



## Howden le Wear Primary School Weekly Newsletter

Friday 13 October 2017

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### Headteacher's Notices

Next Tuesday 17 October we host our annual Harvest Festival Service at the Methodist Church in the village. Both children and staff have been working very hard preparing for this event and we hope as many parents, carers and family members as possible can attend. The service is due to start at 9.30am and will be led by the children with a mix of songs and explanations about the meaning of Harvest Festival. Frances Ann Johnson, Chair of Governors, and members of the Methodist Church will be providing light refreshments from 9am before the performance. As always, we will be having a collection in the Church and this year we are collecting for the **Howden le Wear Play Group** which has recently been set up in the village. Donations will be used to purchase further resources to be used by children who attend the play group. Mrs Wheatley in Nursery would like to request that parents of children attending morning nursery on Tuesday, do so as normal and they will be escorted to and from the Methodist Chapel by staff. All afternoon Nursery children are welcome to attend with parents, but will meet us at the Chapel and parents are required to stay throughout.

Also next week, we are delighted to be hosting the first class assembly of the academic year. Between now and July 2018, each class will lead a class assembly for children, staff and invited parents. The assembly theme is totally up to the class taking part and may cover curriculum work completed or something totally different! To get us started, Mrs Salkeld and the Year 4/5 children will be sharing their class assembly on **Thursday at around 2.15pm**. Tea/Coffee will be served from 2pm and all parents of children in Year 4/5 are invited to attend. We look forward to seeing the assembly next week.

Tickets have been selling fast for our Halloween Disco on Tuesday 31 October from 4pm to 5.30pm. They will still be available throughout next week, so if you haven't got one yet, there is still time to do so! Tickets cost £2.50 per child which gets them entry to the disco, a hot dog, bag of crisps and a drink. For our younger nursery children, we have suggested one parent may wish to stay in school for the duration of the disco. There is the option for the parent to sit in the hall with their child or alternatively, we plan to allocate a classroom where parents can wait for their children away from the loud noise. Should your child need you during the disco, then we will direct them to you. Unfortunately children who are not members of our School or Nursery cannot attend the disco. This is so we can account for every person on school premises, pay consideration to the maximum number of people allowed in the hall under fire regulations and to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all our children. I hope all of our children enjoy the disco on the second day back at school after the half term holiday.

Also next week, our annual Scholastic Book Fair arrives on Monday. The book fair offers a wide selection of books for children of all ages and as a school we receive a share of the total amount raised to purchase books for our school. The book fair will be open every playtime and after school until Friday. Should you wish to send money for your child to spend in school, please do so in an envelope with your child's name clearly printed on the envelope. Thank you for supporting our school book fair.

Next Friday, we are planning a themed breakfast club in school from 8am onwards. Children will have the chance to enjoy toast, yoghurts, fruit and a range of cereals followed by sausage sandwiches or sausage and beans. Please complete the attached form and return it to school, with £2.00, by next Wednesday if your child would like to attend.

Finally, as a reminder to parents, school breaks up next Friday for half term and children return to school after the week long break on Monday 30 October.

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!



## Christmas Pantomime Performance

Earlier this week, you will have received a letter regarding our annual Christmas Pantomime visit. This year we have chosen to attend the afternoon performance of Robinson Crusoe at the Gala Theatre on Tuesday 19 December. The cost of the visit is £9.00 per child as a result of the coach travel being paid for by the Friends of the School. We would be most grateful if parents/carers could return their completed forms and payment by 24 November as we have to pay the Gala Theatre for the tickets, well in advance of the performance.

As Headteacher, I am very aware that recently we have requested a number of contributions from families for events such as educational visits, which all impact on individual family finances. When organising visits and events, we try as much as possible to space them out over the year and keep the costs as low as possible. However, the reality is that the cost of entry fees to attractions and transport costs are rising. As an example, a 60 seater coach travelling to Bishop Auckland and return in a day costs just short of £200.00! We are keen in school to support parents in spreading the cost of the parental contributions we request and as such, we offer a savings scheme where parents are welcome to put a little money away each week, which can build over time to offset the cost of a school trip. Should you wish to take up this opportunity, please see Mrs Campbell in the school office. Can I thank you once again for your fantastic support of the educational visits we offer in school and we look forward to some great events in the second half of the Autumn term that compliment and enrich the curriculum work taking place in school.

## Parent Governor Nomination Results

You may recall, we recently advertised to fill parent governor vacancies in school. During the nomination process we had two parents who put themselves forward and as we have two vacancies, they can be duly elected onto our Governing Body. So could I please welcome **Dr Patrick Morton and Mrs Kathryn White** as parents onto our school governing body. Dr Morton has a son in Reception class, whilst Mrs White has a daughter in Year 3. We hope they find their time on our school governing body to be both beneficial and rewarding.

## 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



Mrs Wheatley in Nursery would like to congratulate **Finnley Wailes** for fantastic counting of leaves, whilst out on a leaf hunt in the wildlife garden. Well done Finnley!

### Mrs Craig's Reception Class



Mrs Craig has this week nominated **Arianne Jones** for investigating and creative work with leaves. Well done Arianne!

### Miss Barton's Year 1 Class



Miss Barton would like to say a huge well done to **Charlotte Kerse** for completing some fantastic literacy and numeracy work this week and developing her independent working skills. Great work Charlotte!

### Mrs Gray's Year 2 Class



Mrs Gray would like a special mention this week for **Ryan Stewart** for learning all of his words off by heart for the Harvest Festival. Great work Ryan!

### Miss Nattrass' Year 3 Class



Miss Nattrass is delighted this week with **Ashton Copping** for amazing effort in Maths and English and beautiful singing in preparation for the Harvest Festival. Great work Ashton!

### Mrs Salkeld's Year 4/5 Class



Mrs Salkeld is really pleased with **Megan Johnson** for her amazing fact file homework that she completed this week. Great work Megan!

### Mrs Clark's Year 6 Class



Mrs Clark would like a special mention this week for **Charlie Latcham** for always working really hard, trying his best and being a great classmate! Well done Charlie!



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

