



Howden le Wear Primary School Weekly Newsletter

Friday 3 October 2014

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Headteacher's Notices

Thank you to all those parents who came to support our McMillan Cancer Support Coffee Afternoon that was held in school last Friday. There was a fantastic selection of cakes and sweet treats on sale and we managed to raise a grand total of £110.00. Thanks also must go to all who prepared or bought cakes too.



I mentioned last week that we were looking forward to hosting a visitor from our Ghanaian partner school as part of our British Council Connecting Classrooms project. Unfortunately, I received a call last Friday evening saying that there was a problem with Mr Prempah receiving his Visa documentation, so we had no option other than to postpone and reorganise his trip for next week. Fingers crossed Mr Prempah will land into the UK on Saturday morning and will join us on Monday for a week of activities in school. I look forward to sharing some photos of the weeks events in next week's newsletter.

On Monday we have the Scholastic Book Fair arriving for the week. The Book Fair offers children the opportunity to purchase books and raise money for our school at the same time. Books are priced from £3.99 and the fair will be open every playtime and after school from 3.05pm until 3.45pm for children and adults to purchase, as well as all night during parents evening on Wednesday. I hope you will find the time to visit. If you are sending money into school for your child/ren to choose a book, please ensure it is placed in a secure envelope with your child's name and class clearly printed on the envelope.

Also next week children in Mrs Lowden/Mrs Sakeld's Year 3/4 class and Mrs Clark's Year 5/6 class will have a visitor on Tuesday and Thursday morning respectively. Mrs Landon from Durham County Cricket Club's Education Team will join children in class for a morning of exploration of SCRATCH work, supporting children to meet the objectives set out in the new Computing National Curriculum. Children will be treated to a morning of computer science with them creating their own animation programmes linked to their topics of Ancient Greece and Ancient Egypt. Staff who have undertaken this training already are really confident children will be enthused and excited by this opportunity and I am sure your child/ren will have lots to say about the computer programming work they have been involved in.

Feedback about the work we do in school is really important to us and I have encouraged parents in recent years to complete the ParentView questionnaire about our school that is available on the Ofsted website. Parentview was set up to give parents/carers the chance to tell Ofsted what they think about the school their child attends. The online questionnaire asks for views on 12 aspects of our school from the quality of teaching to dealing with bullying. Ofsted will then use the information you provide to make decisions about school inspections and overall school performance. I would be most grateful if over the coming days as many parents/carers as possible sign up and complete the questionnaire. The ParentView website can be found at:

<http://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>

Finally next Wednesday is Parents Consultation Evening in school from 2.30pm. You should have received a letter yesterday inviting you to make your appointments and already we have taken lots of bookings. We encourage all parents to make an appointment and find out about the progress their child has made in the first five weeks of term and provide advice on how you can help them further in their learning.

We look forward to seeing you next Wednesday and thank you for your continued support.
Mr C Baines, Headteacher

For the most up to date information about what is going on in our school including dates for your diaries, parental information and school performance information, please visit our website at:

<http://www.howden-le-wear.durham.sch.uk>

Please scan your smartphone device over the QR code to the right to be taken straight to our school website!



School Council Introductions

A few week's ago we let you know the names of our School Council members from each year group and following their first meeting this week, they would like to introduce themselves, so below is a piece they have collectively written for our newsletter.

*'Hello! We are the new School Council for 2014/15. We are really looking forward to doing our job this year and working with teachers and pupils to make some important decisions about our school. In Reception class we have **Luke Thompson** who really enjoys going swimming. In Year 1 our School Council member is **Lewis Wood** who says he likes all of his lessons and feeding his sheep. Next in Year 2 there is **Chloe Demeyre** who loves playing with her pets and her favourite lesson is English. In Year 3 is **Cameron Howe** who says he loves school dinners and always goes back for seconds! In Year 4 we have **Kieran Howarth** who is a big football fan and supports Newcastle. There is **Chloe Putt** in Year 5 who loves singing and dancing. Finally in Year 6 we have **Connor Box** who is a big fan of Sunderland Football Club and **Natalie Miller** who loves playing with her friends and her favourite subject is Maths. Connor will be working with our younger children to help them get involved in the school council and feedback to their Reception class after meetings.'*

'Now that you know all about us, we would like to tell you our focus for this term. We will be doing surveys to see what children in our school think about playtimes and lunchtimes. We will also be looking at after-school clubs. We will take everybody's ideas into account, so if you have an opinion about this - or anything else - let your school council member know! We can then take these thoughts and suggestions to Mr Baines and the school Governors who may consider them!'

Children's Achievements In School

Every Friday teachers choose a child from their class to be recognised for something special they have achieved that week. This week's chosen children are:

Mrs Wheatley's Nursery Class



Mrs Wheatley in Nursery would like to congratulate **Abi Gardiner** for developing her creativity by building a wonderful castle in the role play area. Well done Abi!

Mrs Craig's Reception Class



Mrs Craig has been really impressed with **Elizabeth Ritchie** for her fabulous retelling of the story Sleeping Beauty. Elizabeth could remember all the main events in the story and spoke very clearly. Well done!

Ms Simons' Year 1/2 Class



Ms Simons would like to say a huge well done to **Megan Johnson** for her excellent sentence construction and the great amount of writing she is producing. Keep up the hard work Megan!

Mrs Lowden and Mrs Salkeld's Year 3/4 Class



Mrs Lowden and Mrs Salkeld are really pleased with **Matthew Smith** for the beautiful joined up writing he has produced this week. Matthew has also written some wonderful sentences about the pyramids!

Mrs Clark's Year 5/6 Class

Mrs Clark would like a special mention this week for **Tyler Rickaby** who has had a brilliant week in school. Tyler works very hard to improve himself by completing his corrections in both maths and Literacy at the start of each day. Well done Tyler!

