



Dear Parents and Carers,

I want to say a huge thank you to all parents that are completing absence request forms and returning them to the office so that we can keep our registers up to date. Currently our attendance for the Autumn Term is standing at a fabulous 97.4% (well above the national average of 96%). The forms are there for requesting extended periods of time from school up to a maximum of 10 days. Anything above 10 days cannot be legally requested and cannot legally be authorised. If a single absence goes above 20 days without explanation (and is not medically related) then your child's place at the school can be reviewed.

However there are a number of things you do not need to request absence permission for – just let us know in a note in the register or email the office. These include:

- Music or dance exams (e.g. with the Associated Board)
- Visits to another school for entrance exams or transition activities
- Short medical appointments with a doctor or hospital

If you have any queries please do contact the office and just let us know.

Be a Santa to a Senior

On Tuesday we had some very special visitors to assembly. The giant elves were here to promote the "Be a Santa to a Senior" campaign. Full details are in an additional letter from Mrs Oades in this week's email. It was a wonderful assembly and something I know as a school community we can do wonderfully well. Mr Jones had a wonderful time and made sure that he put in his request to the Elves to pass onto Santa. Only they know what he would like to find in his stocking on Christmas morning!

I also want to say a personal thanks to Mrs Oades and all parents and children for your wonderful response to our Annual Children in Need campaign. It was a staggering total and a wonderful gesture of our caring school community.



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Otto is a musical Star!

A huge well done and congratulations to Otto in Year 5 who performed at the Lumiere festival. He played two pieces on the 'Keys of Light' (a piano connected to a reactive light display) which was wonderfully received by the audience. Describing how it felt to play at the festival to the reporters and media there he said he was "speechless!"

Calling all Christmas Jumpers!

If you have any Christmas jumpers which could do with a new home please donate them to school either via the office or your child's class teacher. We will recycle them all at the Christmas fair where you'll be able to buy a new preloved sparkly number for just £1, just in time for the Christmas dinner the following week!

Mr Wallis-Clarke is donating 3!!!



CAR SAFETY

I had a visit from the Police this morning following two parents' phone calls who had reported some extremely serious dangerous driving outside of school at morning drop off time. The car was waiting in traffic and then decided to jump the queue and drive on the wrong side of the road, over the zebra crossing and then onto Forsyth Road. The vehicle was a blue BMW and the Police are now following this up. I am quite sure this is not a parent at our school but I want everyone to remain vigilant for this car and to report anything they see to the Police directly. We are working with the Council to try and improve road safety around our school and Mrs McVittie meets



regularly with local councillors. This is not an easy road system and the impact of us, Newcastle High School for Girls and Percy Hedley Northern Counties School all now on the same road compounds the issue. Thank you for your on-going support.

Have a wonderful weekend and let's get ready for the final four weeks of this term! It's going to be very busy indeed!

Gary Wallis-Clarke

Young Achievers	
Annabella 5J	Badge 4 Gymnastics Award
Natta 2E	100m Swimming Award
Eleni 5J	Future Girl Brownie Badge
Sam 1C	15m Swimming Award and Grade 1 in Judo
Isla 1B	Finished Mathletics
Mohammed 1B	Finished Mathletics
Zinedine 1C	100m Swimming Award
Thomas 1C	10m Swimming Award