 6/02/2020

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| **Dear Parents,**  Welcome to the latest newsletter. Incredibly, we are nearly at the end of the first half term of 2020 and the diary for next half term is beginning to fill up already. There are details of some upcoming events included below. | | |
| **Staffing Update**  Mrs Graham is returning from maternity leave shortly and will be teaching Class 2 on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday after half term. Mrs Whitfield will continue to teach Class 2 on a Thursday morning and all day on a Friday. However, I am delighted to let you know that Mrs Whitfield is expecting her first baby in the summer. Sadly, this means she will be leaving us towards the end of the summer term. We are working hard to minimise any disruption to the children and I will let you know further information as soon as I can. | | |
| **Football Result**  Our boys’ football team played their first match last week against Allendale. The final score was 0-3 to Allendale but Mr Chapman was really pleased with the perseverance showed by the team. He felt that, for their first game, they played really well together and he is looking forward to seeing how they progress in future fixtures- as we all are! | | **Tag Rugby Tournament 11th February**  Class 3 children will be taking part in a Tag Rugby tournament next Tuesday morning against children from Corbridge, Acomb and Broomhaugh First Schools. The tournament is being organised by our sports coach, Matty Thompson, and is being held on the football field here at Newbrough. It promises to be a great morning. Please could all children make sure they have a water bottle in school plus their PE kits. |
| **Australia Day Friday 14th February.**  The school council would like to invite everyone to take part in a day of Australian themed activities in order to raise money for victims of the recent Australian bushfires. The children can come to school dressed as something linked to Australia if they wish, we will be selling cakes at breaktime, Mrs Bridges is making a special Australian lunch and the children will be taking part in activities with an Australian theme in class. In exchange, we would ask the children to bring in a small donation and some small change for buying cakes. Any donations raised will be shared between Red Cross Australia and the Australian Wildlife and Nature Recovery fund. If you would like to send in some cakes to sell, then these would also be gratefully received. | | |
| **Stars of the Week**  Each week, class teachers give a certificate to a child (or children) who has really impressed them.  Our stars for the week ending 24th January were: Jacob, Martha S., Harry, Edie, Amy, Libby and Hamish and the Headteacher’s award went to Addison for amazing maths which impressed all the staff. Our stars for the week ending 31st January were: Kieron, Emilia, Charlie, William, Martha W, Bonnie, Ronnie and Annie and the Headteacher’s award went to Bobby for fantastic contributions to all aspects of school life.  Well done to all of you! | | |
| **Vindolanda App**  Class 3 have been involved in an exciting project with Vindolanda, developing a children’s ‘murder mystery’ app for visitors to use on site. This week, they have had the opportunity to evaluate the app and the improvements that have been made to it. They have also watched the animations that they helped to create. These will shortly be uploaded to Class 3’s pages on the website if you would like to take a look at them. | | **New Pond**  Our new pond is well under way. Huge thanks must go to James Wardle, Jim Barton and Jack Hayward who helped with the work along with 5 members of the Shaftoe Young Farmer’s Club- Angus Tailford, Lee Veale, James Little, Ed Craney and Rob Dodd. Thanks to Laura Shreeve for all her hard work on the design and installation of the pond. Thanks also to Mrs Bridges for the bacon sandwiches, and to Jack Blisset and Nicky Collins for sweeping up.  And apologies to Robert and Christine who had a whole lot of extra mud to clean up in school for several days afterwards. |
| **Insect Workshop**  As part of our START project, children in Class 3 and 4 will be taking part in some insect workshops on February 26th. They will be learning about the importance of insects, drawing insects, searching for insects and coming up with an action plan to improve the habitats in the school grounds. | | **Building Work**  It currently looks as if the building work to replace the external cladding on school will be starting during half term. I’ll keep you informed as and when I get more information. |
| **Mr Chapman’s Recommended Reads:**  This book has been recommended by Annabelle in Year 4:  I recommend 'the House with Chicken's Leg's' by Sophie Anderson because It is one of the best books I have ever read. The book is about a girl who lost her Grandmother. Her Grandmother guided people through the gate once they have died. The girl is meant to guide the dead too but she decides to get her Grandmother back! She has many tries but does she manage to get her Grandmother back? | **Mrs Stevens’ Motivating Maths:**  Mrs Stevens is our lead teacher for Maths in school and she is passionate about all things mathematical.  She has recommended the following website:  A variety of counting games and more...  <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/5-7-years/counting> | |
| **Attendance Update**  Congratulations to the Reception class who have managed the best attendance this half term at 99.52 % despite all the illnesses which are going around. Congratulations also to the 31 children who have so far managed 100% attendance since January.   |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Year group | Attendance 4th Jan  - 6th Feb | Authorised absence | Unauthorised absence | | Reception | 99.52 % | 0.48 % |  | | Year 1 | 96.52 % | 3.48 % |  | | Year 2 | 95.03 % | 2.02 % | 2.95% | | Year 3 | 95.34 % | 4.66 % |  | | Year 4 | 93.91 % | 6.09 % |  | | Year 5 | 96.2 % | 3.8 % |  | | Year 6 | 92.03 % | 2.9 % | 5.07% | | | |
| Finally, if you have any questions, comments or concerns, please do get in touch or catch me on the playground before school. If I don’t know there’s a problem, I can’t sort it out!  Kind regards,  Mrs Trotter (Headteacher) | | |

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| **Dates for your diary** | |
| **FEBRUARY** |  |
| **Tuesday 11th Feb** | Tag Rugby tournament |
| **Wednesday 12th Feb** | Class 3 visit to Great North Museum |
| **Friday 14th Feb** | Australia day  Break up for half term |
| **Monday 24th Feb** | School returns |
| **Wednesday 26th Feb** | Insect Workshops KS2 |
| **Friday 28th Feb** | Cricket coaching Classes 2, 3 and 4 |
| **MARCH** |  |
| **Monday 30th March** | Parent Consultations |
| **Tuesday 1st April** | Parent Consultations |
| **Friday 3rd April** | School closes for Easter |
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