

# AYCLIFFE VILLAGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER – THURSDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER 2017

[www.aycliffevillage.durham.sch.uk](http://www.aycliffevillage.durham.sch.uk)

### Message from Mr. Pavey

I hope that parents/carers all appreciated the newsletter from last week and will continue to find the information interesting and useful. I am always happy to accept suggestions for how the newsletter can be improved so please let me know if you think anything could be adjusted. Last week, a parent raised the concern over the amount of paper that the school uses to communicate with parents. She told me that she had received 5 separate letters and a newsletter last week from school. I would agree that we need to find ways of reducing the paper we use and I will be passing this on to Mrs Sutherland to consider.

Mrs Sutherland has asked me to remind parents/carers about the 'meet and greet' session that she will be hosting on 5<sup>th</sup> December at 5:30pm. This is an excellent opportunity to meet your school's new head teacher and to share your thoughts about the school and how you can all work together to make it the best possible place for your children. I have to say that this is an exceptional thing that Mrs Sutherland is prepared to do and is a clear demonstration of how she will be working with you for the good of your children. She has asked me to remind parents/carers who are attending to let the school office know.

The children might have told you that I brought Mr Barclay, Vane Road's school dog, into school on Monday. He caused great excitement for the children and he really enjoyed meeting them. Barclay is a working cocker spaniel and a trained therapy dog (PAT), coming into school with me each day. His work is simple - to make children happy and he is simply exceptional at doing so. The children at Vane Road don't care about sharing their Head teacher but are very precious over their dog; I will try to steal him from time to time over the next 4 weeks.

Tomorrow and Monday are designated teacher training days so the children will not be in school. Teacher training days are often a source of confusion for parents/carers and I would like to explain them. Every state school child in England is entitled to 190 days of school every year. Local Authorities set school term dates approximately 2 years in advance of up to 195 days. Head teachers have to consult with their staff to assign 5 days within the school year to be training days. The training days for this year will have been chosen at least 18 months ago. All schools in England have the same number of training days and the same number of school days. I know, as a parent myself, how this can cause child-care issues and schools often try to attach them to holidays or weekends to help minimize this issue.

### Safeguarding

All adults have a duty to ensure that children are safe. Any adult can raise a concern with Durham Local Authority Safeguarding team by calling First Contact on 03000267979. This can be done anonymously so please share any information if you are concerned about the safety of a child.

### Other News

Our Netball team will be in action tonight for the final time tonight. Last week, they had a match against Vane Road but fortunately, for Mr Pavey the match was drawn! Thank you to Miss Peel and Miss Beuster for organising the netball for our children.

### Autumn Term Clubs

**Monday:** Gym Club 3:15 – 4:15pm  
**Thursday:** Ballet Club 3:15 – 4:15pm  
**Friday:** PTA Film Club 3:15 – 4:45pm

### Dates for Your Diary



**School closed - Teacher Training Days:** Friday 24<sup>th</sup> & Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November  
**PTA Christmas Fair:** Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November 6pm-8pm  
**Year 2 Multiskills Event:** Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December at Ferryhill Business College  
**Meet & Greet Mrs. Sutherland:** Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December 5.30pm  
**Rec/KS1 Christmas Performance (Rec parents):** Monday 11<sup>th</sup> Dec 9:30am  
**Rec/KS1 Christmas Performance (Y1/2 Parents):** Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> Dec 1:30pm  
**Rec & KS1 Pantomime:** Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2:00-4:30pm  
**Rec – Y4 Flu Immunisation:** Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December 1:30-3:00pm  
**PTA Christmas Disco:** Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December 6:00-7:30pm  
**Year 1 & 2 Christmas Party:** Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December 1:30pm  
**Year 3 & 4 Christmas Party:** Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 1:30pm  
**Year 5 & 6 Christmas Party:** Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 1:30pm  
**Christmas Lunch:** Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December  
**Carol Service at St Andrews Church:** Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 9:30am  
**Break up for Christmas:** Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December  
**Return to school:** Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January

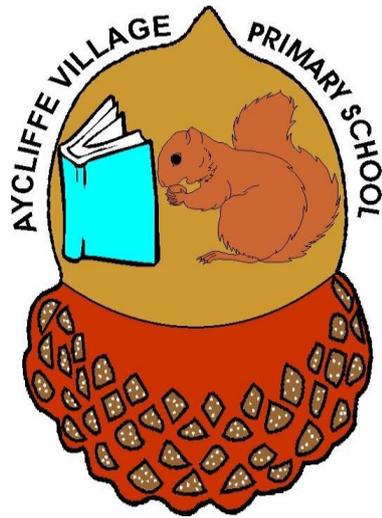
### Attendance



Our Minimum  
Target Is 96%

Well done to Years 2 & 5 and who have all achieved attendance above our minimum target level. Special "Well done" to Year 5 for 100% attendance that was the best out of the entire school.

This week's attendance	
Year	Attendance %
R	92.0
1	82.2
2	96.2
3	92.0
4	93.8
5	98.4
6	90.2



## Parent Governor Vacancies

We currently have two vacancies on our Governing Body for a Parent representative.

All those with Parental Responsibility for a child at the school are eligible to be a Parent Governor **EXCEPT**

- if s/he is an elected member of the local education authority; (local councillor)
- if s/he is paid to work at the school for more than 500 hours in any twelve month period

beginning on 1 August and finishing on 31 July. (during one academic year)

In the first instance we are seeking 'expressions of interest' in the form of a letter officially declaring that the applicant has parental responsibility for a child at the school and they are committed to becoming a school governor. In the event that there are more than two expressions of interest then an election will be called and each candidate will be required to make a written statement as to why they feel that they would be an excellent Parent Governor.

The role of Parent Governor is key to ensure that the school hears the viewpoint from a parent when it helps decide on the priorities for the school. By working co-operatively with other Governors you will contribute to the development of Aycliffe Village Primary School. Previous experience of working in education is not necessary and we would encourage those parents with skills and / or experience of working in the community, financial management, procurement / purchasing and property / estate-management to apply for these two vacancies.

All expressions of Interest must be received by noon on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

Should you have any questions regarding these posts, please contact Mr Pavey, Acting head teacher or Mr Walsh, Chair of Governors through the school office.