy New Year!!

We have got some fantastic things planned for the Spring and Summer terms so the majority of this newsletter will explain what will be going on both inside and outside the classroom, to continue to improve our curriculum and the learning experiences for our children.

News

Our Curriculum Intent

At Wylam First School, our curriculum intent follows 3 specific pathways. We focus on: **Creative Development** where we develop literacy, humanities, art, drama, music, speaking and listening; **STEM** where we look at science, engineering, technology and maths; **Physical and Emotional**

Wellbeing where we focus on PE and competition, PSHE, relationship and sex education, RE and No Outsiders. You can find more information on this on our school website. Below are some examples of what we are planning to do over the coming terms to drive our intent across the school.

STEM@Wylam

Wild About Adventure

This week we will begin our allotment project working with Paul Mordue from Wild About Adventure. This project has been made possible by the money we received from the Coop Community fund.

Our aim is to extend our allotment down to where the apple trees line the pathway into school. We will be building a polytunnel and will be adding some extra raised beds. There will be a wildlife area with bug hotels, animal feeders and a pond, and there will be a fire pit for outdoor cooking and a reflection area.

There are a few phases to the project and all classes will be taking part across the remainder of the year. We are also hoping to engage with various community groups throughout the project.

Phase 1 (Spring Term 1)

Year 4 will work with Paul to clear the current allotment and prepare the ground. They will work with Paul to create the allotment plan, designing what it will look like and begin plans and timetables for the fruit and vegetables that we will grow.

Paul will also be running an after school club on a Tuesday evening to work with children to baseline our carbon footprint, and will hold a parent workshop to share the plans and hopefully recruit some helpers for the project.

Half Term

During half term we will be looking for volunteers to help us with the project with a focus on removing the hedgeline, constructing a fence and building the polytunnel.

Phase 2 (Spring Term 2)

Year 3 will work with Paul to build the raised beds, prepare the grounds for the shed and the fire pit, and begin to design and build the pond area. That half term Paul will run an after school club working towards a wildlife award.

Phase 3 (Summer Term 1)

Year 1, Year 2 and Early Years will work with Paul to create bug habitats and a planting programme. Paul will run an afterschool club working towards an eco award.

Phase 4 (Summer Term 2)

All year groups will continue to work on their section of the allotment and will begin the weekly jobs that will be required to maintain the allotment.

Year 4 will work with Paul on a film making project to capture the work that has been done which will be showcased at our celebration and opening ceremony in July.

Throughout the project our eco ambassadors will be working on our eco pledge and will be heavily

involved in all of the activities.

As you can see this is a very ambitious project but it will also be a fantastic one for the children now and for years to come. During the project the children will be developing their maths, literacy and science skills, along with developing life skills such as problem solving, resilience and teamwork. During the last phase of the project we will spend time ensuring that the ongoing and essential work that needs to take place in the allotment will be carefully written into our curriculum.

Tool Amnesty

We need your help! In order for us to begin the project we need as many garden tools as we can get. If you have any spare spades, rakes, gardening gloves, gardening forks, trowels etc lying around in your garden shed, that you no longer need, then please could you donate them to school. Just drop them off at the school office or hand them to your child's class teacher. Thank you in advance.

Primary Engineer

We are taking part in the Primary Engineer Leaders Award again this year. Last year we did very well in the competition and even had some of our children's work displayed at the University of Sunderland! We will begin our focus on this after February half term. In advance of this we will send home the invention sheets for you to work on with your child and ask that they are brought back into school after the half term holiday so we can continue to work on them. During the term we will also be welcoming a range of engineers into school to talk to the children about their jobs and to lead some activities.

If you are an engineer and would be able to give up some of your time to talk to the children about what you do then please contact Mrs Gibbon.

iPads

Our new school iPads are now on order and we hope to take delivery of them soon. We are really excited about having a class set of iPads as this will allow us to access the fantastic apps available through Apple Education, to strengthen our coding curriculum, and in particular allow us to develop filmmaking and animation. We have recently bought into 'Litfilmfest' which is an online resource to support the teaching of film making through the topics we teach. This has already been written into our curriculum and we are looking forward to seeing the results!

PE @ Wylam

Coaching

Newcastle United Primary PE Stars

As mentioned in the newsletter prior to Christmas we will be working with the Newcastle United Foundation who will be delivering PE sessions across KS1 and KS2 for the remainder of the school year. They will also be leading on some literacy intervention programmes and will deliver a PSHE scheme with KS2. As part of the package they will also run a lunchtime club where they will support our mediators to lead active lunchtime activities. Each class will receive 2 cycles of coaching which begins next week with Years 3 and 4.

Golf Coaching

Every year, as part of the Tynedale School Games, there is a Tri Golf competition which takes

place at Close House in the Spring Term for Years 3 and 4. In advance of this, from Tuesday 25th February, Will Robson from Close House will be running an after school club for up to 12 Years 3 and 4 children. Letters to sign up for this will be sent home soon.

Cricket All Stars

In the Summer Term Tom Cant from Cricket All Stars will be delivering cricket sessions during PE. This will be for 5 weeks and there will be an after school club on Wednesday evening for up to 16 children. Again letters to sign up for this will be sent home nearer the time.

One of our school aims is to increase competitive sport across the school. So far this academic year we have taken part in Cross Country and Tag rugby competitions. During the Spring and Summer terms we are signed up to participate in the following competitions; Gymnastics, Multiskills, Golf, Cricket, Orienteering and Hoopstars. In addition to this we are involved in the Prudhoe Partnership Football League. Unfortunately, due to bad weather, many of the Autumn Term fixtures had to be called off. Our next fixture is on 6th February.

Music@Wylam

We continue to try to offer a wide selection of singing/music experiences across the course of the year. At the end of last year we were able to improve our music resources through money raised by the PTA which has had a great impact on our curriculum offer.

Currently we have children taking up the opportunity to learn the clarinet, keyboard and trumpet in private tuition sessions. We have a weekly after school club for choir which sings at different events across the year, and across each year group children spend time learning to play different musical instruments.

Year 1 learn how to play the ocarina

Year 2 learn how to play the recorder and the trumpet

Year 3 learn to play in a samba band and the trumpet

Year 4 learn how to play the trumpet.

Mental and Emotional Wellbeing@Wylam

We are currently following the Twinkl schemes for both RE (religious education) and PSHE (personal, social, health education) across the school. RE lessons are weekly and PSHE themes are taught during school and class assemblies, and as individual lessons. We begin each half term with a few focus days where the children explore the topics in depth, which will then continue across the half term.

Our PSHE curriculum also covers Relationship and Sex education (RSE) and our focus on No Outsiders (teaching of equalities). On Wednesday 22nd January we will be holding a PSHE workshop for Years 1-4, 9am-10am, where parents are invited into school to learn about our curriculum, look at the books that we use to deliver the topics and ask any questions that you may have. You will then be able to go into the classrooms to work with your child during a PSHE lesson.

Across the week we also ensure that some time is taken to focus on mindfulness. The children take part in a number of activities to support this, such as yoga sessions, peer massage, running on our mile track, relaxation techniques.

Information

Parents Evenings

We will be holding our Spring parents meetings on Tuesday 17th and Thursday 19th March. Our Tuesday session will begin at 4:30pm - 7pm. Our Thursday session will begin at 3:30pm - 5:30pm. The appointments will be 10 minute appointments and books will be available for you to look at. You will be able to sign up for a slot on Monday 9th March and Tuesday 10th March.

Reading

We are currently in the process of reorganising our home-school reading books with a particular focus on early reading. There will be more information on this soon. In school we make sure that every child reads with the teacher at least once a week through 1:1 reading of their home/school book, or guided and group reading. There are also whole class reading sessions that take place each day where a class text is shared with the children. At different points of the week we also have volunteers who give up some spare time to come into school to hear children read their home/school books. If you have any spare time and would like to come into school to hear readers this would be very much appreciated. Please contact Mr Daly-Brand or the school office if you can help.

Wylam Winter Tales

We are very much looking forward to Wylam Winter Tales again this year. The school will be hosting some of the evening events and we will also have some workshops in school with Knife and Packer on Friday 31st January, and Malcolm Green during the week beginning 3rd February to run some story telling sessions.

Operation Encompass

Sarah Donnison from Northumbria Police will be coming into school on 21st January to work with Year 3 on the topic of emotions and empathy. Sarah will also be holding a drop in session from 8:30am to 9am for parents who would like to talk to her about any concerns they have about domestic abuse.

Children's Cancer Run

We have signed up as a school to take part in the Children's Cancer Run again this year. The event will take place on the 17th May at Gosforth Race Course. If you would like to take part then please go onto the website <https://www.neccr.org.uk/event/childrens-cancer-run-2020/> and click onto register to run. When you complete the form you will be asked if you are running with a school, click yes then select Wylam First School. If you sign up before 31st March you get an 'early bird' discount.

School Vacancies

We currently have 2 vacancies in school. We are looking for a Cleaner and a Lunchtime Supervisory Assistant. If you are interested then please have a look at our school website for further information.

World Book Day

This year World Book Day falls on Thursday 5th March. To celebrate this, we would like the children to bring their favourite book and a prop from their favourite book into school to share with their class. Adults across the school will also share their favourite books with the children.

Extra Curricular Clubs

This term we are running the following extra curricular clubs:

Choir
Karate
Gymnastics
Eco-club (Eco ambassadors)
Lunchtime sports leaders
Eco club (Wild About Adventure)
Golf

Reminders

PE Kit

During the Spring Term children will be taking part in PE both indoors and outdoors. So that they can participate fully please ensure that they have both an indoor and an outdoor PE kit in school. This must include trainers for outdoor PE. For the full PE kit list please see our website.

Earrings in school

Please can we remind you that earrings are not to be worn in school. Thank you.

School Calendar

Tuesday 7th January	Children return to school - beginning of the Spring Term
Tuesday 14th January	Newcastle United Foundation PE sessions begin
Tuesday 14th January	Eco Project begins
Tuesday 21st January	Operation Encompass Drop-in for parents, 8:30-9am, Workshop (Y3)
Wednesday 22nd January	PSHE/RSE Parent workshop (Years 1-4), 9-10am
Friday 31st January	Cartoonist duo Knife & Packer school workshop
Friday 31st January	Knife & Packer family show (Wylam Winter Tales)

Thursday 6th February	Paul Karenza comedy show (Wylam Winter Tales)
Thursday 13th February	Y3/4 Gymnastics competition
Friday 14th February	School closed - Teacher Training Day
Thursday 5th March	World Book Day
Tuesday 17th March	Parents Evening (4:30pm-7pm)
Thursday 19th March	Parents Evening (3:30pm-5:30pm)

Kind Regards

S Gibbon
Headteacher

