



Issue 7 – November 2019

Dear Parents,

I bet you can't believe that we are only 3 weeks away from the Christmas holidays. School has been very busy over the past few weeks and children have had many wonderful opportunities.

Thank you to all parents who have continued to support school in many ways. We have been overwhelmed by the support of parents for the KS1 assemblies. It makes such a difference when we can all work together. I am sure you were all very proud of the children and their lovely assemblies and a big thank you must go to Friends of the School for serving refreshments after each assembly so families can spend time together.

Just before half term, everyone had the opportunity to meet their child's new class teacher and this was attended by most families. These meetings are crucial in supporting your child so if you were unable to come can you please get in touch with your child's class teacher and arrange an appointment.

I am still very concerned about attendance in school due to families taking holidays. Can everyone make sure that children are only off school if they are too ill to come to school and other exceptional circumstances. Holidays should not be taken during term time. This has a detrimental effect on your child's education. Ofsted look very closely at attendance and this is judged under the Behaviour and Attitudes section. I agree that this is an important area to be monitored and I hope we can all work together to improve attendance across the school. (See further information below.)

Dates and times are attached to this newsletter for Christmas performances and parties and everyone should have received a letter about the performances with tickets attached.

Due to the safeguarding of all children in school, adults will need to show their tickets upon entry. We kindly ask that all families adhere to this. No ticket – No entry!

Many thanks for your continued support

Mrs Hair

Family Support Worker

We are delighted to have Rebecca Pharoah join our team as our family worker. Her working hours are: Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning. Rebecca has a huge range of experience in working with families to ensure better outcomes for all family members. She has written a short paragraph about her experience:

I have worked with Children, Young People and their families for over 15 years. I initially volunteered with the local Youth Offending team as a Panel Member whilst I was at College studying for my A levels. I then went on to University to complete a degree in Criminology. My first role after University was as a Young Person's Advisor helping Young people with a variety of issues from careers to Mental/Emotional Health. I then spent 10 years working for a Young People's Service, educating young people and their families on the Risks of Using Drugs and Alcohol. I have worked in both Primary and Secondary School since then, working as a Family Support Worker supporting Children and Families. Please contact the school office if you would like some support from Rebecca.

Anti-Bullying week

Children took part in assemblies and classroom activities during anti bullying week (week beginning 11.11.19). Thank you to all the families who took part in odd sock day. This was celebrating that everyone is different.



Our school council took part in an anti-bullying conference and they are developing an anti-bullying information leaflet for all children.

The local Police visited Year 6 and delivered a presentation to help children further understand how to keep safe online.

Use of the Internet and Social media

We are having a lot more incidents being brought into school because of problems started by online chats. Popular groups that children are involved in are: WhatsApp groups amongst year groups and friends, Tik Tok and online PlayStation/ X Box games.

I strongly advise parents to check settings on the devices that children use and to monitor closely what is going on within these groups.

The children have carried out many workshops and lessons about this topic and I feel as a school we address these issues in an ever-changing technological world very well. If we can all work together, I am sure that incidents will be reduced, resulting in all children being happier and safer.

Ice Cats

Last week, Jo Carter from Ice Cats worked in school delivering sessions for the children – all children have brought home a Top Tips sheet. The parent information meeting was fantastic and parents who attended were overwhelmed with how useful this session had been. One parent said, “This should be compulsory for all parents.”

It provided all staff and children quick top tips of how to evacuate a building if needed to alongside other safety tips.

Attendance

The school year is made up of 190 days.



As you can see from this diagram – a child who has 11 days off over the school year has less chance of future success.

I wanted to share this information with you because we have a lot of families who are taking children out of school due to holidays or long weekends away. I cannot stress how important every school day is and how much the children miss if they are not at school.

Attendance at present in school is:

Reception – 92% **Year 1 - 96.2%** **Year 2 – 95.6%** **Year 3 – 95.3%** **Year 4 – 96.2%** **Year 5 – 95.2%** **Year 6 – 94.6%**

Well done to Year 1 and Year 4 who have the highest attendance. I understand that the Winter Bug has affected more year groups than others but it is the amount of holidays that concern me. If children are off for holidays or occasional days either side of a weekend and then become ill, this really affects their attendance. Missing days off school disrupts learning for all the children and they miss out on crucial lessons that are sequenced carefully to allow progression through all curriculum areas.

School's target is 96% within each year group and across the school.

Exciting Curriculum

Marvellous Me is working very well and we hope some teething problems with notifications have been ironed out. I know that you have been kept up to date by class teachers about the exciting curriculum events throughout the term. So here are just a few of the highlights!

Year 2 have had a visit from a WW1 soldier to kick start their topic- the children learnt a lot and are now carrying out some very good work related to the topic. They have also been completing the Walk wise programme.

Year 4 are looking forward to having parents/ family share making Tudor Houses.

One of the year 5 classes have been involved in the PIE Project and are through to the next round and Year 5 have thoroughly enjoyed their Newcastle Eagles workshops.

Year 6 had a fantastic day at Beamish. They didn't let the weather spoil their fun and they looked amazing.

We have also had some fantastic news to share with everyone. East Herrington Primary Academy has been awarded **PSQM** – Primary Science Quality Mark. This is awarded to schools that show excellent work in science for all children. Miss Baxter and Mrs Oxley have led this work across school over the past year.

Christmas Fayre

The choir will be opening this event and will need to be at school on Saturday 7th December at 9:45 am. They do not need to wear school uniform or the choir uniform but something festive would be lovely.

Please come along and support school at the Christmas Fayre. The funds raised all go back into all the children and extra activities in school. Friends of the school are paying the transport costs for all children to attend the Pantomime.

Choir Events

The choir will sing at a few events over the Christmas period. They will receive letters nearer the time to ensure they know which events they are invited to. Not all children can attend every event as some venues specify numbers.

We raise a lot of money for charities over the festive season so thank you for your continued support.

Icy weather

We have noticed that some KS2 children are arriving at school earlier than 8:45am. This does mean they are unattended and come onto the KS2 yard alone as a member of staff is not present until 8:45am. The yard can be quite icy first thing in the morning and I am concerned that there may be an accident. Please make sure that children arrive at school between 8:45am – 8:55am. If they are earlier can children not be left until an adult from school is present.

Thank you.

Dates for Your Diary

Just a few dates for your diary. We do endeavor to stick to all of our dates but unfortunately due to unforeseen circumstances dates may need to be changed. If this is the case, we will try to give you as much notice as possible.

Tuesday 3rd December – Hoops for Health Basketball – Year 5

Wednesday 4th December – Choir singing at the minster for Age Concern

Friday 6th December – Flu Vaccination

Saturday 7th December – School Christmas Fayre – choir opening this event at 10:00am

Tuesday 10th December – Nursery Christmas Performance 9:00 am refreshments/ performance starts at 9:30am

Wednesday 11th December – Y1 Christmas Performance 1:00pm refreshments/ performance will start at 1:30pm

Wednesday 11th December – Choir singing at Bridges for St Oswalds

Thursday 12th December – Reception Christmas Performance 9:00 am refreshments/ performance starts at 9:30am

Thursday 12th December – Y6 – Christmas party/ climbing wall

Thursday 12th December – Choir singing at Salvation Army – 7:00pm

Thursday 12th December – Nursery/Childcare closed all day for polling station

Friday 13th December – Y2 Christmas Performance 9:00am refreshments/ performance will start at 9:30am

Friday 13th December – Christmas jumper day/ School Christmas dinner

Friday 13th December – Y6 invite grandparents into school for Tea/ cake and Christmas performance

Monday 16th December – Y4 performance 9:00am refreshments/ performance will start at 9:30am

Monday 16th December – R/Y1/Y2 – trip to pantomime at Gala theatre – Durham – afternoon performance

Tuesday 17th December – Y3 performance 9:00am refreshments/ performance will start at 9:30am

Wednesday 18th December – Year 5/6 Church Service – 10:00am – doors to the church will open once all the children are in and seated.

Wednesday 18th December – Rock band visiting school at 11:30 am.

Wednesday 18th December – Y3 and Y4 party – pm.

Thursday 19th December – Y5 party – pm.

Friday 20th December – School has final Christmas assembly at St Chads (this is just for all children and staff)

Friday 20th December – School closes for the Christmas break.

Monday 6th January – School re opens.