



## Howden le Wear Primary School Weekly Newsletter

### Friday 22 October 2021

#### In this week's newsletter:

- ◆ Harvest food donation success;
- ◆ The importance of good school attendance;
- ◆ Taster dance lessons in Village Hall tomorrow.

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

- ◆ Halloween fun on Monday 1 November - don't forget your costumes;
- ◆ School closes today and reopens on Monday 1 November.

Today's school newsletter is the last of this half term and I'd like to start by thanking everyone for their support over the last eight weeks as we have welcomed children back into school and got the academic year underway. It has been a big change for many coming back into school after the summer break, moving away from staggered starts and finishes to the school day and not having to work in class bubbles. We have all adapted really well to the changes and it has been great for both children and staff to have some sense of normality return to school after a turbulent couple of years. This half term, we have continued to make a conscious decision to avoid facilitating large crowds of people getting together in school, by holding events such as Parents Evening virtually instead of face to face. Moving to next half term, I am pleased to let you know at this point in time we are planning for live audiences at our Christmas performances in December and more information on how these will work will be sent out in due course. On the subject of Christmas events, thank you to everyone who has paid for the pantomime visit to the Gala Theatre on 14th December, following the letter that was sent out last week. If you have not yet done this, please visit ParentPay by 1st November. This annual visit to watch live theatre is always a hit with our children and we are really looking forward to it this year, having had to cancel in 2020.

As many of you will know, we have been celebrating Harvest in school throughout October and children have been learning about how important the harvest season is for farmers all across our country who spend lots of time in early Autumn gathering in their crops, before sending them out to shops and stores to be sold. We've also been considering how grateful we must be to be able to have food on our tables each day and recognise that everyone is not always as fortunate as ourselves. Our Harvest Food Collection in school has been a huge success and I'd like to thank everyone who has donated food to this initiative. Earlier this week, we were visited by staff from the Salvation Army in Crook who came to school to pick up the food parcels. We had over a dozen bags of food to pass on which will be used either as part of the Salvation Army Christmas Hamper Appeal or be sent out directly to families as part of their food bank scheme. To the right, is a picture of Max and Grace from our school council, handing over all our donations. We have also produced a harvest video this week, which will be available to view on our school website over the weekend, showcasing rhymes, songs, prayers or poems, from each class in school.



As we head into the next half term, could I please remind parents about the importance of children having good school attendance and punctuality. We believe that we do amazing and important things every day in school and every day, hour and minute missed is lost learning time that children cannot get back. We closely monitor attendance across the year and expect it to remain above 95% for all children. For children whose attendance falls below 90%, we provide weekly monitoring and close communication with parents to work together and ensure children are in school every day and their attendance percentage rises. If you would like to discuss any aspect of your child's attendance or feel you need advice and support in getting your child to school each day, please speak to Mrs Campbell in the school office to organise an appointment with me.

Our annual Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal will start after the half term holiday with poppies and a range of poppy based merchandise on sale at the school entrance leading up to Remembrance Day on Thursday 11 November. From Monday 1 November, we will also be putting up our knitted poppy display at the front of school - a huge thanks to those who have knitted additional poppies for us in recent weeks to be added to our display.

As advertised last week, on the first day back after the holidays we are hosting a fun Halloween afternoon in school for a small donation of £1.00 via Parentpay. To clarify, children need to come to school in their normal uniform and bring their costumes to change into for the afternoon. During the afternoon, there will be a Halloween Treasure Hunt in the school grounds and a mini party, so you may wish to provide shoes for both indoor and outdoor use. At the end of the school day, children will then come home in their costumes, with uniform in their bags.

Finally, as we break up for half term today, just a reminder that the clocks go back next **Sunday 31 October** where we can all look forward to an extra hour in bed! Thank you for your continued support - we look forward to working with you after half term.

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!



### 'Free' Dance Taster Sessions at Village Hall Tomorrow

We have been delighted to hear that Saturday morning dance lessons are being established in the Village Hall for children between the ages of 5 - 11 years and tomorrow morning there is an opportunity for children to try these out for free!

As can be seen in the poster, there are a variety of different half hour taster sessions to choose from and it is hoped that take-up for these sessions will be good, so that they can continue each week. If you are interested in your child taking part tomorrow, please email Caitlin the dance instructor at [csdancemotion22@outlook.com](mailto:csdancemotion22@outlook.com) or call **07907 293306** to book your place.



### Stay Safe - Be Bright, Be Seen

This week's theme in our assemblies has been about 'being bright and being seen' as the nights draw in and there is more chance of us all being out on the streets of the village in darker conditions. This is particularly relevant as we head towards Halloween, a week on Sunday and Bonfire night shortly after.

Children have been learning about the difference between fluorescent and reflective materials and how these can both help us to be seen by cars, vehicles and cyclists, to help us stay safe. We have also been discussing the importance of following the 'Green Cross Code' to ensure we cross roads safely. Wishing everyone a safe and Happy Halloween!

### Wellies and Coats in School

Our school field is an integral part of our site and it is often just the clothes we wear, that prevent us from being able to access it in poor weather. After half term, if your child would like to use the school field at playtimes and lunchtimes, please send a pair of wellies into school that they can change into. This can be done either daily to and from home or the wellies can be kept in school throughout the week or term. Please also make sure your child has a coat in school every day, as the weather turns colder. Thank you.

### 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 **Adam** for using super positional language when retelling the story of "Rosie's Walk."  
Well done, Adam!

#### Mrs Craig's Reception Class



Mrs Craig has nominated **Auriella** for her fantastic participation when acting out stories and songs throughout this week. Keep up the hard work, Auriella!

#### Mrs Sheard's Year 1 Class



Mrs Sheard would like to say a huge congratulations to **Regie** for always joining in with lessons this week, putting his hand up, contributing and working hard. Super effort, Regie!

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



Mrs Gray would like a special mention for **Violet-Rose** for always being kind and helpful to others and for the great progress she has made. Great work, Violet-Rose!

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



Mrs Salkeld is really pleased with **Daniel** for an all round excellent half term in school where he has produced some wonderful work, settled into class well and made great progress. Amazing job, Daniel!

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



Miss Nattrass is delighted with **Jacob** for producing an excellent piece of creative writing as part of his English work this week. Wonderful news, Jacob!

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



Congratulations to **Lucy** for fabulous reading and for getting full marks in her spellings every week. Congratulations, Lucy!



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

