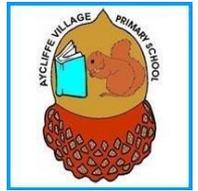




Newsletter 29th January 2018

# Aycliffe Village Primary School



Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you to all parents, carers and family members who came to watch Year 2's Class Assembly last week. The children gave a wonderful performance and shared some important messages about how we are all different and special. They also summarised some of the anti-bullying messages we have focused on during assemblies over the last couple of weeks. I know the children also enjoyed leading the assembly—one of them said he loved it and couldn't stop smiling the whole way through!

I wanted to let you know we are trialling some changes to the structures of lunchtimes in school. This is in response to some feedback from children, eg we are trying to reduce queuing time in the dining hall for children and also to enable Key Stage 2 children to have some time on the playground alone so they have an opportunity to play more sports and be more active without worrying about bumping into younger children. Assemblies will also now take place in the mornings and, during these, staff will lead some intervention groups with children to provide additional small group and/or one to one support.

I'm sorry to say I didn't achieve my target of knowing all children's names in school within three weeks. In my defence, I think the children has set me a very challenging target... I know the names of at least two thirds of the school now so will keep working hard at it and I aim to know all names by the end of this half term!

Best wishes  
Mrs Sutherland

## Meeting about Ford Castle

A reminder that we are holding a meeting at school **this Thursday at 5.00pm** about the residential trip to Ford Castle. We hope you can join us to find out more and so we can answer any questions you may have about this trip.

## A very warm welcome to Miss Craven!

We offer Miss Craven a very warm welcome to our school as she starts teaching Year 2 this week! I know she has a lot to offer our school and I hope she will be very happy during her time here.

## Celebration Assembly Awards

### Star Awards



Reception	Freya C, Cameron E
Year 1	Harry P, Ella W-K
Year 2	Whole Class
Year 3	Finley S, Eloise H
Year 4	Morgan A, Myles F
Year 5	Leo N, Alex B
Year 6	Mollie M, Harrison P



### Head Teacher Awards

Key Stage 1	Harry P
Key Stage 2	Oliver D

## Update from Governors

I'm delighted to be asked by Mrs Sutherland to provide a small update from the Governing Body at Aycliffe Village. For Governors it has been a very busy period of time as we plan and meet to help support and challenge the school as we move forward with our new Headteacher. Next week we will be starting a programme of bespoke training which the Local Authority are providing through our Service Level Agreement with the Council's School and Governor Support Service. This training will help governors further understand their roles of monitoring, challenge and strategic development, evidence how we as Governors have responded to the Ofsted report and our commissioned Governance Review. I am also delighted to announce that our new Parent Governor is Marie Holton. We offer her a warm welcome and thank her for the time and support she is offering to our school. We are still one Parent Governor vacancy and will be advertising this shortly. I urge you all to think about committing to this worthwhile role when the vacancy is circulated and feel free to ask me or any of the other Governors about what the role brings to the school.

We have more new governors in the pipeline and I hope to announce these after our next meeting in February.

Thank you for your continued support.  
Jim Walsh, Chair of Governors.

### Attendance for last week

Our Minimum Target is 96%

Well done to Years Reception, 1, 3, 4, 5 & 6 who have all achieved attendance above our minimum target level. Special "Well done" to Year 1 for 98.9% attendance that was the best out of the entire school.

Reception	96.2
Year 1	98.9
Year 2	95.4
Year 3	97.3
Year 4	96.4
Year 5	97.4
Year 6	97.9

### Writing Workshop



This Thursday Year 5 and 6 will be taking part in a Writing Workshop led by an Archivist from Durham Local Authority. They will be using real documents to investigate an evacuee in County Durham and will gain an insight into how an evacuee might have been thinking and feeling. It will end with the children taking on the character of the evacuee and writing a letter home to family.

### Additional letters coming home tonight

Year 5 children will be bringing a letter home about the Snappy Opera and Year 6 children will be bringing home a letter about revision and an after school club for SATs. Please look out for these.

### Do you have any spare lego please?



After some staff training last week, we are going to be starting an intervention in school called Lego Therapy. **We would be very grateful if anyone has any lego they can donate, especially if they have sets with instructions. Please mention this to staff if you have any.** Many thanks for your support with this.

## Message from PTA

We are thrilled to welcome Leah Kelly as our new secretary. Thank you to Leah for supporting with this. The next PTA meeting will take place at school on **Wednesday 7th February from 6.00—7.00pm**. If any new members would like to join us then you would be very welcome.

The PTA also need some additional volunteers to be able to continue to run Film Clubs. **In order for film club to run, we need volunteers to help out. It involves handing out the drinks and snack pots, setting up the film and being around if the children need you (Anyone who hasn't done this before will be paired up with an experienced volunteer)**

**Your child will be bringing a note home about this. If you can help, please complete this and return it to school as soon as possible.**