



## Howden le Wear Primary School Weekly Newsletter

Friday 8 January 2016

Vol: 6 Issue: 16

### 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 this year by introducing Mrs Clark as our new Deputy Headteacher in school taking over from Mrs Lowden who retired in December. Mrs Clark will continue with her previous roles in school, primarily the Year 5/6 teacher, but also now taking on responsibility for Special Educational Needs and working alongside me in the day to day leadership and management of the school. We wish Mrs Clark well in her new role.

We welcome Miss Hutchinson back into school from maternity leave who will be working as the joint Year 4 teacher alongside Mrs Salkeld; and we also welcome Mrs Hardy who joins us until the end of the academic year as Teaching Assistant in Year 3/4 to replace Miss Sunter who is on maternity leave. I am delighted to let you know that Miss Sunter gave birth to a baby boy, Nathaniel, weighing in at 5lb 7oz. on Boxing Day! Congratulations to Miss Sunter and we are all looking forward to meeting Nathaniel in the near future.

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 90% 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 over the coming year, please do not hesitate to contact myself 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.

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 three teacher training days (where children are not required in school) have been organised for **Wednesday 25th/Thursday 26th and Friday 27th May 2016**. These three days immediately precede the May Half term holiday and extend the half term holiday to **12 full days**. The idea is that families may wish to book a holiday during this time to depart on the Wednesday/Thursday or Friday when traditionally schools have not broken up; and by doing so may benefit from a discounted holiday cost. **Thank you for your support in ensuring your child has the best school attendance possible.**

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. Couple with this, there is a copy of this year's holiday dates for the rest of this academic year.

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

Mr C Baines  
Headteacher



Mrs Clark, Deputy Headteacher



Miss Hutchinson



Mrs Hardy

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!



### Cycle Training for Year 5/6 - Advance Notice

In two weeks time Year 5/6 children will be starting cycling proficiency training in school. The training will take place every Thursday for four weeks from 21 January with children learning how to cycle safely within the highway code on local roads.

To take part, all children MUST have a roadworthy bike with working brakes, seat at the correct height and tyres that are inflated. Along with this, all children must wear a cycle helmet. If your child is in Year 5/6, please can you ensure before the start of this initiative that their bikes are in good working order and they have a cycle helmet to use. Thank you.

### Is your child due to start Reception in September 2016?

If your child is due to start school in September this year, the primary school application process is still open until midnight on Friday 15 January 2016. If you have not applied for a primary school place for your child, we encourage you to do so by visiting [www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions) where you can apply online.

Alternatively, you can phone the Durham School #Admissions Team on 03000 265 896 who can provide you with a paper application.

### Administration/Notices

**New Phone Numbers:** If you have changed your phone number recently, could you please ensure the new number is passed on to Mrs Campbell in school so we have up to date contact details for all our parents/carers.

**Money in School:** Could parents please send dinner money into school on a Monday morning and if sending other money into school, please have the child's name, amount and what the money is for written on a sealed envelope with the money inside.

**Jewellery/Accessories:** We have had a number of children this week attend school with nail varnish, fake tattoos, earrings etc. Please could parents refrain from sending children to school with such items. The only jewellery allowed in our school policy is a wrist watch. Further information can be found in our uniform policy available on the school website.

**Thank you for your support with all of the above.**

### 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 **Lucas Copping** for his brilliant work developing his ICT skills using an Ipad. Well done Lucas!

#### Miss Knaggs' Reception Class



Miss Knaggs has this week nominated **Ryan Stewart** for settling into school really well on his first week at Howden. Well, done Ryan - keep up the good work!

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



Ms Simons would like to say a huge well done to **Hayden James McGuinness** for his amazing effort in all his work and always sitting smartly on the carpet. Well done Hayden James!

#### Mr Clarke's Year 3 Class



Mr Clarke would like a special mention this week for **Lucie Underwood** for attempting all work with a positive attitude and always trying to improve. Great work Lucie!

#### Mrs Salkeld and Miss Hutchinson's Year 4 Class

Mrs Salkeld and Miss Hutchinson are really pleased with **Lucy Johnson** for her excellent Literacy work this week and brilliant team work during PE. Great work Lucy!



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

Mrs Clark would like a special mention this week for **William Cramp** for his excellent effort in both Numeracy and Literacy this week. Well done William!



Well done to all our children this week for their fabulous effort and hard work in school.

