



Howden le Wear Primary School Weekly Newsletter

Friday 23 January 2015

Vol: 5 Issue: 18

Headteacher's Notices

Firstly, I would like to say a huge well done to members of the swimming team who represented our school at the Bishop Auckland Inter School Swimming Gala on Wednesday this week. A team of 12 children across Key Stage 2 took part, swimming a number of different events. There was a fantastic atmosphere at the pool with everyone cheering and supporting swimmers from every school. All the children involved had a great time and we look forward to taking part in more events like this in the future. So, a big well done to **Alex Treend, Layla Harrison, Kian Pigg, Georgia Hope, Dominic Treend, Kieran Howarth, Alex Smith, Carla Kershaw, Ella Williams, Elen Halliley, Annie Turvey and Brandon Johnson.**

Looking to next week, we have some special visitors in Key Stage 2 next Wednesday morning in the form of Jay's Animal Encounters. Both Year 3/4 and Year 5/6 classes will get to spend an hour or so with Jay who promises to 'Bring the zoo to you!' Children will get the opportunity to get up close and personal with a variety of different animal species that will be introduced and talked about by Jay. Children will develop a better understanding of the animal's colour, texture, detail, behaviour and beauty and may even get to touch or hold the animals if they wish to do so. This visit links with our Year 3/4 class's curriculum focus on the 'Rainforest'; whilst supports the learning of Year 5/6 children in their Science topic of 'Living Things And Their Habitats.' To find out more about the types of animals that could be coming into school next Wednesday, you may wish to visit Jay's website with your child at **www.jaysanimalencounters.co.uk** where you will find lots of useful information and pictures of all his animals. We look forward to an exciting visit next Wednesday.

We have recently launched our new school website that replaces the previous version. As a Local Authority, Durham have moved to using WordPress to supply their websites and with this comes a more modern feel, updated content and improved features such as streaming news and the facility to upload videos. We are just getting used to using this in school, so apologies if you have noticed the newsletter has not been posted online for the last fortnight as the website gets up and running. However, over time we hope to add much more content including regular updates from class (photos and video) that showcase all the fantastic work that has taken place and creating a Twitter feed. You will also notice that the new website is 'device friendly' in that it automatically adjusts the page to the size of the device you are using making the website much more accessible on both tablet and smart phone.

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!



Administration

School Uniform - We still are noticing a number of children coming to school in multi coloured trainers and items of clothing that are not school uniform. Could parents please ensure black school shoes or black trainers are worn. Thank you.

Wrapping Up For Winter - Can parents please ensure children are well wrapped up with coats, hats, scarves and gloves during this very cold season of the year. Some children have been asking if they could borrow hats, scarves etc from school as they have not brought any themselves. We have a few of these items in school; but we quickly run out if lots of children need to borrow them. Thank you.

50/50 Draw - January's 50/50 draw will take place next Friday 30 January. Please see Mrs Campbell in the school office for a ticket.

Savings Scheme Reminder - With the new year, I would like to remind parents that we do run a savings scheme for all events that are taking place in school. With educational visits, uniform etc to pay for; why not consider paying a regular amount to build credit that can be used against any costs incurred in school? Should you wish to find out more or make a deposit into the savings scheme, please see Mrs Campbell in the school office.

School Council Update

In School Council meetings recently we have been looking at whether people feel safe at school. This doesn't just mean when they are in the classroom, it means all over school in places such as the dinner hall, in corridors and outside on the playground.

Every year group in school has been questioned and nearly all our children said that they felt safe in and around school. Those who responded that they didn't know said this because they feel the corridors are too narrow which can result in overcrowding and also that they did not feel too safe on the climbing wall on the playground. We have given our views to Mrs Clark and Mr Baines who will look at solving the issues of busy corridors and the outdoor climbing wall.

Our next School council topic focus is going to be on writing. We will be looking at:
Whether pupils enjoy writing?
What writing do they like to do?
How can they get better at writing?
Do pupils think their handwriting is good?

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 his fabulous language and communication skills this week. Aaron talked at length about a range of cars he was playing with in our nursery area. Well done Aaron!

Mrs Craig's Reception Class



Mrs Craig has been really impressed with **Alisi** for her great work during phonic activities. Well done Alisi! Mrs Craig is really proud of you.

Ms Simons' Year 1/2 Class



Ms Simons would like to say a huge well done to **Jordan James** for his fantastic writing about the dragon from the book 'Room on the Broom' by Julia Donaldson. Great work Jordan James!

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



Mrs Lowden and Mrs Salkeld are really pleased with **Reece** for a wonderful attitude towards school and all his work in class. Keep up the great work Reece!

Mrs Clark's Year 5/6 Class

Mrs Clark would like a special mention this week to **Alex** for an amazing performance at the inter school swimming gala this week. Alex swam really well and supported his team mates brilliantly. Well done Alex!

