



## NEWSLETTER: 6<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2023

### Dear Families

#### **Trust Primary School Celebration Event - Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October**

We had a wonderful trust-wide celebration event in school this week, with the vast majority of children having a school meal. We had some excellent comments from children who normally have a packed lunch about how much they enjoyed their school dinner.

Thank you, Donna and Diane (and everyone else who joined in and helped, too) for a great event. To our lucky winners, enjoy your raffle prizes. We wait with baited breath until Monday to see if any of our pupils have been lucky enough to win one of the prizes across the trust. Fingers crossed!

#### **Gurdwarda**

KS2 enjoyed a fascinating visit to the Sikh Gurdwara in Newcastle this week. Mr Singh taught us a lot about what it means to be a Sikh and what happens inside the Gurdwara. At the end of our visit, we were invited to the Langar (the community kitchen) and shared a meal with the local community. We are very grateful to have received such warm hospitality and we would like to say a sincere thank you to Mr Singh and everyone who made us so welcome. What a memorable day.



#### **The Forge**

Our Year 5 pupils have concluded their creative art project with The Forge. It is unanimous – everyone loved the experience – teachers, visitors and pupils alike. We very much look forward to seeing the results.

#### **Times Tables KS2**

We are introducing our times tables awards and tournaments over the next week. Children in KS2 will be working on their times tables during lessons. They will also be given a times table each week to work on at home. This can be done on Times Tables Rockstars, written in their homework books or chanted out loud. All of these methods help children to remember their times tables facts. Each week we will be awarding a 'Rockstar of the Week'. This award will go to a child who has made particularly impressive progress on Times Tables Rockstars. Each week, we will also have challenges between classes to see who can earn the most coins on Times Tables Rockstars. This week it is Year 6 vs Year 5 and Year 4 vs Year 3.

Good luck, everyone.

### **Homework**

From this week, we are starting to roll out weekly homework for KS1 & KS2. This will be given out on a Friday and is to be returned to school the following Friday. Year 1 will start from next week.

### **Reading Plus**

As you know, KS2 pupils are accessing an online reading programme called Reading Plus. We are in the process of sending out passwords across Y3 – Y6. Your child will bring this home in an envelope (Y4, Y5 and Y6 tonight – Y3 next week).

### **New Starter Look Around**

Are you interested in sending your child to St Joseph's or know someone who is? We have 2 open days arranged for parents to have a look around school before applying for their child's school place. The first event is on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October at 9:30 am and the second event is on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October at 2:15 pm

### **CAFOD Brighten Up Day**

On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October children can come to school in bright clothes to celebration CAFOD Brighten Up Day. Voluntary donations to CAFOD family fast day can be made via ARBOR.

### **Breakfast Club/Wrap Around Care**

A reminder that if you child attends Breakfast Club and Wraparound Care, the place must be booked, via ARBOR in advance, and paid for before your child attends. The numbers of children attending these clubs is increasing and we have to ensure, for staffing ratios and to comply with health and safety guidelines, that we do not exceed our numbers. If you pay by Child Care Vouchers, please book your child in as attending and make your payments in the usual way. If you book your child in and they do not attend, payment will not be taken from your account. Thank you for your continued support.

### **Vacancies**

We are recruiting two full-time, permanent class teachers with a view to start in January 2024. This is an exciting opportunity to join our team.

We also wish to recruit a teaching assistant with expertise in working with pupils with additional needs. This will be a fixed term contract.

Please follow the link for further information and share with anyone you think may be interested in these positions <https://www.bwcet.com/vacancies/>

St Patrick's, Dipton also has a fixed term teaching assistant vacancy. Please follow the link for further information. <https://www.bwcet.com/vacancies/>

### **Dates for Your Diary**

We appreciate, the more notice you get regarding events, the better. With this in mind, we would like to share a longer-term programme of activities. As we move through the year, I am sure you will appreciate, due to unforeseen circumstances, events can change. That said, we will try to keep you updated as soon as we are aware any changes are necessary.

There will be more events to add, for example all trips have not been finalised yet and there will be more visitors to school, but this overview gives you where we are now in terms of our planning.

You will see that there will be more information to follow regarding specific events. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the Miss Greenwell in the school office.

### **Holiday Requests**

We are receiving a concerning increase in holiday requests during term time. We therefore need to ask that

### **Attendance & Punctuality**

Our key priority in school is to promote good attendance and punctuality. This is because we want our pupils, in school, learning alongside classmates.

A figure of 90% means a child has missed an equivalent of 1 morning session of school every week.

A figure closer to 80% means a child has missed an equivalent to a day of school every week.

We understand, of course, there may be unavoidable and genuine reasons for absence. We do, however, want to work closely with families to ensure children are in school every day.

As a general reminder:

- Please make medical appointments outside of the school day or aim to minimise the amount of time your child will miss to attend the appointment;
- Only allow your child to stay at home in response to genuine illness;
- Do not take holidays during term time;
- Ensure your child arrives on time as lateness is recorded and will impact attendance figures.

If you have had an issue on a morning getting your child to school, we would always encourage you to contact us. We will help and it is always better to arrive later than not at all.

If your child seems unwell in the morning but appears much better by the afternoon, we encourage you to bring them in for the afternoon session.

We continue to stress, however, that pupils need to remain home for 48 hours after any incidents of vomiting or diarrhoea.

If there are any issues or concerns that are impacting school attendance, or punctuality, please contact the school office and an appointment will be made with one of the senior lead members of staff as advice and support can be given.

Our intention will always be to work with you, and support you, to ensure your child is able to attend.

**This week's attendance is 94.15 %**

**Our target is 97%**

<b>Nursery</b>	<b>Reception</b>	<b>Year1</b>	<b>Year2</b>	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Year 4</b>	<b>Year 5</b>	<b>Year 6</b>
93.79%	96.21%	95.33%	95.38%	97.14%	82.86%	99.31%	93.23

## **Star of the Week**

The following children have received a Star of the Week certificate this Week:



Nursery	Freddie	For an amazing imagination and great ideas in play!
Reception	Seb	For super sound recognition and amazing effort with his letter formation!
Year 1	Reid	For always showing he is ready to learn and listening so well.
Year 2	Thea-Pearl	For trying her best in everything this week. Keep it up!
Year 3	Bradley	For fantastic knowledge about our fossils topic in science
Year 4	Jacob	For a fantastic job applying his 4 times table facts! Well done!
Year 5	Evelyn	For an excellent poem about the Youth Village.
Year 6	Lucas	For some excellent problem solving with addition and subtraction.