

Wylam First School

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Rocketing to Success!



Newsletter 7
4th March 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that you have had a lovely half term break. It was such a surprise to have such nice weather in February! From talking to the children it seems that half term was a very busy and fun filled time!

As you will have noticed work on our playground was completed over half term. We are really pleased with the results and the children have enjoyed making the most of this during playtimes. We are challenging the children to try to complete a mile a day during lunch time and playtime. So far it has been great to see children of all ages giving this a go!

It is great to see children using the equipment before and after school and at weekends, and we would like to encourage this, however there have been a few children climbing on the goals before and after school. Please can you make sure that your child does not climb on this equipment. Thank you for your support with this.

As you will be aware there has been a lot in the press this week around the topic of e-safety as a result of the 'momo' app (which now appears to have been a hoax or 'fake news'). The internet, as we all know, can be a fantastic resource and a fantastic vehicle for communication and, like it or not, it is becoming more and more ingrained in our children's lives. In response to this I am going to add a section to the newsletter each month, which focuses on e-safety, signposting parents to the most up to date information to keep children safe online.

News

World Book Day

We will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 7th March. This year we have asked that children come to school (in normal school uniform) with their favourite book and a prop from that book that they can talk about in class. During the day the children will take part in a reading trail linked to maths, a visit to our local library and lots of opportunities to talk about and read books.

200 Million Minutes Reading Challenge

The reading challenge will be launched on World Book Day and will finish on 2nd April on Children's Book Day. Each child has already or will be given their bookmark to track their reading. All reading counts; whether it is the school reading book, a home reading book, magazines or newspapers. Once the book mark is complete hand it into school and start another one. Schools who achieve the most minutes of reading will receive prizes so let's see if we can bring those prizes to Wylam.

Red Nose Day

Red Nose Day is on Friday 15th March. We will be supporting the charity this year with the theme *'getting dressed in the dark.'* Children can come to school in non-uniform with odd socks, odd shoes, strange hair, back to front clothes as if they got ready in the dark! Don't forget your red nose or any red nose paraphernalia. We ask that children bring in a £1 donation to take part in the event.

From Monday 11th March we would also like children to bring into school their family's favourite joke. We will post as many as we can onto the school website.

Wear a Hat Day

We will be supporting 'Wear a Hat Day' for brain tumour research again this year. This will take place on 29th March. On that day we will be asking the children to come to school, in school uniform as usual, but wearing a hat for a £1 donation to the charity.

Primary Engineer

On Friday 8th March we are going to receive a visit from a lead engineer from IHC Engineering. He will be holding workshops from Reception to Y4 explaining what he does, what his company makes and will be bringing in some equipment and resources for the children to look at.

As part of the Primary Engineer competition children have to learn about different fields of engineering and interview engineers. We will be completing this work over the next few weeks so if you are an engineer it would be great if you could spare the time to come into school to talk to the children. Thank you to the parents who have already offered to come into school. Please contact the school office if you are able to support us with this.

Y3 Class Assembly

Y3 will be holding their class assembly on Wednesday 20th March at 2:30pm. The children would like to invite their parents along to find out about what they have been learning in class.

Children's Cancer Run 2019

This year Miss Foster has signed our school up to The Children's Cancer Run which takes place on Sunday 19th May at Newcastle Racecourse. We will be taking part alongside Mickley First School and Prudhoe Castle First School. Information on how to register can be found at the website below.

www.childrenscancerrun.co.uk

Early bird entries are being taken up until 31st March. More information on the event will be sent home soon. It would be great if as many of you as possible could get involved to support this worthy cause.

Heritage Project

Our work with the Heritage Project kicked off this week with some drama workshops. The children really enjoyed the sessions and are looking forward to working on this further throughout May and June.

Reminders

Smarties Challenge

Just a reminder to return your smarties tubes to the school office as soon as you complete the challenge. Thank you to all who have already returned their tubes and to those who still plan to do so.

PTA Easter Bonnet Competition

Entries for the competition can be brought to school from Monday 1st April and will be

judged on 4th April.

PTA Easter Bingo

PTA Easter bingo will be held on Friday 29th March at The Institute. This is always a great event so please come along and join in the fun.

Information

Changes to Staffing

Mrs Mahon will be moving out of Nursery for the remainder of the school year to support teaching and learning in Year 3. Mrs Mahon will be replaced by Mrs Henderson who will be joining our Nursery team on 18th March.

Lunchtime Staffing

We would like to welcome Mrs Helm to our lunchtime team.

After School Club

We have appointed a new member of staff to our after school team. Mrs Wilkinson will be taking over from Mrs Short to join Mrs Greenham and Miss Lees at our After School Club.

E-safety

Education is the key to ensuring that our children stay safe online or know what to do if things go wrong.

A startling statistic released by the NSPCC is that only 2% of children report problems they have online to parents. This, in the main, is because children fear that if they tell their parents, their parents will then block them from going online.

Technology moves so quickly and although at first school we may feel that our children are a little young to be accessing a vast range of online apps, games and chat rooms, research shows that children as young as 8 are using apps and accessing material that is meant for older children and adults. With this in mind it is essential that we stay as up to date as possible with the apps that young people are accessing and what those apps do.

Attached to this newsletter is a list of the top 10 most popular apps currently used

by young people.

To allow you to make a decision on whether an app is appropriate or not or to explore the safety risks of any app, the **NSPCC Net Aware** website is a fantastic resource that gives you the most up to date information, and opinions from the children who use the sites.

Another useful website is www.childnet.com/parents. This website is full of information about online safety, offering advice on things like parental controls, gaming and downloading.

Top Tips on Screen Time:

Although a one-size-fits-all solution would arguably be unrealistic, there are lots of simple things you can do as a parent/carer to ensure that you feel confident about your child's interaction with technology, and set achievable goals that work for your family.



1. Use digital devices together

Get involved in your child's online activities. Have fun, play games and learn together online, just as you would in the physical world. It will then be natural for your child to turn to you if they experience anything upsetting online.



2. Set clear expectations

Clear family rules can help your child have a positive start to their digital life and get the most out of being online. Ask your child to help create some family rules.



3. Be informed

Many digital devices, services and content providers offer a range of parental controls. You can choose the type of content and options that are suitable for your child.



4. Establish good habits early on

Both adults and children enjoy sharing moments with family and friends through online images and videos. Starting conversations and good habits early on is a great way to support children in staying safe online.

When things go wrong

It is important to know what to do when things go wrong online. The **Think U Know** website www.thinkuknow.co.uk has lots of information in the parent section about what to do if you are concerned about your child or would like to report an incident. They also have a feature on the front page of the website where you can report concerns directly.

Incidents can also be reported directly to the CEOP (Child Exploitation and Protection) website www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre.

Links to all of the websites mentioned above can be found on our school website.

School Calendar

Monday 4 th March	Reception height and weight measurements
Thursday 7 th March	World Book Day
Friday 8 th March	Engineer visit from IHC
Friday 15 th March	Red Nose Day
Wednesday 20 th March	Y3 class assembly
Friday 22 nd March	Early Years trip to Hall Hill Farm
Wednesday 27 th March	Deadline for Leaders Award entries (Primary Engineer)
Friday 29 th March	PTA Easter Bingo
Monday 1 st April	Y1 class assembly

Wednesday 3rd April	Cricket roadshow assembly
Thursday 4th April	PTA Easter bonnet competition
Thursday 4th April	Easter church service, 2pm Methodist Church
Thursday 4th April	Break up for Easter holiday
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
Monday 29th April	Y2 and Y3 Bikeability
Tuesday 30th April	Y4 Level 1 Bikeability
Thursday 2nd May	Parents' evening
Sunday 19th May	Jump for Joy - choir at St Oswin's
Monday 20th May	Y1 trip to Beamish
Wednesday 22nd May	Y4 Residential - Newby Bridge

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

Kind regards.

S Gibbon
Headteacher