



Howden le Wear Primary School Weekly Newsletter

Friday 17 June 2016

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Headteacher's Notices

We are always seeking to improve our school in order to ensure that all aspects of our provision for your child/ children, be they educational, social or personal, are the best they can be. We carry out regular evaluations in school but would also value your assistance in this process.

We would be grateful if you could take the time to complete the attached anonymous questionnaire and return it to school at your earliest convenience and prior to **Friday 1 July**. If you have more than one child attending our school you may choose to complete a reply for each child or one to represent your family. If you would like to discuss any points raised you are welcome to add your name to the bottom of the questionnaire to enable me to contact you; alternatively you are welcome to contact me directly.

Last year parental feedback was very positive. They liked the way the school is small, friendly and welcoming and they felt good teaching ensured their children made great progress in school. This was verified externally through last years Ofsted inspection and we continually strive to provide our children with the best possible learning outcomes. We have been working hard in this year to utilise our Pupil Premium funding to enhance provision and educational opportunities for pupils in all areas of their learning, to 'close the gaps' in attainment across the school.

Also last year parents were particularly asking for enhanced after school provision and so we restructured our after school clubs to offer a wider choice of activities to as broad a spectrum of pupils across the school as possible. We have also utilised the School Sports Grant to reduce the amount of funds requested to support after school clubs and educational visits/sporting competitions. All after school clubs continue to be offered free of charge to all pupils in school and we have subsidised the cost of all educational visits in the hope of further reducing the impact on family budgets. We have already identified that further after school club provision for our younger children in Key Stage 1 and Reception would be beneficial and are working on this for the new academic year.

Homework was also an issue which polarised views (either too much, not enough, limited support etc.) We continue to aim for a homework balance which is targeted to the needs of individuals and as a direct result of last year's parents questionnaire we introduced a weekly homework club, taking place after school on a Tuesday that is ran by school staff to support children in the completion of their homework.

Also, everyone was very happy with the breakfast club provision but suggested it would be great if we could include Nursery children. As a result of this, we opened breakfast club to Nursery children as well and we have provided a dedicated Nursery worker to support our younger children during the breakfast service. I know that this has been well received by parents.

All of the above was in response to your comments and suggestions, the views of our children, the staff and governing body. Thank you for taking the time to complete this year's questionnaire. Your views and ideas will be analysed and shared with you via the school newsletter at a later date.

Finally, could I please let everyone know that the Village Hall opening celebrations are taking place throughout this weekend at Hargill Haven. The grand opening will be from 12 noon on Saturday with events, refreshments and stalls being available for all on both Saturday and Sunday. I encourage as many as possible to attend.

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!



Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations

Last Friday afternoon we braved the inclement weather to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday with a traditional street party. The front of school was set up with tables, chairs, flags and bunting; whilst children enjoyed a street party lunch of sausage rolls, sandwiches, potato wedges, pizza slices and cakes. Everyone had a fantastic time and a big thanks go to Mrs Longstaff and Mrs Thompson in the school kitchen for putting on a fabulous lunch.



Father's Day Meal

Thank you to the Dads/Grandads that attended our Father's Day Meal on Wednesday this week. It was lovely to see so many family members supporting this event.

We hope that you all enjoyed your meal and spending lunchtime with your children/grand children. Happy Father's Day to everyone for this Sunday!



Year 3/4 Come Dine With Me

Also on Wednesday, our Year 3/4 children hosted a 'Come Dine With Me' style event in school. As part of their curriculum work children researched, sourced, prepared and served a three course meal to guests of honour which included Mrs Bateman, Mrs Lowden and Mrs Newton. Well done to all Year 3/4 children and staff for a fantastic afternoon!



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 **Lacey Slater** for following simple instructions on how to make her own ice cream playdough as part of our seaside adventures topic. Great work Lacey!

Miss Knaggs' Reception Class



Miss Knaggs has this week nominated **Abi-Rose Gardiner** for using her imagination and building a beautiful sandcastle as part of the seaside adventures topic. Well done Abi-Rose!

Ms Simons' Year 1/2 Class



Ms Simons would like to say a huge well done to **Ashton Copping** for his excellent effort in all areas of his learning, particularly in Numeracy. Well done Ashton!

Mr Clarke's Year 3 Class



Mr Clarke would like a special mention this week for **Thomas Wright Pickles** for his brilliant ideas when writing a persuasive argument. Great work Thomas!

Mrs Salkeld and Miss Hutchinson's Year 4 Class

Mrs Salkeld and Miss Hutchinson are really pleased with **Seth Beasley** for his all round improvements in his learning. Seth has had a great week in school and this has shown in all his work. Well done Seth!



Mrs Clark's Year 5/6 Class

Mrs Clark would like a special mention this week for **Elen Halliley** for her amazing descriptive writing about the titanic and excellent understanding of poetry. Great work Elen!



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

