



18th November 2016 Newsletter



Firework night

Everyone had a fantastic time as always and many thanks to the Playing Field Trust for organising another great evening.

Outdoor Adventure club

The children are having a brilliant time with Paul and Sue. This week the children planted trees at the top of the playing field. These trees were given to us by the Woodland Trust and we thank Vicki Cargill for grabbing the opportunity to apply for the trees when she saw the offer.

The last Outdoor Adventure club for this term will be on **Monday 5th December. NO CLUB ON MONDAY 12TH DECEMBER** It will resume **on Monday 9th January 2017**. The children will be learning all about First Aid.

Thank you

We would like to thank Amy McKenzie (our resident artist!) who has kindly agreed to share her artistic talent around the school. She has painted our school motto in the entrance area and will also be creating a mural on the wall under the stairs. She is also in the process of creating some art work for the fence panels in the yard. We really appreciate the time she is giving to improve the environment for pupils and staff.

Magic Lantern

The children had a super presentation about different aspects of Art including the illustrations of Quentin Blake on Wednesday. This was led by Pippa Bell of the National Association of Decorative and Fine Art Society. As always the children were fully engaged and were able to share their ideas.

Dinner money REMINDER

This is now due for the 2nd half of the Autumn term.

The cost is £68.20 (£2 per meal)

This is minus £2 for the Theatre trip day when parents must provide a packed lunch from home and 20p added back on for the Christmas lunch which is £2.20)

Please send monies in a clearly labelled envelope to the office as soon as possible.

Christmas service

A reminder of dates coming up...

Firstly our Christmas nativity **Hosanna Rock! will be on Thursday 8th December at 9.15am and 5.30pm** at the school.

The performance will include Pre-school children and Reception to Year 4. The morning performance will be followed by tea, coffee and mince pies and a raffle organised by the Friends.

A letter was sent home on Monday 14th November with information about costume. We are able to provide most children with a costume. Please take a moment to look at the cast and costume list to check what we need you to provide.

Secondly, we are having a Christmas service at **St. Peter's Church, led by Reverend Steve on Monday 12th December at 2.15pm.** **Everyone is very welcome** to join us in celebrating the Nativity with traditional readings and carols.

Elm Bank

For the last few years, the children have visited Elm Bank, a home for Senior Citizens to sing Christmas themed songs. The residents absolutely love the interaction with the children and they have invited us again this year. As we will be in Hexham to watch the Oddsocks pantomime, The Jungle Book on Wednesday 14th December, we will arrange for the bus to also take us to Elm Bank after the children have had their packed lunch.

A letter was sent out on Tuesday 15th November. We have had lots of slips returned already-thank you. Please return your slip as soon as possible.

Library opening hours

The library continues to be open every **Wednesday between 3.05pm and 3.45pm**. This will enable you and your child to choose a book and to write it in the folder on the desk. Could I ask that the library be left as you would want to find it, with books neatly put away and furniture returned to its place. Last year members of staff frequently had to tidy up following after school library sessions. Please remember, they are busy already without this extra responsibility.

PE this term

Quite a number of children are without a PE kit in school. Please make sure your child has a PE kit on their peg everyday.

This half term Class 1 will focus on Gymnastics and Class 2 on Football skills and skipping.

Free School Meals

If you think your child may be entitled to Free School Meals, you can apply for this benefit online www.northumberland.gov.uk/fsm, over the telephone on FSM 01670 623592 or by completing a paper application form which is available from our school office or FSM office, Wansbeck Square, Ashington NE63 9XL or email FSM@northumberland.gov.uk.

To be eligible for help you need to be in one of the following categories:

- Receive Income Support (IS) or Income-based Job Seekers Allowance (IBJA).
- Receive Income Related Employment Allowance (IREA).
- Have an entitlement to Child Tax Credit (CTC), but not Working Tax Credit (WTC) and the family's annual income (as assessed by the Inland Revenue) is not more than £16,190
- Receive support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
- Receive the guarantee credit element of Pension Credit.

Reception, Years 1 and 2 – why you should still apply for Free School Meals - Since September 2014, all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 have been eligible for free school meals. If you are entitled to claim for FSM as detailed below, no matter what year group your child is in, it is important to our school that you register for this benefit. **Where a child is entitled to and claims FSM we can register them for Pupil Premium funding – this is currently worth £1,300 a year per pupil for our school.**

Attendance

Please ensure your child is in school every day unless unwell. Parents must contact the school office or leave a message on the answer machine giving a reason for absence.

Routines

Please remember to arrive promptly to school in the morning. **The bell is rung for school to start at 8.50am.**

Parents should bring their children into the playground **for 8.45am (no earlier)** where they will be escorted into school by Mrs Phillips.

Late book-we have had **3 entries** in the late book this week. Children who come into class late are missing vital instructions which delay them starting their activities.

Other dates for your diary.

Monday 5th December: Last Outdoor Adventure club for this half term (resumes Monday 9th January 2017)

Wednesday 7th December: Green Monkey Portraits-taking photos of dress rehearsal and individuals in costume

Thursday 8th December: Hosanna Rock! 9.15am and 5.30pm (Refreshments and raffle after the morning performance only)

Monday 12th December: Christmas service at St. Peter's Church at 2.15pm (Everyone welcome)

Tuesday 13th December: Christmas lunch at Humshaugh

Wednesday 14th December: Oddsocks pantomime and singing at Elm Bank

Thursday 15th December: Christmas party

Friday 16th December: Save the Children Christmas jumper day and last day of term

Tuesday 3rd January 2017: Spring term starts

Thursday 5th January 2017: Swimming starts

Kind regards, Jude Long (Acting Headteacher)



