



## Howden le Wear Primary School Weekly Newsletter

Friday 10 October 2014

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### Headteacher's Notices

Throughout this week our Key Stage 2 children have been learning about computer programming in school. On Tuesday and Thursday we welcomed Sally Landon from Durham County Cricket Education Team to work with children to create their own animated computer programmes and the results have been excellent. Sally praised our children for the wonderful range of animated programmes they created and commented on how well children persevered with their work, particularly when they found it challenging. Below are a selection of photos of this event.



Attached to today's newsletter is a new home/school agreement that I would like you to read through with your child and, if you agree with the content, sign and return to school next week. The home/school agreement is a statement explaining:

- the school's aims and values;
- the school's responsibilities towards its pupils who are of compulsory school age;
- the responsibility of each pupil's parents; and what the school expects of its pupils.

Under guidance issued by the Department for Education, all schools are required to publish a home/school agreement and all schools must take reasonable steps to ensure that all registered parents of pupils sign the parental declaration to indicate that they understand and accept the contents of the home-school agreement. Should you wish to discuss any aspect of the home/school agreement with me, please contact me at your earliest convenience. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

As we head into Autumn traditionally the number of children who are absent from school due to illness increases. We would be extremely grateful if parents/carers could let school know on the first day of absence why their child will not be in school for that day and keep us informed of how the child is doing if the absence is for more than two days. By doing this, we can mark in the register the exact reason for a child's absence and will not have to bother you with phone calls once registers have been taken to find the reason for the absence. Also, associated with this, could you please ensure your children come to school with a suitable coat for the weather conditions. We have had a number of children arrive at school this week with no coat, even when it has been pouring with rain!

Finally, on the reverse of today's newsletter is information about a Halloween Disco we will be hosting on Friday 24 October, the last day of the half term. We look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible and fancy dress, as always, is encouraged!

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!



### **Halloween Disco - Tickets on Sale on Monday!**

A Friends of the School Halloween Disco has been organised for Friday 24 October from 4pm to 5.30pm. All children in school are invited to attend and tickets will cost **£2.50** per person which includes entry to the disco, a hot dog, drink, crisps and bag of sweets. Tickets will go on sale on Monday morning next week. Could all money be sent into school with the child's name and class clearly labelled on the envelope, along with the words 'Halloween Disco'. Nursery children are also invited to attend and parents of our younger children are welcome to stay with their children throughout. Fancy dress and Halloween costumes are encouraged, but not essential.



**We look forward to a great disco to end the half term!**

### **Key Stage 2 Spellings in School**

We have recently changed our approach to the teaching of spelling in school. Rather than having weekly spelling tests where children bring home and learn their spellings, children will be taking part in focused spelling teaching during the school day. We feel that children will benefit much more from these in class spelling lessons which will enable them to apply their spellings in all of their written work.

However, at the end of each half term, your child will bring a list of spelling words which they should be able to spell by the end of the phase of learning in which they are in. All children will receive the same spellings to learn at home over the holidays regardless of their ability and will be tested when they return after the holiday. We would greatly appreciate that when these spellings are brought home each holiday, parents work with their child to learn the spellings in advance of the test.

**Thank you for your support with this.**

### **Further Ghana Delay!**

Unfortunately, Mr Prempah who was due to visit us from Ghana this week has encountered further delay with his Visa application and as a result was unable to travel last week. This was disappointing news to everyone in school, but we are assured that the rearranged date of 20 October will see him safely arrive and spend the week in school with us!

### **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 **Aydn Mawson** for his excellent work recognising different shapes in Nursery. Great work Aydn!

#### **Mrs Craig's Reception Class**



Mrs Craig has been really impressed with **Hayden James McGuiness** for his fantastic puppet making skills and for retelling the puppet story in class. Keep up the hard work Hayden James!

#### **Ms Simons' Year 1/2 Class**



Ms Simons would like to say a huge well done to **Thomas Wright Pickles** for his excellent work improving his spellings this week. Ms Simons is really proud of you Thomas!

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



Mrs Lowden and Mrs Salkeld are really pleased with **Cameron Howe** for his progress in swimming and he is showing much improved water confidence. Well done Cameron!

#### **Mrs Clark's Year 5/6 Class**

Mrs Clark would like a special mention this week for **Laura Ashton** for the brilliant progress she is making in her numeracy as well as working hard to support others in class. Great work Laura!

