



Newsletter 19th February 2018

Aycliffe Village Primary School



Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to the second half of the Spring Term! I hope you managed to enjoy some family time over the half term holiday although I know everyone wasn't lucky enough to be off work last week.

I must mention how proud Mrs Brown and I were of our Year 5 pupils for their wonderful performance of 'The Magic Musical Tree' Opera at Durham Gala Theatre the week before our half term holiday. Their performance was very professional and they represented our school extremely well. Huge congratulations to them all!

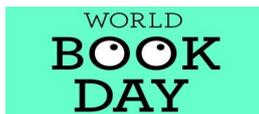
Thank you to all families who were able to support the Easter Shoe Box appeal. We were very grateful for your generosity and support. As I said to our children in assembly the Friday before the half term break, it is wonderful to think our efforts will have a positive impact on some vulnerable children and families in Romania .

Best wishes

Mrs H Sutherland

World Book Day

A reminder that children are invited to dress up as a character from a book of their choice for World Book Day on **Thursday 1st March**. Children will also be involved in activities about books throughout the day and **Year 1 will be leading an assembly that morning at 9.00am (parents/carers/family members of children in Year 1 are invited to intend)**



Parent Governor

We have one vacancy for a parent governor. If anyone is interested in this role please see Mrs Dolan in our school office for a form. If you would like to find out more about the role, please contact me at school. Being a school governor can be a challenging role but it is also very rewarding as you play a key role in supporting the education of children in our school. We would love to welcome another parent to our friendly team!

Celebration Assembly Awards 09.02.18

Star Awards

Reception	Archer D, Susie M
Year 1	Sam M, Neve B
Year 2	Bradley G, Hannah W
Year 3	Indra FH, Dylan R
Year 4	Harvey B, Molly F
Year 5	Jacob H, Harry T
Year 6	Anna B, Jamie C

Head Teacher Awards

Key Stage 1	James B
Key Stage 2	Aidan H



Punctuality

As you will be aware from the newsletter dated 15th January, we are trying to improve punctuality in school. This is as there were many children arriving late which was causing disruption to the start of lessons and the school day.

To confirm arrangements we now have in place, **children should be on the playground in time for the bell at 8.55 (please note staff duty starts at 8.45 so children shouldn't be on the yard before this time) The teacher on duty will then lock the gate to the playground (necessary for security and safeguarding reasons)** Any child arriving after that time will wait with the staff member on duty at the top of the path for a couple of minutes. They will then take children into school by the main entrance. The reason we don't allow children to come into school one by one, as and when they arrive, is it is unmanageable for the school office to let each child in individually. It was also leading to situations where children were in school but their names were not marked as being present on the register. Clearly this is not acceptable for fire regulations, safeguarding, etc.

Whilst I fully appreciate there will be occasions now and again that can cause unavoidable delays, eg traffic accidents and snowy weather, this isn't something that should be happening regularly. As one of the key roles of education is to prepare children for adulthood, being on time for school is very important (in the same way being on time for work is) and is a message we need to promote. Please feel free to contact me at school if you have any questions and/or comments.

Thank you for all improvements that have been made already—we had 18 children late for school on 8th February and none on 9th February! Your support is much appreciated and I hope you can understand why we need ensure a smooth start to the day for all our pupils.

Attendance for w/c 5th February

Our Minimum Target is 96%

"Well done" to Year 3 for 98.6% attendance that was the best out of the entire school.

Reception	93.3
Year 1	93.2
Year 2	95.2
Year 3	98.6
Year 4	93.2
Year 5	95.7
Year 6	94.3

Additional after school clubs

Two additional after school clubs will start next week. They will be run by sports coaches who are now working in our school. When deciding which clubs to have, we have listened to ideas from your children and views they shared with me last half term.

Monday's club will be a football club for children in **Years 5 and 6. Please be aware this will be outside in all weathers as the hall is used for another club that day.** Therefore children should bring appropriate kit and outdoor clothing.

Friday's club will be a multi sports club for children in Years 3 and 4. This will be outside whenever possible but can be inside when the weather is very wet.

These clubs will run until Easter then we will review them to include other year groups and other sports your children have mentioned. In the summer term one of them will be a cricket club (as this was a popular request from your children) Letters will be handed out tomorrow to children who are interested in attending both these new clubs.



Future Diary Dates of Assessment Weeks

Please be aware of the information below if your child is in the year groups mentioned.

Date	Assessment
Week beginning 14th May	Year 6 SATs Tests. Children have to take their tests on the timetabled days
Week beginning 21st May	Year 2 SATs Tests. We don't have set days when children have to take these tests but have selected this week as it is convenient for our school diary
Week beginning 11th June	Year 1 Phonics Check (has to be completed this week)