



Howden le Wear Primary School Weekly Newsletter

Friday 12 February 2016

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Headteacher's Notices

We have had an excellent last week of the half term in school with lots going on and a few special visitors. On Tuesday we welcomed Josh Leather into school as part of our work with Year 4, 5 and 6 children and Ifit Kids. Josh is a professional boxer who came into school to talk to children about the importance of good diet, nutrition from a professional athletes point of view. Our children really enjoyed taking part in this session and took part in some training routines Josh would go through in preparation for a professional fight. Josh was planning to stay for boxing club but had to leave at the end of the school day due to training commitments in preparation for his next fight on 26 March. We thank Josh for coming to visit school and working with our children.

Today we welcomed Sally Scott, professional athlete and Commonwealth Games Bronze Medallist into school as part of the Sport for Schools initiatives that supports professional athletes and links them with schools across the country. Children took part in a sponsored activity challenge led by Sally and then enjoyed an inspirational assembly where Sally talked about key life skills such as following your dreams, working hard and trying your best in everything that you do. Thank you to children and families who have managed to raise some sponsorship money for the activity challenge event today. Money will go towards providing extra PE equipment in school and helping support elite athletes across the country. We would be most grateful if all sponsorship money could be returned to school for Thursday 25 February and we will announce the total amount raised in the first newsletter after half term.



On Tuesday and throughout this week we have been working with children on Internet Safety and the importance of being safe when online. I was delighted that children across all classes in school were able to give lots of sensible suggestions as to what they would do if they felt uncomfortable online or stumbled across something they knew they shouldn't be accessing. One of the big problems we face in school regularly is children discussing and talking about their access to video games on devices such as PlayStation and Xbox. Children love to play video games, but there are some risks involved. The two main areas of concern are:

- Children experiencing violent or sexual content beyond their age.
- Children playing online with strangers and either experiencing inappropriate language, or being groomed.

The PEGI ratings should help you decide what is appropriate for your child

PEGI 18

The adult classification is applied when the level of violence reaches a stage where it becomes a depiction of gross violence and/or includes elements of specific types of violence.

PEGI 16

This rating is applied once the depiction of violence reaches a stage that looks the same as would be expected in real life. More extreme bad language, the concept of the use of tobacco and drugs and the depiction of criminal activities can be content of games that are rated 16.

PEGI 12

Videogames that show violence of a slightly more graphic nature towards fantasy character and/or non graphic violence towards human-looking characters or recognisable animals, would fall in this age category. Any bad language in this category must be mild and fall short of expletives.

Further advice is available from www.askaboutgames.com which will also provide advice on setting parental controls on games consoles to help ensure that play is safe for children. Please also find attached an information sheet for parents linked to keeping children safe issued as part of Internet Safety Day.

After half term we begin the week on Monday with the arrival of our **Scholastic Book Fair**. The book fair is packed with over 200 titles for you and your child to browse through, and with prices starting from £2.99, there is sure to be a book for everyone to enjoy! Don't forget that every book you buy can help to get **FREE BOOKS** for our school. This year our target is to raise £500.00 from books which will gain the school over £150.00 in free books! The book fair will be open daily from Monday at morning playtime and after school from 3.05pm to 4pm until **Friday 26 February**. Should you be unable to attend and wish to provide your child with money to choose their own book, please ensure the money is sealed in an envelope with your child's name clearly written on the front. Attached to today's newsletter is a brochure showing some of the books available at the fair.

Finally, as a reminder we break up today for half term and children return to school on Monday 22 February. I hope you all have a relaxing half term break 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:

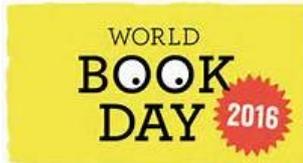
<http://www.howden-le-wear.durham.sch.uk>

Please scan your smartphone device over the QR code to the right to be taken straight to our school website!



World Book Day - Advance Warning!

Just a little advanced warning that World Book Day is on **Thursday 3 March 2016**, that is the second week back after the half term holidays. As in previous years, we would like children to come to school for the full day dressed up as their favourite character from a book and half term may be a great opportunity for you to work with your child/ren to get their costume sorted! More information on World Book Day in the first newsletter after half term!

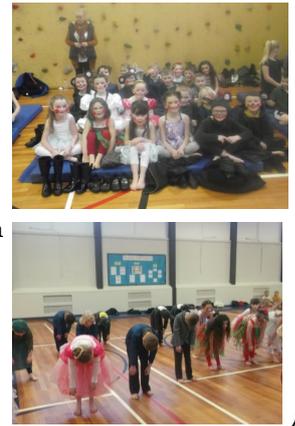


School Photograph Money

You should have now received the 'proof' of your child's school photographs taken on Tuesday. If you would like to purchase the photographs the deadline for payment to Mrs Campbell is **Tuesday 1 March**. Thank you.

Dance Festival Success

Earlier this week children from Year 1/2 along with children who attended our Dance After School Club took part in a dance festival at Parkside School. They performed in front of children and staff from other schools in our cluster and produced an excellent performance. Well done to all children involved for their hard work in preparing and performing their dance!



Reading with Dogs

Over the last term we have received regular visits in school from Ian Instone and his Bernese Mountain Dogs. Ian brings his dogs into school and, alongside our teaching assistant Mrs Turnbull, lets children meet and pet his dogs, before listening to them read. Ian does this in lots of schools and children's enthusiasm for reading to the dogs has been very positive with lots of smiles and enthusiasm for what they are doing. Thank you to Ian for taking the time to visit school and work with our children to improve their reading skills.



Children's 'Sporting' Achievements In School

For one week only, teachers have chosen a child from their class to be recognised for something special they have achieved linked to sport this week. This week's chosen children are:

Mrs Wheatley's Nursery Class



Mrs Wheatley in Nursery would like to congratulate **Thomas Underwood** for fantastic ball throwing and catching skills whilst playing rugby in Nursery. Well done Thomas!

Miss Knaggs' Reception Class



Miss Knaggs has this week nominated **Abi Rose Gardiner** for doing wonderful 'spotty dog' exercises during exercise practise. Great work Abi Rose!

Ms Simons' Year 1/2 Class



Ms Simons would like to say a huge well done to **Georgia Thompson** for great work learning the gymnastic routine at such short notice- Georgia only started school at Howden on Monday! Well done Georgia!

Mr Clarke's Year 3 Class



Mr Clarke would like a special mention this week for **Sophie Howe** for her brilliant stamina, effort and determination during cross country running in school this week. Well done Sophie!

Mrs Salkeld and Miss Hutchinson's Year 4 Class

Mrs Salkeld and Miss Hutchinson are really pleased with **Jackson Rouse** for the huge improvements he has made in his swimming this year. Jackson is developing his water confidence and stroke technique. Great work Jackson!



Mrs Clark's Year 5/6 Class

Mrs Clark would like a special mention this week for **Kc Palmer** for her amazing effort in After School Swimming Club. Great work Kc!



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

