



Howden le Wear Primary School Weekly Newsletter

Friday 9 January 2015

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Headteacher's Notices

Welcome back to the new school term and I hope that you had a fabulous Christmas and New Year with your families. From speaking to lots of children over the past week, Santa certainly didn't disappoint this year with everyone commenting on the wonderful gifts and presents they received. It has also been lovely to see our children looking smart, refreshed and ready for the term ahead.

I would like to begin the new year by welcoming a new member of staff to our school team. Mr Jordan Reed started work on Monday as our new Modern Apprentice in the school office. Jordan has taken over Miss Tray's role and will be working alongside Mrs Campbell and school staff to complete his apprenticeship course in Business Administration. Welcome Jordan; and we look forward to working with you in school.



Jordan Reed

Secondly, I would like to ask for parents to take a short amount of time to complete an online survey that collects feedback and views from parents / carers on the school their child attends. The site is called 'Parent View' and has been set up by Ofsted to give you the chance to air your views on our school. The online questionnaire asks for your views on 12 aspects of our school from the quality of teaching, the progress your child makes and whether concerns are dealt with swiftly and effectively. Ofsted then use the information you provide to help make decisions about overall schools performance. The Parent View website can be found at:

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

I am a firm believer in providing all involved in our school with an opportunity to offer feedback, both positive and negative, on the work we do in school. Therefore, I would greatly appreciate it if you took the time to visit the Parent View website and share your thoughts and opinions about our school. The survey should take no longer than 10 minutes to complete and should you be unable to access the internet from your home, please do come into school where we can provide you with a computer, online access and the time to complete the questionnaire confidentially. Some parents may recall completing this survey in previous years' however, every year a new survey opens and I would be most grateful if views and thoughts could be updated.

With today's newsletter your child is bringing home their curriculum coverage sheet for the next half term. The sheet outlines what your child will be learning in school between now and mid February and gives suggestions and ways in which you can help to support them. This information is also available online at the school website address below.

Thank you for your continued support and wishing you all a very Happy New Year.

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!



Pupil Attendance in School.

As I am sure you are aware, our school encourages all children to have excellent attendance and we have a target of at least 97% attendance for all children in school. Our registers are regularly checked by the Local Authority and those children whose attendance falls below 85% are identified and intervention with possible legal proceedings may follow. This can be very distressing for all concerned and we wish to work with parents and families to avoid this situation occurring. Should any parent wish to discuss their child's attendance or punctuality, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Baines in school.

As explained in previous newsletters, Government regulations now remove the right for any pupil absence during term time for holidays, unless exceptional circumstances can be proven. Should you wish to make a request for pupil absence during term time, please pick up a form from the office to complete and return to school. Each case will be considered on an individual basis and the greater detail provided as to why the absence is required will aid the process.

Finally on the issue of school attendance, to help support our families and community in taking holidays at a time that avoids children missing days from school; our final two teacher training days (where children are not required in school) have been organised for **Monday 1st and Tuesday 2nd June 2015**. These two days immediately follow the May Half term holiday and extend the half term holiday to 11 full days. The idea is that families may wish to book a holiday during this time to return on either the Monday or Tuesday when traditionally schools have returned; and by doing so may benefit from a discounted holiday cost.

Thank you for your support in ensuring your child has the best attendance possible.

Reminders for Parents

School Uniform - Please ensure your child has the correct school uniform in line with our uniform policy that can be found on our school website. Also, children need a full PE kit in school throughout the week. Please also ensure clothing is labelled with your child's name so that lost items can be reunited with their owners. If your child brings home clothing that you know does not belong to them, please return the items to school. Thank you.

Cycling Proficiency Training - Our Year 3/4/5/6 pupils are taking part in cycling proficiency sessions over the coming weeks. Could parents please ensure children walk their bikes onto the school grounds and park them on the playground near the Key Stage 1 entrance where Mr Sparks will have cordoned off an area for their safe keeping throughout the day.

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 **Aaron** for fantastic maths work this week identifying how many numbers are in a set. Great work Aaron!

Mrs Craig's Reception Class



Mrs Craig has been really impressed with **Lexi** for her amazing efforts during guided reading this week. Lexi's reading is improving every day! Well done Lexi!

Ms Simons' Year 1/2 Class



Ms Simons would like to say a huge well done to **Charlie** for his brilliant maths work using money this week. Charlie has worked really hard and has made great progress. Keep up the good work Charlie!

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



Mrs Lowden and Mrs Salkeld are really pleased with **Brodie-Anne** for her brilliant spelling this week. Brodie-Anne scored highly on this week's test which included some really tricky words. Well done Brodie-Anne!

Mrs Clark's Year 5/6 Class

Mrs Clark would like a special mention this week to **Jessica** for her excellent progress and hard work in Numeracy. Well done Jessica - Mrs Clark is really proud of you!

