

AYCLIFFE VILLAGE PRIMARY SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER – FRIDAY 22ND DECEMBER 2017
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Message from Mr. Pavey

This is my final day with you (although I officially remain the Acting Head teacher until 31st December) and I want to say a huge thank you to everyone for all their support over the past half term. It has been an honour and a pleasure to have been the Acting Head teacher here and I will genuinely be sad to leave. Your children are amazing and I will miss their cheery smiles. I want to thank the staff for their help, support and patience. I am frustrated that I could not have done more for the children of the school but I am confident that Mrs Sutherland will bring a whole new dimension to Aycliffe Village Primary School.

It would be remiss of me not to write a few words of thanks to Mr Gargan who officially leaves his post as Head teacher of Aycliffe Village Primary School on 31st December. Mr Gargan has brought so much to the lives of the children at Aycliffe Village during his ten years here. When I first came to County Durham as a Head teacher in April 2008, he was one of the first of my colleagues to offer his support. He worked tirelessly in many departments of Durham Local Authority ensuring that schools across Durham were funded fairly and that schools were provided with the necessary resources and support to achieve great things. He is a kind, gentle and compassionate man who deserves thanks and gratitude for the great many positive things that he has brought to Aycliffe Village and the wide Durham education world. I wish him well for the future.

At the Meet and Greet session Mrs Sutherland was asked about the outcome of the Local Authority review on 31st October, please see below a message from her.

It was lovely to see so many of you at the Carol Concert this morning where the children treated us all to a beautiful festive celebration.

Aycliffe Village Primary School will rise up once again because at its heart it has a core of governors, staff, parents/carers, volunteers and children, determined to succeed. The demands on all those associated with schools are greater than they have ever been so please, everyone, get behind Mrs Sutherland and support her in making this school great again.

And my final word is to wish everyone and wonderful Christmas, a peaceful New Year and a safe holiday.

Message from Mrs Sutherland

Thank you to parents/carers who attended the Meet and Greet on 5th December. It was lovely to meet you all! Thank you also to everyone who has completed and returned parent questionnaires.

During the Meet and Greet I mentioned a review of the school that had taken place by Durham Local Authority on 31st October. This is part of the monitoring and support that is being provided to the school to help it move forward following the Ofsted inspection in December 2016. The review went well and detailed many improvements. Some parents during the Meet and Greet expressed a concern that they didn't know about the review and would like some information about it. In response to this, I include a summary of key points from the review report.

Summary of key points from the Local Authority Review in October 2017

- Teaching has strengthened as a result of the focus given by leaders and teacher subject knowledge is strong.
- Good use is made of modelling and on-going support and intervention during lessons.
- Improvements to the assessment and tracking systems are helping staff to plan more effectively for learning.
- Staff now have higher expectations which are improving pupils' presentation of their work.
- Middle leadership has strengthened significantly since the inspection. Middle leaders are motivated and determined to bring about change in order to further improve learning.

- Pupils' achievements are recognised and celebrated, and pupils value this.

Recommendations from the review focused on ensuring consistency of marking and feedback across school to ensure children know exactly what they need to do to improve their work, ensuring there is consistently challenge for more able pupils and focusing monitoring on pupils whose progress needs to accelerate.

I hope you find the information above helpful and that it reassures you the school is moving forward in the right direction. I look forward to continuing with and building upon this work from January. I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year. I look forward to seeing you in January!

Other News

Children return to school on Monday 8th January 2018!

Attendance

Our Minimum
Target Is 96%



Well done to Years Reception, 2,,4 & 5 and who have all achieved attendance above our minimum target level. Special "Well done" to Year 2 for 96.8% attendance that was the best out of the entire school.

This week's attendance	
Year	Attendance %
R	96.3
1	95.0
2	96.8
3	94.0
4	96.6
5	96.2
6	94.8

Dates for Your Diary

Return to school: Monday 8th January

Key Stage 2 trip to Locomotion: 8th January

Y1 Multiskills event: Wednesday 10th January

Parents Evening: Week commencing 15th January

Y5 Baltic Voice Project: Wednesday 17th January

M&M Production of Robin Hood: Thursday 18th January

Y5 Mahogany Opera Performance: Tuesday 6th February

School Closes – Half Term: Friday 9th February

Spring Term Clubs will start week commencing 15th January 2018

Monday: Gym Club 3:15 – 4:15pm

Thursday: Ballet Club 3:15 – 4:15pm