

# Wylam First School

Bell Road, Wylam, Northumberland, NE41 8EH  
Tel: 01661 852771  
Email: [admin@wylam.northumberland.sch.uk](mailto:admin@wylam.northumberland.sch.uk)  
Website: [www.wylam.northumberland.sch.uk](http://www.wylam.northumberland.sch.uk)

Headteacher: Mrs Stephanie Gibbon



Rocketing to Success!

**Newsletter 3**  
**5th November 2018**



Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back! I hope that you all had a lovely half term break and have had lots of fun 'trick or treating' and watching fireworks displays.

The countdown to Christmas is on!! (Sorry, I have mentioned the 'c' word!). This is one of our busiest half terms of the year. Not only do we have a range of trips and activities organised but very soon the children will begin to practise their Christmas performances. The dates of all activities/events and performances are diarised below and are on our school website. Please take some time to look at our school website to find out about the fantastic things that go on in our school.

Today I received a letter from the Minister of State for School Standards, Nick Gibb (MP), to congratulate the school on our outstanding achievement in the 2018 phonics screening check. 100% of our children passed the check at the end of Y1 in 2018 (a

significant increase on previous years) which puts us in the top 3% of all primary schools in the country. Last year we had a whole school focus on improving the teaching of phonics and because of the hard work of staff, children and parents we did exceptionally well.

## News

### **Maths Workshop**

On Friday 5th October Mrs Long held a maths workshop for parents, to demonstrate the strategies we are using to teach maths across the school. Thank you to all who were able to attend. For those who were unable to attend the PowerPoint has been uploaded to our website.



### **Harvest Festival**

On 22nd October we held our Harvest Festival. The whole school got together to sing songs and learn about the importance of the festival and how we can use such events to help and support others. It was a lovely afternoon. Each class prepared something for the celebration and performed really well. Thank you for all of your kind food donations which were given to the West End Food Bank. Please have a look at our school website to see photographs of the event.

### **Y2 Skipping**

All of Y2 took part in a skipping event on 18th October. They had a great time at the event and have learned some great new skills.

### **Y2 trip to HMS Trincomalee**

What a great day out Y2 had at HMS Trincomalee. They learned all about life on a ship and were sporting some fantastic pirates costumes. Have a look at the pictures on our website.



### **Pumpkin Competition**

We were absolutely blown away by the standard of the entries this year to the PTA pumpkin competition. It was lovely to see a huge range of designs and a mixture of independent entries and family efforts. Well done to everyone! The winners were: Rosanna Ridley (Nursery), Annabelle Wood (Y1), and Lucie Wilson (Y4).

### **Tag Rugby Competition**

On Thursday 25th October a group of our Y3 and Y4 children were selected to attend a tag rugby competition. Not only did our team win **every match(!!!)** but they now go through to represent Tyndale in the School Games. Well done!!!



### **Halloween Day**

We had a great day on 26th October at our Halloween fun day. The costumes, as ever, did not disappoint! We ended the day with a spooky Halloween party in the hall. Have a look at the pictures on our website.

## Reminders

### **PE Kit**

Please can you make sure that your child has an indoor and outdoor PE kit in school. This should be brought into school at the beginning of half term and taken home at the end of term. There are a number of children who have been unable to fully participate in PE lessons due to lack of kit. Thank you for your support with this.

### **Home reading/homework**

By the end of the week you will receive your child's new topic web, class newsletter and homework challenges. The newsletter will explain when your child receives their homework and spellings and when they have to be handed in. To support your child to make good progress at school please can you make sure that your child completes their homework and learns their spellings each week. On top of this we ask that you read with your child at least 3 times a week (school reading book) and share books at bedtime as often as possible.

## Information

### **PTA Update**

The PTA and the school would like to thank you for your generosity and hard work over the last half term raising money for the school. Below is a breakdown of money raised:

Early Years' Coffee Morning - £56.90

Pumpkin Competition - £44

Halloween Fun Day - £210.60

Grand total of:

**£311.50**

The PTA will be meeting on Wednesday 7th November 8pm at The Ship. All are welcome to attend.

### **Poppy Appeal**

From tomorrow (Tuesday 6th November) we will be selling poppies, wristbands and snap bands in school to support the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Y4 children will be selling the items during morning break and lunch time from Tuesday - Friday. Parents can also purchase their poppies from Y4 children in the yard, before school. Reflectors and wristbands are 50p, all other items are £1.

### **Children in Need**

This year, to support Children In Need and for our outdoor day, we have decided to hold The Big Wylam Ramble! On Tuesday 13th of November we will be taking the whole school to Slaley Woods where Miss Armitt has mapped out a range of walks for us. You will receive a letter tomorrow with more information along with a sponsor form for the Ramble. On Friday 16th November (Children in Need Day) children can come to school in their pyjamas for a donation of £1.

### **E-Safety**

Just before half term the school underwent an external e-safety audit. The audit checks that the school is fulfilling its responsibilities for e-safety and GDPR. The result was very positive and our in-school policies were particularly praised. Well done Miss Armitt.

### **Parent and Pupil Questionnaires**

An important part of our self-evaluation process is collecting the views of pupils and parents. Over the next few weeks our student council and staff members will be

collecting the views of the children on a range of subjects. We will also be sending out a questionnaire via google forms which can be completed on your phone or tablet. We would be very grateful if you could spare a few minutes to complete the questionnaire. All responses are used to support school improvement and help us to shape our school development plans.

### Hygiene - Hand Washing Talk

As you will be aware we have had a terrible time recently with nasty stomach bugs. In response to this we have invited the NHS Infection Control staff into school to talk to the children about hygiene and washing hands.

## School Calendar

7th November	Infection control - hand washing and hygiene talk
9th November	Clarinet Lessons KS2 begin
13th November	Wylam Ramble for Children In Need
16th November	Children in Need
16th November	School visit: Eden Francis (athlete)
22nd November	Y4 drama project
26th November	Flu vaccinations (Reception - Y4)
29th November	Nursery pram service - St Oswin's
7th December	Christmas jumper and Christmas dinner day
7th December	PTA Christmas fair
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)
14th December	EYFS trip to Northern Stage
17th December	KS2 trip to Queen's Hall - Robin Hood

19th December	KS1 trip to Tyne Theatre - Cinderella
21st December	Y4 singing at Charlie's Corner
21st December	Christmas church service at St Oswin's
21st December	Break up for Christmas Holiday

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

Kind Regards

**S Gibbon**  
**Headteacher**