



Newsletter 22nd January 2018

Aycliffe Village Primary School



Dear Parents/Carers

I know the snow last week caused real difficulties with travelling and traffic but it was so lovely to see the children enjoying it on our school field last week! We will always do our best to keep school open in snowy weather and just advise staff and yourselves to take things slowly and carefully and get here when you can. A **huge** thank you to Mr Watson for all his hard work clearing so much snow from our school grounds to ensure they were safe for us all.

On last week's newsletter, I shared some of the feedback from the parent questionnaires. I focused on the areas you identified for improvement however I didn't want you to think all feedback had been negative. Here are some of the highly positive comments we received. ***"My son loves coming to school and is very happy here. This is hugely in part to the staff team who create a positive and safe environment."*** ***"The school has a very warm, homely feeling making you feel very welcome."*** ***"Parents, children and teachers (staff) are all friendly which gives the school a large, family feeling."***

I have also been collecting feedback from your children as I have reminded them it is their school and they need to feel involved in decisions that are made. I was delighted, as I am sure you will be, that one of the most common points they have made for things that are good about the school are that staff are helpful, caring and friendly. However, I'm afraid they are going to have a bit of a disappointment when I explain I can't change everything they suggested... longer play-times featured heavily as a request from our older pupils!

Mrs Sutherland

Reminder about Year 2 Class Assembly

A reminder that parents/carers/family members of children in Year 2 are invited to school **for 9.00am this Thursday** to watch their class assembly. We really hope you can join us! Please enter school by the main entrance.



Miss Beuster's Maternity Leave

This will be Miss Beuster's last week at school before she starts her maternity leave next Monday. Although I haven't known Miss Beuster long, it is obvious to me she is a very special, caring teacher and I know it will be a big loss to our school when she is on maternity leave. I am sure you will all join me in wishing her a very special time with her impending arrival!

Celebration Assembly Awards

Star Awards

Reception	Eden S, Oscar C
Year 1	Maya C, Harrison T
Year 2	Emma N, Molly H
Year 3	Oliver C, Mia M
Year 4	Lucy B, Chloe A
Year 5	Isobel W, Tyler W
Year 6	Dylan H, Myles G

Head Teacher Awards

Key Stage 1	Harvey W
Key Stage 2	Isabella D



Update from the PTA

Our PTA is a highly valued part of our school life and funds raised from this make a real difference to our school and the opportunities we can offer your children. If anyone is interested in joining please contact the school office. There is also a vacancy for the Secretary of the PTA and we would be very grateful for anyone who feels they can support with this. We also want to share the date for the next PTA disco. This will take place on **Thursday 8th February from 6.00 till 7.30pm**. Please put this date in your diary and more details will be shared in future newsletters.



Easter Shoe Box Appeal



A family member of some children in our school has asked if we would like to support this very worthy cause. Locally there is an Easter Shoe Box Appeal to support children in need in Romania. They are looking for boxes containing **a pair of children's shoes (new or in good used condition), a new pair of children's socks and an Easter egg**. We would like our school to support this. If you are interested in taking part please send your filled shoe boxes into school **on Thursday 8th February so they can be collected on 9th February**. Please mark the box with the shoe size and boy or girl. Many thanks.



Attendance for last week

Our Minimum Target is 96%

Well done to Years Reception, 2 and 3 who have all achieved attendance above our minimum target level. Special "Well done" to Year 3 for 98.2% attendance that was the best out of the entire school.

Reception	97.1
Year 1	95.8
Year 2	98.1
Year 3	98.2
Year 4	95.5
Year 5	93.0
Year 6	95.0

Meeting for Year 4 parents/carers about Ford Castle Trip

A couple of parents have been in touch to say they would like more information about this residential trip before they decide whether their children will attend. We were planning on holding a meeting once we knew who would be attending, however taking this feedback into account, we have arranged a meeting sooner than we originally planned. This will take place on **Thursday 1st February at 5.00pm**. We hope you are able to attend and that this will answer any questions you may still have.



Parking

A reminder that **cars must not stop or park on the marked lines outside of school**. I appreciate this was especially difficult last week due to the snow however, in normal weather conditions, this should not be happening. The marked areas are there to ensure the safety of children and families when they are walking and entering school.



Also, we have a designated disabled parking space in school and this is a polite reminder that it must only be used by people who have a disability.

Outdoor gym equipment

On the recent parent questionnaire, a parent raised a concern about the outdoor gym equipment on the playground as they feel it is adult sized and unsafe for children. I had a Health and Safety Officer from the Local Authority in school last week and asked her to double check this for me. **Her advice is that it is for children in KS2. Therefore this is the rule we will continue to follow.**

I also need to remind parents/carers that they are responsible for pre school children when they are on the playground waiting for school children at the end of the day. **Pre school children must not play on the outdoor gym equipment and should not be using scooters and bikes on the playground when school children are coming out of school. It is the responsibility of parents (not staff) to ensure these requests are followed please. Many thanks.**