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DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL
Aycliffe Village Primary
School
Aycliffe Village
Newton Aycliffe
Co. Durham



January 29th 2016
Letter to Parents/Carers

Governor Elections

I would like to thank all of the parents who voted in the recent Parent Governor Elections. The result was very close. I would like to welcome Wendy Falla- Holmes and Brian Dean onto the board of Governors. Thank you, also, to the parents that stood for election and were unsuccessful in being elected. I hope that they will try again should further positions become available.

Music Concert

We are really excited about the fact that our KS2 clarinet players have been asked by the Music Service Management Team to join in with a Concert on the 9th March 2016 with the County's Little Big Band, an orchestra made up of pupils of comprehensive school age. The concert is to be held in our school hall. The concert will probably be during the evening of the 9th March. This is just advance notice so that as many pupils as possible will be able to attend. More information on this will follow.

PTA

Key Stage One Reading Area

The PTA has very generously agreed to pay for the refurbishment of the Key Stage One Reading Area. The work will commence in the near future and should be completed by the end of the February Half - term break.

Film Club

In recent weeks, the PTA has made efforts to recruit new volunteers to help with Friday Afternoon's Film Club. Unfortunately, the response has been limited. As a result of this, the decision has been made to merge the KS1 and KS2 Clubs and not run them on alternate weeks.

The dates for this term's Film Club are as follows:

22nd January 2016

5th February 2016

26th February 2016

11th March 2016

The long term viability of the Film Club will be reviewed later in the term.

Facebook

It has been brought to my attention that a small number of parents have been complaining about a homework that was recently given to pupils. These complaints were made on the Social Media site, Facebook. It would be far more constructive if the concerns were made directly to the school than being aired in such a manner, where a member of staff has no way of responding to why such homework was given. If you do have genuine concerns, about any issue, please contact the school and make an appointment to discuss the issue that is concerning you. Thank you for your co-operation with this.

School Payments

Parent Pay

The school is looking into the possibility of introducing a payment system that would allow Dinner Money and School Trip Money to be paid directly into an account rather than bringing money in to school. We believe that this system has a number of benefits. Dinner money would no longer be left in book bags or forgotten. Larger amounts, when paying for school trips, can be deposited securely without the need to bring cheques or cash into school. The Parent Pay System would allow parents to make any such payment from a mobile phone, or a computer, linked to a bank account.

For parents without a bank account or access to the internet, the Parent Pay System will allow cash payments to be made in shops, using Pay Point Cards, to the school's account.

We ask you all to consider using a new approach to paying for things linked to school life. There is no additional cost; the meals would be exactly the same price as before.

To gauge the response to this new idea, please would you return the tear off slip just giving an indication of whether or not you would be willing to try the new system?

Ford Castle Meeting

In preparation for our visit to Ford Castle in April, Mr. Gargan & Miss. Richmond would like to invite all parents and pupils along to a meeting on Tuesday, 23rd February at 6pm. This will allow you to see the accommodation and ask any questions that you might have about the visit. It will also allow you to discuss our plans for the activities to be undertaken during our stay.

Health & Safety

During the winter months, if children come to school wearing wellies or boots please send in normal school shoes to change into (not slippers) as the floors become very wet and slippery.

Parking and dropping off outside school.

We respectfully ask that you abide by the traffic notices outside school when dropping pupils off at school and parking to collect them at the end of the school day. The restrictions are there to keep all children safe as they enter and leave school. To help avoid congestion, please park as far away from the school as possible and walk a short distance.

Kitchen Problems

Some of the parents may remember when we had the kitchen refurbished. The newly installed kitchen was 'state of the art' and at the cutting edge of the technology available at the time. Clearly, this is no longer the case!! We have had two issues very recently where components that regulate the extraction of fumes have failed and have had to be replaced - once the components failed, there is an automated cut off that switches off the gas supply to prevent any danger of fumes building up. The components have now been replaced and normal meal production will have resumed by the time you read this letter. Thank you for your understanding and patience.

Contact Information

If you have changed your mobile number or address over the holidays, please remember to pass on your new contact details to Mrs. Dolan in order to update our records.

As usual, if anyone would like to discuss any of the issues raised here, with me or any member of staff, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J.P.Gargan.
Head Teacher

Parent Pay- Online payments for Schools

I would / would not be willing to try the new system for paying dinner money and for other activities that require payment.

Signed _____

Name _____
(Please print)

Diary Dates

Date	Event	Time	Place
February			
Thursday 11 th	PTA Valentine Disco	6.30pm-8pm	Hall
Thursday 4 th	Harry Potter Day	Allday	
Friday 12 th	School Closes - Half Term		
Monday 22 nd	School Re-opens		
Tuesday 23 rd	Ford Castle Meeting	6.00pm	
Wednesday 24 th	PTA Art Gallery*	1pm-5pm	Hall
March			
Thursday 3 rd	World Book Day*		
Wednesday 9 th	Music Concert, Little Big Band, AVPS*	TBA	Hall
Monday 21 st	Y3/4 Production*	1.30pm-3pm	Hall
Tuesday 22 nd	Dance Festival Y1*	1.30-3pm	NALC
Wednesday 23 rd	KS1 Easter Service		
Wednesday 23 rd	School Closes - Easter Holidays		
April			
Monday 11 th	School Re-Opens		
Friday 29 th	School Closes		
May			
Monday 2 nd	School Closed - May Day Bank Holiday		
Tuesday 3 rd	School Re-opens		
Monday 9 th	SATs for Y2 & Y6 children. Please do not arrange to take your child, or children, out of school at this time.	All week	
Wednesday 25 th	Y4 Theatre Visit to see 'Gangster Granny'	10:30-12:30	Civic Theatre
Friday 27 th	School Closes - Half Term		
June			
Monday 6 th	School Re-opens		
Thursday 16 th	Book Fair*	1.30pm	Hall
27 th June-1 st July	Sports Week*		
28 th June	Year 6 Transition Day*		
July			
Monday 4 th	France Visit	1.30pm	Hall
Tuesday 19 th	Leavers' assembly		
Wednesday 20 th	School Closes		

*More information to follow