



Newsletter 8th January 2018

# Aycliffe Village Primary School



Dear Parents/Carers

Happy New Year! I hope you and your families had a wonderful Christmas. It has been lovely welcoming your children back to school this morning and to see lots of smiling faces!

I am really looking forward to my first week as Head Teacher at Aycliffe Village. One of my first priorities is to get to know your children (that's the best part of the job!) I will be teaching all classes over the next three weeks. Year 4 have given me a challenge of learning the names of **all** children in the school in three weeks – a tough challenge but I'll do my best!

Thank you so much to everyone who completed and returned parental questionnaires. They have given me a valuable insight into things you value about the school and areas that need to be prioritised for improvement. On next week's newsletter I will provide a summary of common themes from the questionnaires and our plans for addressing these. As I said during the 'Meet and Greet' I held in December, all issues aren't in my control but I will do all I can to make necessary improvements as quickly as possible.

Please keep the back page of this newsletter safe as it contains an overview of dates for this half term.

I look forward to meeting you and getting to know you over the coming weeks.

With my very best wishes

Mrs H Sutherland

## **Parents Evenings**

Letters about Parents Evenings will be coming out tomorrow (Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup>) so please look out for these and check with your child's teacher if your child doesn't bring one home. Due to some diary commitments next week, class teachers might be having Parents Evenings on different days next week (details will be on the letters) We will do our best to accommodate convenient times and to liaise about appointments for sibling groups. I hope you are all able to attend.

## **Swimming**

A reminder that Year 5 go swimming on Wednesday – please don't forget your kits!

## **Class Curriculum Newsletters**

This Friday, Class Curriculum Newsletters will be handed out. These will give you information about the topics your child's class will be covering this term and other useful class information. You will then receive these at the start of every term.

## **Miss Craven – Year 2 teacher for Miss Beuster's maternity cover**

Miss Craven is very keen to get started at our school and will be spending some time with us before she officially starts on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January. Might I add that she is doing this voluntarily which I feel shows how dedicated she is to her impending role.

Miss Craven will be working alongside Miss Beuster to observe her teaching and to learn school and classroom routines. Obviously her main priority will be to get to know your children. She will also be going to observe another Year 2 teacher in an outstanding school to help support her with her career development. Parents/carers of children in Year 2 will have the opportunity to meet Miss Craven during Parents Evenings next week as she will be present while Miss Beuster leads these. We feel this is an excellent opportunity for her to get to know you and to hear a summary about children's progress at school. Our aim is to make the transition as smooth as possible for your children.

Miss Craven is a Newly Qualified Teacher and I will be leading her induction and ongoing support during the time she is with us. We were very impressed with her enthusiasm for teaching and her fresh approach and I look forward to welcoming her to the staff team.

**Update from Professional Development Day for staff on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January**

We had a very productive staff training day on 5<sup>th</sup> January. The morning focused on getting to know each other, reviewing/reflecting on the school's aims so we have a shared vision, collecting staff feedback about the school, sharing feedback from parent/carer questionnaires and looking at ways to address issues raised, reviewing the school development plan and confirming the diary for the half term. Early Years staff and Teaching Assistants had training led by Advisory staff from the Local Authority and Mrs Brown, worked with the school's Education Development Partner, on the school's Pupil Premium Strategy.

**Weekly Newsletters**

Mr Pavey has made me aware that, last term, a concern was raised about the amount of paper and letters that were being sent home from school. However when the newsletter was put online we had some parents saying they didn't like this and wanted paper copies. Therefore I am giving parents/carers the option. ***If you would like to receive a paper copy of our weekly newsletter please return the slip below by Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January.*** If we don't hear from you by this date then we will assume you are happy to read the newsletter every Monday on our website or school APP. ***There will still be some letters that need to come home as a paper copy as we need a reply slip to be completed but we will do our best to cut down on these – it is in the best interest for the environment if we can try to do this.***

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**I would like to receive a paper copy of the weekly newsletter.**

**Name of Child:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

***Please return by Monday 15th January 2018***

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**After school clubs**

Gymnastics Club—Year 1 to Year 6—will commence on Monday 15th January.

Ballet & Dance Fitness—Year 1 to Year 3—will commence on Thursday 18th January.

Please complete the parental consent slip below and return to school before Friday 12th January 2018.  
The cost of each club will be £12 for this half term

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Name of Child \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Club \_\_\_\_\_

I will arrange payment vis ParentPay and will collect my child from school at 4.15pm.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

### Diary Dates for Spring Half Term 1 2018

**Diary dates are correct at the time of printing. Occasionally, changes might be necessary due to circumstances. If this is the case, this will be communicated via weekly newsletters and the school text messaging service.**

Date	Event
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January	KS2 trip to Shildon Locomotion Museum
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> January	9.30 – 11.30 – Year 1 Multiskills at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre. <b>Children can come to school dressed in their PE kits and should bring school uniform to change into for the afternoon. We also recommend that your child brings a drink of water.</b> 1.00 – 3.00 – Year 5 Snappy Opera Rehearsal in school (more detail will be given about this in next week's newsletter)
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> January	Parents Evenings will take place this week (see separate letters from class teachers – will be sent out on 09.01.18)
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> January	Collapsed Curriculum Day – KS2 classes to be taught in afternoon classes all day so they can do work linked to the Robin Hood Theatre Performance. 1.30 - M and M Theatre Production of Robin Hood in school (for the whole school)
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	9.15 – 11.45 – Year 5 Mahogany Opera Rehearsal in school
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> January	9.00 - Year 2 to lead a class assembly – parents/carers/family members are invited to attend.
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> January	Miss Beuster to start her maternity leave. Miss Craven to start as Year 2 teacher.
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> January	9.15 - 11.45 – Year 5 Mahogany Opera Rehearsal in school
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> February	9.00 – 12.00 – KS2 Writing Workshop in school (WWII Evacuee topic) Year group TBC
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	10.00 – 12.00 – Artist in school (Baltic Voices Project) TBC
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	11.30 – 6.00 – Year 5 Mahogany Opera Performance at the Gala Theatre, Durham. Parents/carers/family members are invited to attend (more details will be shared in next week's newsletter)
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> February	9.00 – Year 6 to lead a class assembly on the topic of safe internet use. Parents/carers/family members are invited to attend
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> February	9.00 – 12.00 – KS2 Writing Workshop in school (Mining Village Topic) Year group TBC
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	Break up for February half term holiday
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February	School re-opens after the February half term holiday

### Dates for class assemblies later this year (Spring Half Term 2 and Summer Term)

**Parents/carers/family members are invited to attend. We really hope you can join us for these**

Date	Class
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	9.00 – Year 1 to lead a class assembly.
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	9.00 – Reception to lead a class assembly
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	9.00 – Year 4 to lead a class assembly
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> June	9.00 – Year 3 to lead a class assembly
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> June	9.00 – Year 5 to lead a class assembly