



NEWSLETTER – 14th November 2019

Upcoming Dates

- Friday 15th November – Y2 Autumn Performance
 - Friday 15th November - Individual Pupil photographs *
 - Please note FLU VACCINATIONS due to be delivered 20th November have been postponed
- * See below for details of extra photograph date

Illness in School – We have been very heavily hit by illness this week, both pupils and staff. Today I spoke with Public Health England and they confirmed that several local schools have been similarly affected and there is no cause for concern. However, they have requested that I send out some information which may help us to contain the spread of the flu-like symptoms that lots of parents are reporting as the cause of their child's absence.

Please could you read the attached letter from the Public Health Service.

Individual School Photograph – Individual pupil photographs will be taken in school tomorrow – 15th November.

Due to the high levels of absence currently, a second date (Tuesday 26th November) has been confirmed for school photographs for those who will not be in school tomorrow. Please note that this second date would be too late to guarantee pre-Christmas delivery.

Flu Vaccinations – We were due to have the nasal vaccinations delivered in school on 20th November. Due to an NHS supply issue, these have been delayed until January.

Colour Blindness – We are hoping to team up with Newcastle University to see how Colour Blindness has an impact on school work and self-esteem. We hope to screen each child and should there be an indicator of colour-blindness then this will signpost children to work with the university researchers. We should have some more information about this in the coming months.

Christmas at Holystone – The arrival of the John Lewis Christmas advert is a sure sign we are heading towards the festive season. It thought it would be useful if I highlight some of the key festive dates:

- Thursday 5th December – Christmas Dinner Day (this has been brought forward a week, due to the General Election)
- Tuesday 10th December – Nursery Christmas Performances (am & pm)
- Wednesday 11th December – PTA Christmas Fayre 3.30-5pm
- Thursday 12th December – Reception Christmas Performance
- Friday 13th December – Pantomime Day (see below)
- Monday 16th December – Nursery panto trip
- Tuesday 17th December – KS2 Choir & Drama Club Performance
- Wednesday 18th December – Christmas Decorations/Christmas Jumper Day
- Thursday 19th December – Carols Around the Tree
- School closes for Christmas Holiday after school Thursday 19th December

This year, the whole school (Reception-Y6) are going to the Pantomime on Friday 13th December. We have booked morning (Rec-Y2) and afternoon (Y3-Y6) Cinderella shows at The Saville Exchange. We have secured a deal that includes transport to and from the show for £8 a ticket, which we think is very good value. You may recall last school year we asked which parents might wish to come along with their child (Rec-Y2). We will soon be sending out more detailed arrangements explaining how we will make these tickets available.

Bikeability – Well done to those Year 3 pupils who have managed to avoid the bugs and dodge the showers to complete Bikeability Level 1 this week.

Accelerated Reader – Pupils from Year 2 to Year 6 are busy transferring across to our new reading programme called Accelerated Reader (AR). This is a well-researched programme that has strong evidence that it boosts individual reading outcomes and is already having a positive impact on reading attitudes with the older pupils who are already using it.

The initial stages will see pupils assessed on their reading fluency, their reading comprehension and their inferential skills. All reading books in school from Year 2 upwards have now been re-banded to reflect the various AR levels and once they have been initially tested, pupils will be allocated a particular book-band which is aimed at developing their assessed level.

Pupils will then take regular quizzes based on the books they have read which will further fine-tune their assessed level (known as their zone of proximal development – pupils may refer to this as their ZPD). Successful completion of quizzes should see the ZPD rise and this in turn will see an increase in the level of challenge in the books they can choose to read.