



Newsletter 3rd December 2018

# Aycliffe Village Primary School



Dear Parents/Carers

It was lovely to see so many of you at our Christmas Fayre last week —thank you so much for supporting this! The ‘mufti crackers’ were fabulous and very well received by everyone. We don’t yet have a total of money raised but will let you know in due course.



It is definitely feeling ‘Christmassy’ in school with decorations and trees appearing in classes, Christmas cards being exchanged and the sound of Christmas songs throughout school! It’s always a lovely time of year in school and I am really looking forward to my first Christmas at Aycliffe Village!

Best wishes  
Mrs H Sutherland  
Head Teacher

## Supervision of children in the mornings on arrival to school

Please be aware that school staff are on duty **from 8.45** to supervise children as they arrive at school and whilst they are on the playground. The gate to the playground used to be open earlier than this however I have asked Mr Watson to only open it at 8.45. This is as we had a number of children, some of them our youngest children in school, arriving much earlier than this which led to them being unsupervised on the playground. I have also spoken to all staff to remind them they need to be on duty promptly.

## Mrs Percival

Some of your children might have mentioned a teacher in school called Mrs Percival. She is a supply teacher who has recently been covering some of our classes while class teachers have their PPA time (non contact time for Planning, Preparation and Assessment) Mrs Percival is really enjoying teaching at our school and, during lessons I have visited whilst she is teaching, our pupils really seem to be enjoying her lessons too!

## Celebration Assembly Awards

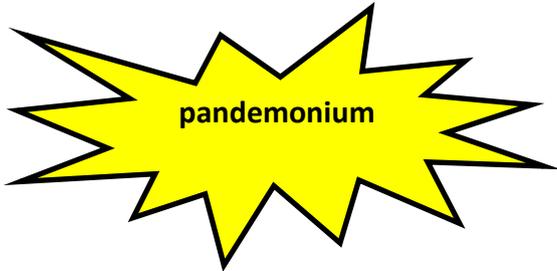
<b>Outstanding Learner</b>	Joseph D, Benjamin S, Jack P
<b>Outstanding Attitude</b>	Tyler W
<b>Outstanding Manners</b>	Oliver D
<b>Handwriting</b>	Finnley McA, Arran S, Arabella C-H
<b>Wow Word</b>	Theo J, Lucy B
<b>Maths Wizard</b>	Joseph A, Alfie J
<b>Values</b>	Ethan W-K, Adam L, Jack M
<b>Independence and Perseverance</b>	Hannah W, Ido S
<b>Sports Award</b>	Will C
<b>Head Teacher Award</b>	Harrison T, Maya C
<b>Golden Broom</b>	Sycamore Class



### Reminder—return slips for Christmas dinner

A reminder that forms for any children who are usually on packed lunches and wish to have a school Christmas dinner must be returned this week. Unfortunately any forms returned late won't be accepted as we need to organise food orders, etc in advance. A text will also be sent as an additional reminder for this.

### Wow word of the week



### Waste and Recycling Assembly

On Tuesday, we have staff from Durham Local Authority, visiting to lead an assembly about waste and recycling. I hope the children find this enjoyable and interesting and that it helps them learn more about this important topic.



### Attendance for last week

<b>Willow Class</b>	100
<b>Horse Chestnut Class</b>	100
<b>Sycamore Class</b>	92.1
<b>Lime Class</b>	98.1
<b>Silver Birch Class</b>	96.8
<b>Rowan Class</b>	94.0
<b>Hawthorn Class</b>	96.8

Well done to Lime, Silver Birch and Hawthorn who have all achieved attendance above our minimum target level. Special "Well done" to Willow and Horse Chestnut for 100% attendance that was the best out of the whole school!

### Parent Governor Role

A reminder that we have a vacancy for a Parent Governor. Anyone interested in the role can ask for a Governor Nomination Form from Mrs Dolan in our school office. Completed forms must be returned to the main office by the end of the day on **Friday 7th December**.

### Whatsapp School Groups

Can I please ask parents/carers to be mindful of comments they put on the private Whatsapp school groups, when they relate to things that have happened in school or individual staff members? I know many classes have these groups set up and they are a valuable method of communication for parents. However, recently some comments on a couple of these groups have caused issues, led to some things being escalated unnecessarily and parents/carers have spoken to me to voice their concerns.

If an incident happens at school or if you have a concern about anything, please contact us. It is our responsibility to look into this. In the first instance it is usually best to speak to class teachers. Then, if you feel the concern needs further attention or if you are not happy with the way the situation has been dealt with, please make an appointment to meet with me, as Head Teacher. If we do not know about issues we cannot address them and when things are reported on Whatsapp groups, the full details from all parties involved, are often not represented. This can lead to some misinterpretation and misunderstandings.

I am aware these groups are private and respect the right for people to express their views. However, as some recent comments have led to concerns being raised with me, I feel it is something I need to mention.

Thank you in anticipation of your support with this.