



Newsletter - Monday 9th December 2019
Aycliffe Village Primary School

Dear Parents/Carers

It was lovely to be back in school last week and to catch up with everyone. It's a busy week ahead for children in Year 5 and 6; visiting the Stadium of Light today, then singing at a community Christmas concert at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre tomorrow. I heard them rehearsing in the hall earlier and it sounded wonderful!

Last week, I spoke to the gymnastics coach who has been in our school over the last five weeks, working with Lime and Horse Chestnut Classes. She was singing the praises of our school and children and commented on the exceptional behaviour she sees when she visits our school. This was lovely to hear—well done to all children in those classes!

A reminder that next week is extremely busy with Christmas performances and parties! A reminder of dates have been put on the back of this newsletter. ***Please note there are some changes to dates for Christmas parties.***

Best wishes
 Mrs Sutherland
 Head Teacher

Year 3 Maternity Cover—welcome to Mrs Marambe!

Following interviews on Friday, we appointed Mrs Lindsay Marambe as the teacher who will cover Miss Hunt's maternity leave. The interview panel observed candidates teaching, gave them a lesson planning activity then a formal interview. We were lucky to have a very strong field of applicants and were extremely impressed with Mrs Marambe's teaching and the quick rapport she built up with the children in Lime Class. Mrs Marambe will start in January although the exact date is not confirmed yet (as it will link with the start of Miss Hunt's maternity leave). Before Mrs Marambe starts, we will arrange opportunities for her to meet Lime Class again, work alongside Miss Hunt and for parents/carers to meet her. We look forward to welcoming her to our team!

Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day—Friday 13th December

We will all be enjoying Christmas lunch in school this Friday. Children are also invited to wear Christmas jumpers/tops/dresses that day (there is no need for school trousers, shoes, etc— instead other clothes can be worn, for example jeans, tracksuit bottoms, trainers)



Celebration Assembly Awards

Well done to the children below who were chosen during Celebration Assembly last week!



Outstanding Learner	Oliver J, Oscar H, Hannah W, Krystal P
Outstanding Manners	Joseph A, Isabella D (Year 6)
Wow Writer	Heath D, Lily P
Maths Wizard	Effie S, Oliver D, Theo J
Values	Isaac B, Cole H
Reading Rock Star (new award!)	Chloe A
Curriculum Award (new award!)	Isabella D (Year 1), Sam M, Harvey W
Head Teacher Award	Finley S
Golden Broom	Rowan Class!

Reminder of dates for Christmas events next week

Monday 16th December, 2.15pm	Reception and Key Stage 1 Nativity—The Bethlehem Star
Tuesday 17th December, 9.15am	Reception and Key Stage 1 Nativity—The Bethlehem Star
Tuesday 17th December, 2.30pm	Key Stage 2 (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6) Christmas Singalong
Wednesday 18th December, 9.05am	Key Stage 2 (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6) Christmas Singalong
Wednesday 18th December (Please note the change of date)	Reception and Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) Christmas Party in the afternoon. Children can come to school wearing their party clothes (please make sure they have sensible footwear as they will still be outside for playtimes)
Thursday 19th December, 9.30am	Christmas Service at St Andrew's Church (led by Reverend Ann Anderson) Families are welcome to join us there. Reverend Ann will be leading the service and our children will be singing some songs. If any family members can help us walk the children to and from the Church, we would be very grateful. Please call into the office and give Mrs Swainston your name by Monday 16th so we can make sure we have enough adults to help with this.
Thursday 19th December (Please note the change of date)	Christmas parties—Years 3 and 4 (in the school hall in the afternoon) Years 5 and 6 (in the Village Hall in the afternoon—they will return to school for home time) Children can wear party clothes to school all day (please make sure they have sensible footwear as will still be outside at playtimes)
Friday 20th December	School closes at the end of the day for the Christmas holidays!

We have two performances of each Christmas show so all parents/carers/family members have an oppor-

Parent Governors—two vacancies

Due to two terms of office coming to an end, we are advertising for two Parent Governors. Governors play a key role in the strategic development of our school and in helping school staff to continuously make improvements to our school. It can be a very rewarding voluntary role but also takes time and commitment in order to do the role justice. If you are interested, please call into the main office to request a form from Mrs Swainston and return this by **Wednesday 8th January**. If we have more than two interested applicants, election of the parent governors will go to a vote. If you would like more information about the role of Parent Governor, please contact Mrs Sutherland at school who will be happy to share more detail about this.

Supervision of children before the start of the school day

Recently we have had a large number of children left by parents/carers on our school grounds before the time that staff are on duty to supervise them. ***The gate to the school playground is opened at 8.45 and staff take over supervision and care of your children from that time. Children shouldn't be left on school grounds, unaccompanied, before that time.*** If you need child care before 8.45, please use the Breakfast Club run by House of Eden Nursery or make other arrangements.

Wow word



Change of date for Parents Evening for Year 6 children for Spring Term

Miss Peel will be holding Parent Evenings for Year 6 earlier than those for the majority of the school. This is so she can speak to parents about recent assessments in school in preparation for SATs in May. ***The new dates are Monday 13th January (between 1.00 and 5.00) and Tuesday 14th January (between 3.30 and 5.00).*** We will send letters out soon about this so appointments can be booked but wanted to share these dates with you now so you have advance warning.