



Howden le Wear Primary School Weekly Newsletter

Friday 24 April 2015

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Headteacher's Notices

This week I have spent some time in classrooms looking at the learning that is taking place and talking to teachers about how much progress children have been making. I have been really pleased and impressed with what I have seen. In every classroom children have been engaged, focused and have a genuine desire to try their best to achieve highly. Teachers and teaching assistants are working hard to support and enhance pupils' learning experiences and the quality of work being produced across school is of a high standard. We have also had some visitors from Durham Local Authority into school focusing on Literacy and Numeracy who have mirrored these sentiments. Well done to all our children for their continued commitment to giving 100% in school!

We have had a visitor this week from Parkside School working with our children in Year 4/5. Mr Grey, a PE teacher at Parkside, led children in a range of cricket skills and activities that both entertained and challenged. The feedback from children has been very positive and we look forward to Mr Grey returning to school on a fortnightly basis across the summer term to continue his cricket focused work with children from Year 4/5. Also, our Year 5 pupils took part in their first swimming lesson of the term at Wolsingham School last Friday. Children were very positive about the sessions and everyone worked hard throughout. Swimming will continue with Year 5 for the full term every Friday and Year 6 will join them once SATS are complete. Sticking with the PE theme, could parents please ensure all children have PE kits in school every day for the full summer term. We like to be able to take advantage of the good weather when it is here and teachers may change lessons around to fit in with this.

Next Wednesday after school, our football team are again in action at Parkside as part of the Parkside/ Willington Schools Football League. Our team have two games; the first against Witton le Wear Primary kicking off at 3.55pm followed by a match against Tow Law Millennium Primary. If parents of children involved could help out with transporting children to and from Parkside, it would be greatly appreciated and good luck to the team!

Also on Wednesday morning next week our Year 2 pupils will be taking part in a technical pre-test of the Key Stage 1 grammar, punctuation and spelling materials through the National Foundation for Educational Research. You may be aware that in 2016 national testing arrangements for children in Year 2 are changing. In preparation for this, pre-tests are carried out a year in advance on a sample number of schools across the country to ensure the test materials are suitable for children. Year 2 children will complete two short tests of around 20 minutes each on Wednesday morning. We don't get the results back in school, but the way the children tackled the questions will be analysed to ensure the tests that are produced for 2016 are pitched at exactly the right level. Should Year 2 parents wish to discuss any aspect of this further with me, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

We look forward to a busy week in school 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!



Welcome to Mr Armstrong

This week we welcome Mr Armstrong who will be working as a student teacher in Mrs Lowden/ Mrs Salkeld's Year 3/4 class. Mr Armstrong is completing his third teaching placement as part of his Newcastle University PGCE course and will be working with our Year 3/4 class until the end of June. We welcome Mr Armstrong to school and wish him well for his placement.



Good News for Miss Hutchinson

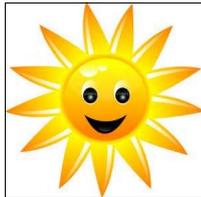
We are delighted to let you know that Miss Hutchinson, our teacher who works with Year 5 for Literacy and Numeracy every morning, is expecting her second child in late June.

Miss Hutchinson will continue to work with Year 5 until her maternity leave starts and I know that Noah, Miss Hutchinson's son, is looking forward to having a new baby brother or sister in the coming months!



Suncream / Sun Hats in School

As the weather has shown signs of improvement this week could we please request parents of younger children, particularly in Nursery, Reception and Y1/2; provide sun cream for their child to apply in school and a sun hat for their child to wear. Please see your child's class teacher for further advice.



Reception Class News

Mrs Craig and Miss Atkinson would like to let parents know that next week Reception children will be going on a village walk as part of their houses and homes topic; whilst on the afternoon of Thursday 14 May Reception children will be taking part in their own wedding at the village Chapel - invites for all parents to follow soon!

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 and Miss Wilkinson in Nursery would like to say well done to **Joe** this week for the fantastic printing and painting he did for the brick house in the 3 pigs story



Mrs Craig's Reception Class

Mrs Craig has been really pleased with the shape work **Emily** has done in maths this week. Well done Emily.



Ms Simons' Year 1/2 Class

Ms Simons would like to say a huge well done to **Brendan** for his excellent work in phonics this week. Keep up the good work Brendan.



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

Mrs Lowden and Mrs Salkeld are really pleased with **Jimmy** for the outstanding effort he has made in writing and for the improvement in his hand writing.



Mrs Clark's Year 5/6 Class

Mrs Clark would like a special mention this week for **Tyler** for the excellent effort he made during the Maths Trail. Well done Tyler.

