



Newsletter 26th February 2018

Aycliffe Village Primary School



Dear Parents/Carers

Just when we thought Spring was on its way, the weather forecast predicts severe weather and snow!! If we do have heavy snow this week, we will do all we can to keep the school open and ask that you also make all efforts to get your children to school, whilst staying safe in the bad weather. On snowy days, please remember to send your children into school with appropriate outdoor clothing so they can enjoy the snow at playtimes. Whilst we, as adults, often find the snow difficult, it is lovely to see the children enjoying playing in it! ***In case any Year 6 parents missed the text message sent earlier today, we have cancelled the Year 6 bike ride that was supposed to take place on Wednesday this week.***

Thank you to all parents/carers/family members who attended our meeting with Taylor Shaw (school meal provider) last week. It was very useful to have your views and input. There is an update about school meals on the back of this newsletter.

In our assemblies last week (linked to this year's Winter Olympics) we focused on the Olympic and Paralympic Values of ***respect, courage, friendship, inspiration, excellence, determination*** and ***equality***. I asked our pupils to consider how we can apply these to our everyday lives to help them be the best we can be. I was extremely impressed with their responses to this!

Best wishes
Mrs H Sutherland

World Book Day and Year 1 Class Assembly

A reminder that children are invited to dress up as a character from a book of their choice on 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 attend)*



Judo Taster Sessions

On Monday 5th March, as part of the School Sports Partnership we use at our school, some of our classes will have the opportunity to have a taster session of judo at school. We hope they will enjoy it!



Celebration Assembly Awards

Star Awards

Reception	Ethan WK and Emily O
Year 1	Iyla F and Oliver Y
Year 2	Laila T and Cole H
Year 3	Oliver W and Savannah D
Year 4	Lily P and Thomas P
Year 5	James A and Charlotte B
Year 6	Ethan P and Joshua R

Head Teacher Awards

Key Stage 1	Macie T and Esme K
Key Stage 2	Daisy H and Synnove L



Attendance

I have been monitoring attendance in school and wish to share the following with you to ensure you are aware of our school's approach (which is in line with national and Local Authority guidance)

If your child is absent ***please contact school by 9.30 at the latest to explain the reason for their absence.*** We have a significant number of children who are being picked up during the school day to attend medical appointments. Obviously this cannot always be helped and clearly is necessary for some medical appointments. However we ask that you make every effort for any ***non urgent*** appointments to be after school hours or during school holidays, eg dental check ups, routine eye check ups, non-urgent doctors appointments. If your child has a medical appointment during the school day, please bring proof of the appointment, (eg appointment card or letter) to Mrs Dolan in the school office so this can be copied to authorise the absence.

I also need to remind you that holidays during term time are strongly discouraged. Whilst I fully appreciate why these might be appealing (and I share your frustration with the huge increase in costs of holidays during school holiday time) I urge you to consider the disruption to your children's education. ***It has been calculated that, if a child has a two week holiday every year of their full school career and has an average number of days off for illness, then they will have missed a year of school by the age of 16.*** Staff will not provide work for children who go on holiday during term time as this cannot replace the learning they will miss in class and creates extra work for staff. ***There are only a few, very small number of reasons that will be considered as exceptional circumstances.***

Criteria set by the government classifies any child with attendance below 90% as a ***persistent absentee.*** If this applies to your child, I will be writing to you soon to make you aware of this and to consider ways we can try to improve this.

Attendance for last week

Our Minimum Target is 96%

Well done to Years Reception, 2, 3, & 6 and who have all achieved attendance above our minimum target level.

Reception	100
Year 1	94.7
Year 2	98.4
Year 3	97.3
Year 4	95.5
Year 5	94.8
Year 6	97.9

Special "Well done" to Reception for 100% attendance!

Additional information on our website

I just want to make you aware of some additional information on our website that you might like to look at. Our Reception Class has had lots of fun looking for dinosaur eggs and there is a slide show on their class page showing the fun they had! <http://www.aycliffevillage.durham.sch.uk/our-classes/reception/>

Also, we will be adding the radio recording and some photos of our Year 5 children singing their 'Snappy Opera'! <http://www.aycliffevillage.durham.sch.uk/our-classes/year-5/>

The minutes from the last PTA meeting have also been added to our website. We thank all members who work hard to support fundraising for our school and would love more parents/carers to join the next meeting on Wednesday 7th March at 6.00pm (if they are available) <http://www.aycliffevillage.durham.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/45/2018/02/PTA-minutes-070218.pdf>



Update about school meals

Following feedback from parents/carers in the questionnaire in December and children at school, we will be moving to a ***system of pre ordering for school dinners after the Easter holidays.*** Over the next couple of weeks, children will bring home a menu choice (three week rolling programme) Please help your child choose their meals and return to school as soon as possible. ***Please note children will not be able to change their mind on the day as meals will be cooked to order.*** If our child finds there is something they have chosen that they then do not like, we need three weeks notice to change it (as there is a three week rolling programme, this shouldn't be a problem) Our school council also took part in a SNAG (School Nutrition Action Group) meeting with Taylor Shaw. They decided to have a themed Easter menu at the end of this term (including a pudding of chocolate nests and eggs!) and a themed World Cup menu (later this year)