



## Howden le Wear Primary School Weekly Newsletter

### Friday 19 November 2021

#### In this week's newsletter:

- ◆ Flood in school;
- ◆ Children in Need Day;
- ◆ 'Heart Project' success for children.

#### Important dates / information for next week:

- ◆ All classes back in school as normal next week;
- ◆ Year 3/4 Educational Visit taking place next Wednesday as planned.

It has been a very difficult week for everyone in our school community as we have dealt with the effects of a major flood that has impacted us all in one way or another. We arrived at school on Monday morning to find our hall, Key Stage 2 corridor, library area and parts of the Early Years and Year 3/4 classroom under two to three inches of water. This was caused by a burst pipe in the Key Stage 2 toilets that we think happened in the early part of Saturday, given the volume of water that was present around school. Unfortunately, there was no other option than to close the school for pupils on Monday for health and safety reasons and to give us time to clear the water and assess the damage that had been caused. I would like to thank everyone for their support in having to change their plans / organise family childcare arrangements at such short notice on Monday morning. As Monday progressed and thanks to the hard work of staff, we managed to clear the surface water from around school and put a plan in place to ensure that four out of our six classes could return to school on Tuesday morning. Sadly, for our Early Years and Year 3/4 children, this was not able to happen due to water damage in these classrooms, and again I thank parents / carers of Early Years and Year 3/4 children for supporting us with children completing remote learning throughout this week of disruption.

Over the week, we have been using dehumidifiers to dry the affected areas of school and have been pleased with how effective these have been, particularly in the classroom areas. As a result, we are confident that from Monday next week, both Early Years and Year 3/4 children can return to school for face to face learning. There are a few adjustments we have had to make, particularly in Early Years where the bottom end of the classroom has had to be sealed off for ongoing work. However, it has been most important to me that we do all we can to bring the children back into our school, as opposed to having children educated in other local schools, which at the beginning of the week, looked like this would have to be the case.

Despite all our children being back in school next week, key communal areas of school such as the hall and Key Stage 2 corridor are still inaccessible. Large areas of carpet / lino flooring needs to be removed and replaced in the weeks to come and very sadly, the beautiful parquet flooring in the school hall, that has been in place for over 30 years, is beyond repair and will have to be completely replaced. This job in itself will realistically last into the new year, so we will all have to adapt to this in the coming weeks.

From Monday, we will resume breakfast club every morning from 8am, but this will be relocated to the Nurture Room in the demountable classroom. This is a much smaller space than the school hall, which impacts on the number of children we can have attending, so I would kindly ask that you only sign your child/ren up for breakfast club if you have no other alternative childcare option on a morning. The regular Google form will continue to be sent out each week for people to sign up. To access breakfast club, children should walk down the side path of school where the gate will be open from 8am and across the playground to the demountable classroom. After-school tea club will also resume from next Monday, so please sign up in the usual way via the Google form. Finally, with the hall out of action we will unfortunately have to cancel dance, multi-skills and gymnastics clubs until the new year. However, class based after school clubs of art and singing will be able to take place on the usual days from next week.

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!



### Children in Need 2021

Today we have been delighted to support Children in Need with a non-uniform day and cupcake sale in school. After the week we have had, the events of today provided some light relief for everyone and all of our children looked great in their choice of non-uniform. Thank you for your donations - if you would still like to donate please visit Parentpay at:

[https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/](https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=4298)

[Default.aspx?shopid=4298](https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=4298)



### Heart Project Success

As you will know, over the Autumn term our children in Key Stage 2 have been working on improving their health and fitness through their involvement in the Heart Project. This has involved them following activities set out in the Heart Booklet and using the equipment each child was provided with in September. As part of this work, children were encouraged to create new games and activities for the next Heart Project booklet which came out after half term. We were delighted that a number of our children had their games and activities published in this new booklet!

Congratulations to the children involved - below are some photos of them showing their activities in the booklet.



### 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:

#### Miss Atkinson's Nursery



Miss Atkinson would like to congratulate **Finlay** for amazing singing and participation in World Nursery Rhyme Week. Well done, Finlay!

#### Mrs Craig's Reception Class



Mrs Craig has nominated **Felicity** for sharing her fantastic learning at home throughout the term. Congratulations, Felicity!

#### Mrs Sheard's Year 1 Class



Mrs Sheard would like to say a huge congratulations to **Nieve** for working so hard in all lessons and trying to apply her phonics in all writing activities. Super effort, Nieve!

#### Mrs Gray's Year 2/3 Class



Mrs Gray would like a special mention for **Josh** for consistently engaging in all lessons and for his amazing manners in school. Great work, Josh!

#### Mrs Salkeld's Year 3/4 Class



Mrs Salkeld's 'online' star this week is **Edward** for working really hard to complete all his Seesaw tasks and for putting huge effort into all he does. A BIG well done, Edward!

#### Miss Nattrass' Year 4/5 Class



Miss Nattrass is delighted with **Bobbi J** for completing a wonderful factual and emotive diary entry about the 'The Blitz' as part of our World War 2 topic. Congratulations, Bobbi J!

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



Mrs C is over the moon with **Aaron** for his excellent research skills in Geography and for being a consistently great speller. Wonderful news, Aaron!



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

