



Friday 27th November 2020 (4 PAGES)

ATTENDANCE

Well done to the children in Reception, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4 who ALL achieved 100% attendance this week- BRILLIANT!!!!

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>ATTENDANCE %</u>
RECEPTION	100%
YEAR 1	100%
YEAR 2	100%
YEAR 3	100%
YEAR 4	100%

STAR OF WEEK

Well done to our **Super stars: Alex and Callum** and our **Handwriting Heroes: Harry, Kate, Mia and Sophie**.

The **Kindness award** was presented to **Arthur B** and the **Perseverance award** was presented to **Lucy**. Well done to both of them. They have the brave knight duck and a light up heart on their desk for the first week after half term.

The **HELPING HAND award** was presented to **Bella**, the pupil who has been most polite and helpful all week.



The children in EYFS have been receiving a 'Star of the day' award and a photo is sent to parents on a daily basis.

Well done to this week's EYFS '**Star of the Week**', **Effie**, for 'working hard' and the **Handwriting Hero-Isla Witty** for great independent writing!

TERRACYCLE RECYCLING PROJECT

Please remember to send in your crisp packets including the outer multi-pack bag, ideally flattened. There is a bin in the hall or the plastic bin which is at the front of the school. Anyone can recycle, so please inform neighbours and friends about the service. If the bin is not outside the front door, please hand your crisp packets in to a member of staff at drop off or pick up.

BUSY THINGS AND GOOGLE CLASSROOM

Following our parent survey feedback, staff have been working hard to find ways to improve communication and feedback with children, especially if they have to work remotely at any point in the future. The children in Years 1 to 4 have joined their Busy Things classes this week and can now access homework on their 'My Busy Things' folder. Parents should have received an email from Mrs Blythe and Mrs Long with important information about how to access the activities. As always if your child is having difficulties, then please let the class teacher know. Mrs Long is also in the process of setting up Google classroom and will be in touch with parents after Christmas about how to access activities for the children in Years 3 and 4.

GOVERNMENT'S COVID-19 WINTER PLAN

There has been speculation in the media recently with regard to early closure of schools for Christmas with a reallocation of days from next year or a switch to online learning. Please see the information below which is directly from the Government website.

[COVID-19 WINTER PLAN \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

Nurseries, schools and colleges should not change their Christmas holidays or close early this term. Parents should continue to send their children to school during term time and students should continue to attend college right up until the end of term –our senior clinicians continue to advise that the best place for children and young people is in education. A time-limited change to social restrictions over Christmas does not require any children to be taken out of school prematurely. The leaders and staff of education settings have been doing an extraordinary job to remain open, keep settings safe and provide education.

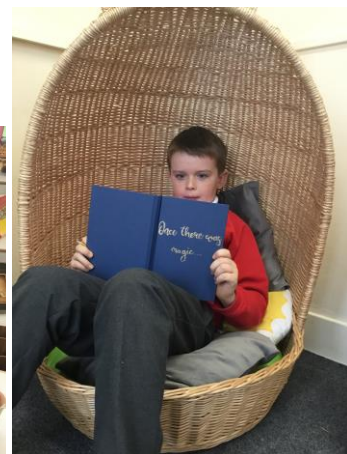
Obviously there may be for some schools the need to close as directed by Public Health, the LA or the DfE; but unless this is the case the current guidance and clear direction from the DfE is to remain open up to the end of term.

MESSAGE FROM THE PLAYING FIELD TRUST

As part of an ongoing project to improve the playing field and park facilities, tree surgeons will be working in the field from the **Friday 4th to Sunday 6th December**, possibly beyond if the work takes longer than anticipated, therefore the play area will be out of bounds during this time.

MISS OSBORNE

We are delighted that Miss Osborne is joining us on a Thursday morning from now on. She will mainly be working with Class 3 for Maths and English but she will also have a session with the Nursery children in the new look library. The children in Class 3 were given special writing books today to use in the Library during their session with Miss Osborne. She has been inspired by author Cressida Cowell who wants schools to take part in Free Writing Friday (which for our children will be on a Thursday!)



A letter from Cressida Cowell

Hi, My name is Cressida Cowell, and I'm the author and illustrator of the [How to Train Your Dragon](#), and [The Wizards of Once](#) series, as well as the [Emily Brown](#) picture book series. I'm also an Ambassador for The National Literacy Trust. I've been an author now for twenty years, and hundreds of kids, teachers and parents have asked me what I think is the one thing they can do to encourage creativity and develop stories. My answer is always: have a notebook to draw and write just for the fun of it.

What makes this notebook special is that NO ONE is allowed to correct it. Your spelling and grammar and handwriting doesn't matter in this book. What matters is that it's a place for ideas and for FUN. Spend 15 minutes a week (or longer – it's up to you) writing, or drawing in it. You can write stories, or notes from any exciting facts that you've found, or drawings, or comic strips, or ideas for films or little pictures of characters. You can write about books you've read or films that you've watched. This is YOUR notebook, and you can put whatever you like in it.

I started writing and drawing when I was very young, and I've kept notebooks ever since. Some of the story ideas I had about Vikings and dragons eventually became the How to Train Your Dragon book and film series. I still keep notebooks now – for my most recent series, The Wizards of Once, I kept a big A3 scrapbook for five years.

Here you can download some tips and starting points, because sometimes being faced with a blank notebook can be a bit daunting. If you don't need them, that's OK, you can start by yourself. The most important thing is that you enjoy what you're doing.

Keep writing, drawing, and creating!

Cressida Cowell

PARENTZONE

PARENTZONE-INTERNET SAFETY

Please take a look at the free family resources from The Be Internet Legends programme by visiting parents.parentzone.org.uk/legendsfamilyadventure

NATIONAL LITERACY TRUST

https://wordsforlife.org.uk/virtual-school-library/?mc_cid=42bb0d8bd6&mc_eid=7bddae09e9

Every week a popular children's author or illustrator will provide you with free books, exclusive videos and their top three recommended reads.



AUTHOR OF THE WEEK: Tom Palmer

Read Tom's book, Roy of the Rovers: Scouted, for FREE, watch an exclusive video and discover his top three children's books.

EXTRA JUMPER

Following a mandatory check on our wall mounted fan heaters, we have been advised to ensure that at least one window remains open at all times in the classrooms and hall. Your child may bring an extra jumper to wear in class if they wish.

CHRISTMAS POST BOX

It is that time of year when we dust of our rather lovely post box and invite children to write Christmas cards to their friends. Please do not feel obliged to provide cards; homemade ones are just as special. The children in Class 3 will ensure that cards reach the recipient. Please help them by writing the child's name and year group clearly on the envelope. The post box will be in the corridor from Tuesday 1st December.

CHRISTMAS PRODUCTIONS

We have started rehearsals for Lights, Camel, Action 2 and Wiggly Nativity Returns. We are aiming to perform the shows during week commencing 7th December, fully costumed and recorded by a local volunteer. We are hoping to make DVD copies for every family (at no cost).

As we are sending the DVD to a specialist company to make copies, it is likely be January before we can send copies out to you.

The children in Years 1 to 4 have song words to learn (in their book bags) and I am sure as we increase the number of rehearsals they will be able to show you some groovy moves! **If your child has brought home a script with highlighted dialogue, please help them to learn their lines by giving them the cues.**

We hope to be able to provide costumes for all children. The most we might ask for is a festive jumper or outfit for some of the characters.

CHRISTMAS JUMPER SWAP

We are planning to do our annual Christmas jumper day for Save the Children on **Friday 11th December**. If you have any Christmas jumpers that your child has outgrown, we would love to take them off your hands to add to our uniform swap trolley.

Please ensure items are in good condition and ideally washed before sending them into school.

FESTIVE TEA TOWELS

If you would like to purchase a tea towel they are priced at £4 each (any profit made will be donated to charity). Cash or cheques made payable to 'Humshaugh First School' to be handed in to the school office in a clearly labelled envelope ASAP.

Numbers are limited so we have set an initial maximum order of 2 tea towels per child. After everyone has had the chance to place an order we will sell off any remaining tea towels.

If you would like to purchase more after your initial order please let Mrs Dodd know and she will inform you if we have any left over to sell.

Tea towels will be ready to collect by the end of term.

NORTHUMBERLAND WOMEN'S REFUGE

As you know, this year we will be collecting Christmas present donations for the Northumberland Women's Refuge. The refuge is based in East Northumberland and provides a safe place for women and their children to stay. If you would like to purchase a present for either a child or a mother please send gifts in to the school office, unwrapped, by the end of term. Children staying at the refuge range from birth to 18 years old. Due to Covid-19, all gifts must be new. Thank you to everyone who has already given a donation, we really appreciate it.

SHUTTERBUGZ PHOTOGRAPHS

The deadline for orders is **TODAY!** Photographs will be available to collect from school soon after that date. Any orders placed after the 27th will incur a delivery charge.

Please note siblings will only receive one code, which will allow access to all family photos taken.

SWIMMING PERMISSION SLIPS

Please ensure that you sign and return the swimming permission slip as soon as possible. Please check your child's bookbag for the letter.

PE KITS

Please ensure children have returned their PE kits in school by Monday 30th November

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

W/C 7th Dec: Christmas Performances

10th Dec: Christmas lunch

11th Dec: Save the Children Christmas jumper day

14th Dec: Orienteering Festival (Y3+4)-on playing field

15th Dec: Northern Stage virtual Christmas show and Christmas party p.m.

16th Dec: Visiting Pantomime

18th Dec: Break for Christmas