



Issue 8 – January 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope that everyone had a truly magical Christmas and would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year.

We have had a very busy start to our term and the children have settled extremely well into school routine and are already producing some fantastic work.

School has received wonderful news about the choir. They have reached the National Finals held in London at The Royal Festival Hall and are competing against 17 other schools from all over the country on Monday 9th March 2020. This is a huge achievement and I am sure they will represent our school fantastically and fly the flag for the North East.

Please read the term dates that are attached to this Newsletter carefully and make a note of any dates that are relevant to you and your child. Nursery – Y5 will all have class assemblies this term. Reminders via Marvellous Me will be sent to ensure we can continue to keep up our good communication.

I have attached some information below about Marvellous Me as I am aware that some people have stopped getting notifications on this app.

I would just like to take this opportunity to thank all families for their continued support. When school and families work together we ensure that all children get the very best education and care.

Mrs Hair

Marvellous Me

Adrian Burt, who set up East Herrington's Marvellous Me, has offered the following advice for people not getting the notifications:

Look in the 'Settings' part of the app, and you will see a device alert toggle for both pop-up device alerts and email alerts, so you should get both if you switch these on.

He then suggests to toggle them off and on again once, even if they are showing as on, just to ensure the device is registered for alerts properly.

I hope that this rectifies most problems. He has kindly offered to help parents directly if they are still having problems. If you would like to contact him, can you please ring the school office for his details.

School Shoes

All children should wear black shoes for school as stated in the Uniform policy which is available on our website. **Trainers are not part of our school uniform.** I have noticed an increase in the wearing of trainers and ask all families to follow the school uniform policy. It makes sure that all children are equal and the same.

STEM Club

A group of Year 6 children attend a STEM club weekly. They decided to enter an International Competition, Lego League. Their tasks were to learn to code a robot and to make a presentation on how they came up with this. The competition was held in December at the Nissan Factory and they were all excellent ambassadors for our school. Although they didn't win, they must be congratulated on their amazing team work and fantastic effort. More importantly they had lots of fun!

Hoops for Health

Year 5 have been working with Newcastle Eagles and enjoyed a fantastic day at City Space competing against other schools in the area. The children were a credit to our school and families and although they got to the semifinals did not quite make it through to the finals. The workshops in school and the day event helped to enhance the PE curriculum and has given all children in year 5 the opportunity to play basketball and to get high quality training from the Eagles themselves!

Attendance

I know that this diagram has been shared previously, but I would just like to share it again to continue to promote the importance of attending school each day.



I am pleased to say that most families engage really well with school and attendance. If your child is absent, you need to telephone the school office to let us know why your child is not attending school that day. Holidays are not permitted in school time. It is only in exceptional circumstances that a Head teacher can authorise absences. School will make home visits to any family where we are concerned about attendance and our Family Support Worker, Rebecca, is monitoring attendance in school and especially those children that fall below 95%. We are aiming for pupils to have 97% attendance. However, we do understand that illness cannot be helped, but it is essential to a child's development in all areas that they attend school regularly. 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. They also miss valuable time with their friendship group.

Attendance in school at present is: 94.6% which is below where I would like this to be.

Reception – 92.3% **Year 1 - 95.2%** **Year 2 – 94.8%** **Year 3 – 95.2%** **Year 4 – 95.6%** **Year 5 – 94.8%** **Year 6 – 93.9%**

Well done to Year 1 and Year 3 who have the highest attendance at the moment. Children with high attendance will receive Dojo's which are all counted towards the termly treat for the House that wins the most Dojo's. We will continue to praise and reward good attendance in school.

Exciting Curriculum

We have wasted no time at all and on the first Tuesday back, KS2 children enjoyed an afternoon of French activities and then shared their experiences with Reception and KS1. All children had a very enjoyable time and I hope the children shared some of their ideas with you. Year 6 have been visited by a councilor to discuss the nature of his job role. Year 4 and 5 have had a sporty start to the term with basketball and skipping and Year 3 are looking forward to their Stone age day.

We have plenty more planned for this term and will share with you as many experiences as possible.

Sporting Events

The Swimming team are back training on a Wednesday morning and some of the children will be representing our school at a Swimming Gala on Thursday 23rd January.

Year 4 have taken part in an exciting skipping event at Farringdon.

Football club continues on Monday evenings for those who have secured a place.

Mr Football continues to deliver high quality PE sessions for all children from Nursery to Year 2.

Choir Events

We have lots to look forward to and work towards.

Saturday 1st February – some of the choir will represent our school at Durham Cathedral – we have been invited to this event with many prestigious choirs in the region as we are one of the best Primary Choirs and won Choir of the Year last year. Tickets will be available from Durham Cathedral.

Monday 9th March – Barnardo's National Final at the Royal Festival Hall.

March – we will send a recorded entry for Music for Youth Festival as they have said we can't sing at the Sage this year due to large amounts of entries and a reduction in slots.

Future Events – if we do not get to Birmingham for the National Festival then we will plan a bigger summer concert and try to record a CD.

Icy weather and entering school

Can I please remind everyone to take care in the bad weather at the moment when entering school.

I have also noticed that some children are being dropped off in the KS2 yard before 8:45am, which means they are unattended. Staff do not go on duty until 8:45 and children should not be left until an adult opens their doors in EYFS and KS1 or Mr Charlton and Mrs Naile are on the KS2 gate. Thank you in advance for your cooperation for keeping our children safe.

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.

Friday 17th January – Film and treat for all the children in the winning house.

Tuesday 21st January - Year 6 parents' information evening 3:30pm and 5:00pm

Thursday 23rd January – Swimming Gala

Friday 31st January – Mrs Oxley class assembly – 9:00am

Saturday 1st February – Choir singing at Durham Cathedral

Monday 3rd February – RNLI visiting school

Tuesday 4th and Wednesday 5th – Year 3 Stone age day

Thursday 6th February – Miss Weirs class assembly – 9:00am

Friday 7th February – Miss Conlan class assembly

Friday 7th February – NSPCC Number day

Monday 10th February – Parents evening

Tuesday 11th February – Parents Evening

Thursday 13th February – Mr Cawley class assembly

Thursday 13th February – School closes for half term

Friday 14th February – School Closed for Inset Day

Monday 24th February – School starts for second half term.

Monday 24th February School Book Fair this week - a letter will be sent with information

Thursday 27th February – Miss Baxter class assembly

Thursday 5th March – Miss Hodgson class assembly

Friday 6th March – Year 1 assembly

Monday 9th March – Choir to London – National Finals

Monday 9 – Friday 12th – Science week

Thursday 12th March – Miss Hall class assembly

Thursday 26th March – Mrs Naile class assembly

Thursday 2nd April – Nursery Easter assembly

Thursday 2nd April – Year 5 Harry Potter theme day at Farringdon tbc

Friday 3rd April – Reception Easter assembly – 2:00pm

Friday 3rd April – End of Spring term