



Weekly Bulletin 5 – Friday 13th October 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

I cannot believe that it is the final week of the half term. This half term has just flown past and it just seems as though our new Nursery and Reception starters have been with us for months! We break up next Friday 20th October for half term and school re-opens on Monday 30th October. We hope the children enjoy a lovely break and come back to school ready for another very busy but exciting half term!

Appointment of Deputy Head Teacher

I am delighted to inform you that after a very tense day of interviews yesterday, the governing body have appointed Mr Andrew Knighton as Deputy Head Teacher of our school. This is an exciting appointment and I am really looking forward to working with him. Mr Knighton has been an advisory teacher, senior leader, Deputy Head and Head Teacher for around 17 years so brings with him a wealth of experience. I am sure you will have the opportunity to meet him soon.

<u>Book Fair</u>

Thank you so much for your great support at our Book fair last week – we took £912 which means we receive around £540 in commission. All teachers (and children) have chosen books for their classrooms with this commission which is wonderful!

<u>Tuesday and Wednesday – 3.45 – 6 pm - Parents' Evenings</u>

We are really looking forward to welcoming you into school for parents' evenings next week. Your children's books will be in your child's classrooms for you to look at but all teachers will be based in the Junior Hall.

Thursday 19th October – Big Me Day in aid of Action Aid

During Big Me week in October, thousands of children in primary schools across the UK will be dressing up as what they want to be when they grow up. ActionAid is a charity that works with lots of children living in the world's poorest places. We are asking you to bring £1 in return for dressing up, which will be donated to ActionAid. £50 could provide solar lanterns so children can do their homework. £300 could support a happy home for a whole year, giving children a safe space to learn and seek help. So... what will you be? A fireman? Teacher? Scientist? The possibilities are endless... Bring £1 to school and dress up on Thursday 19th October to help us to change lives for good!

Friday 20th October - Year 2 and Year 5 Trips

On Friday, our Year 2 children are visiting Shildon Locomotive Museum while Year 5 visit the Planetarium at the Centre of Life in Newcastle. All children should come to school in uniform and will need a packed lunch. They will all be back in time for the end of the school day.

Pre-Information Leaflets for Parents' Evening

Your child will be given an information leaflet with some current data on them regarding their attainment and attitude to school. A full explanation is on the back of the leaflet but please note, their attainment has been graded against end of the year expectations. As we have only just started the year, 99% of children will be working towards these expectations. This means they are exactly where they should be for their age. The information leaflet does explain this on the reverse. If you have any questions though, please do not hesitate to ask any member of staff about them.

Concert at Blackhill Methodist Church on Saturday 4th November at 3 p.m.

The children in KS2 were all given a letter last week, asking who is able to join us for a concert in Blackhill Methodist Church Hall on Saturday 4th November. We are hoping for a wide variety of performances and

need to know which children are able to attend before compiling the programme. Please return the slip on the bottom of the letter, or email me if they can come, no later than Tuesday 17th October. Many thanks.

Nursery News

In Nursery, our stories for next week will be Goldilocks and the Three Bears, Ten little Pirates, Hoot Owl: Master of Disguise, Freddie and the Fairy and A Squash and a Squeeze. Our song of the week will be 5 red apples, which you can listen to at:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/learning/schoolradio/subjects/mathematics/countingsongs/A-F/five_red_apples

We would love to invite you to our EYFS Autumn Stay and Play Day on Wednesday 1st November. Sessions will run from 9am - 10am and 2.15pm -3.15pm. Come along to explore the Nursery and Reception classrooms with your child and take part in some Autumn crafts, songs and stories. Younger siblings are welcome but due to space restrictions, pushchairs must be left in the outdoor shelter at your own risk. Thank you.

Look out for our Autumn Selfie challenge for the holidays. We will be posting our Early Years Team selfies on Twitter next week and look forward to your contributions over the October break. More details next week!

Next week, we will be sending home a sponsored Treasure Hunt for Nursery and Reception classes to take part in over the next two weeks. It should be a lovely activity for families to do together but there is no pressure to join in. Any money raised will go towards enhancing our outdoor environment and providing extra resources to develop the area to make it really special. If any children from further up the school wish to participate, they are more than welcome to call into Nursery to pick up a Treasure Hunt sheet.

Holiday Club in School – Monday 23rd & Tuesday 24th October

It is not too late to book your children in for our Holiday Club on Monday 23rd October and Tuesday 24th October. Holiday Club runs from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. or you can just book for a morning or afternoon. Forms are available from the Main Office or our website.

Christmas Shoe Boxes.

This year, due to our strong links with the Rotary club which can be seen with the success of our Rotakids group, we have decided to join their Shoebox scheme. This is very similar to the shoebox scheme we usually run, although this time the boxes are provided. Boxes can be filled with gifts for all ages, not just children, so you decide who you would like to receive your gift and fill a box with suitable items for that person. We ask for a donation of £2 per box toward the cost of transport. The gift of a shoebox that contains toys, toiletries, educational items or household goods is a drop of happiness to the people of Eastern Europe who live in a world of poverty. For many, it will be the first present that they have ever received and it lets them know that somebody, somewhere cares. More information about this will be sent home after half term.

Old £1 coins

Please note, we can no longer accept any old £1 coins in school now. Thank you.

As usual, if there is anything at all that you would like to talk about, or that is concerning you, please do not hesitate to contact me at school. We are here to help you and your child.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Jane Davis Head Teacher