



4th November 2016 Newsletter

Christmas Market-Saturday 15th October

The Market was a great success with lots of fantastic stalls and a delicious array of cakes and refreshments. The total money raised by The Friends for the school was approximately £600. Thank you to everyone who helped and supported the event. **Raffle prizes** Please check your tickets as there are several prizes unclaimed.

Firework night-Humshaugh playing field-Friday 4th November

Don't forget to come and enjoy the fireworks on the field tonight at 6.30pm. Hot food served. No personal fireworks or sparklers please.

Friends/PTA

We are incredibly lucky as a school to have an amazing team of parents who are dedicated to raising funds which enable the purchase of resources and to provide opportunities for all children such as trips and activities.

Since September The Friends have purchased:

Red book bags for new starters
The new activity bench for the school yard
Nativity costumes for Hosanna Rocks!
Christmas gifts and prizes for the Christmas party
Soup lunch for the community and the upcoming trip to the theatre to The Jungle Book tickets and transport costs.

With this in mind please spare some time to support planned future events in any way possible as parent co-operation and kind contributions make a massive difference to the success of their fund raising .

Christmas lunch

This year, we are having our Christmas lunch at school on Tuesday 13th December. If your child is in **Year 3 or 4** (therefore not eligible for Universal free school meals) and usually has a packed lunch, they are very welcome to have a Christmas lunch.

PLEASE RETURN YOUR REPLY SLIP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Dinner money

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

The cost is £68.20

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.

***We will try to provide all children with costumes, however we may need to ask you to provide t-shirts or leggings.**

A letter will be sent out soon with more information.

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 will be sent out soon with a permission slip to return to school.

Library opening hours

The library will 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.

Outdoor Area

A massive thank you to Tim Taylor and Jerome Parker for fixing the Wendy House roof during the Half term holiday. We really appreciate their time and effort and the children are delighted to have their favourite toy back!.

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 (IBJSA).
- 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.** Children entitled to FSM are also entitled to

- free milk at break-time for the time he/she is entitled to free school meals.

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 several entries in the late book this week. Children who come into class late are missing vital instructions which delay them starting their activities.

Please also ensure you arrive on time at 3.05pm to pick your child up at the end of the day.

PE this term

Quite a number of children are not bringing a PE kit to leave in school. As the after school sport club has finished, children can bring in their kit at the beginning of a half term and take it home to wash during the holidays.

This half term will focus on Football skills and skipping.

Other dates for your diary.

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 afterwards)

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

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)

