



Newsletter 5th March 2018

Aycliffe Village Primary School



Dear Parents/Carers

The irony of me putting a message about good attendance on last week's newsletter then closing school for three days hasn't passed me by! Sincere apologies for any inconvenience caused last week due to our school closing. It is never an easy decision to make and is one I always give careful consideration. I hope you can appreciate that the safety and well being of your children and school staff must be a priority. I don't need to tell you how extreme the weather was—I have never known so many schools closed for such a length of time.

After clearing my drive of snow several times this week, I have even more respect and gratitude for the efforts Mr Watson goes to clearing our school grounds of snow and ice! He even visited at the weekend to check all was in order and I am sure you will join me in recognising and being thankful for the lengths he goes to. Thank you also to Mrs Dolan and Mrs Brown who gave me frequent weather updates (I only live in Durham but conditions can be so localised!) and who walked along to school to check the school site.

We know there will have been some disappointment that World Book Day and Year 1's Class Assembly had to be cancelled last week. Therefore we have chosen another date for these to go ahead. Please see the back of this newsletter for details.

Best wishes

Mrs H Sutherland

Reception Class Assembly

Parents/carers/family members of children in our Reception Class are invited to join us for their class assembly this **Thursday at 9.00**. It will be on the theme of Mother's Day. We hope to see many of you there!



Compliments

I wanted to pass on some compliments from some Sports Coaches we have had working in our school recently. Mr Morgan, who had his first day at our school last Monday, said our children were extremely well behaved, keen and enthusiastic. A dance coach who has just started working at our school, wrote in our visitor's book, '*Enthusiastic, charming and well behaved children. An absolute pleasure!*' Well done children for making such a good impression—I am very proud of you all!

Decorate an Easter Egg Competition—organised by the PTA

The PTA are organising the annual Easter Egg Competition. If your child wants to take part, please bring a decorated **hard boiled** egg into school on **Monday 26th March**. The competition will be judged that day and a winner from each year group will be given a chocolate egg prize! Please note, whilst we know parents/carers will be helping children decorate their eggs, judges will be looking for eggs where children have had the most input, not adults...



Governor Update

We are delighted to welcome three new governors to our governing body and are confident they will further strengthen our school with the skills and experience they bring. Elaine Young joins us as a Local Authority representative and, as a former Head Teacher, clearly has a wealth of knowledge that will support our school. Alison Firby has strong links with St Andrew's Church and the local community and is also a former Head Teacher and advisory teacher for pupils with special educational needs. Annie Dolphin had a very successful career in finance and, although now retired, is very busy chairing numerous meetings including NHS boards. She is also a reading volunteer at a primary school and feels she has learnt a lot about the current education system through this role.

We warmly welcome Elaine, Alison and Annie! There is still one parent governor vacancy if anyone is interested? I'll keep trying...



Sports Relief

As mentioned on a previous newsletter, we will be raising money for this charity on **Friday 23rd March**. Our children will be taking part in a walk around Aycliffe Village during the afternoon. We would love some family members to come and join us, if you are available at **2.45** that day?

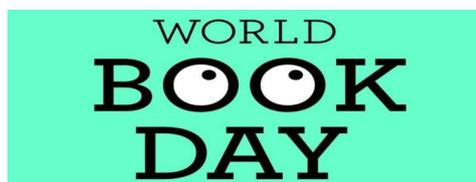
Please let the school office know if you can make it. It will help us confirm the number of adults we need to take children off school site and we are sure your children would love it if you can join them!

Children will also be involved in other sports activities throughout that week, for example during playtimes. More details will be shared in future newsletters.



Rearranged Dates for World Book Day and Year 1 Class Assembly

We will now celebrate World Book Day on **Tuesday 20th March**. Children are very welcome to dress up as a character from a book of their choice. **Year 1 will also lead their class assembly** on that date as it is linked to World Book Day and reading. Their parents/carers and family members are very welcome to join us at **9.00AM** for the assembly; I hope it gives you enough notice to arrange time off work, if you would like to attend.



School Meal Update

The new menu choices will be sent home this week for children currently on school meals. **Please look out for these and send the completed choices back to school as soon as possible so we can be up and running with our choice system after the Easter holidays. We will also put a copy of the menu choice on the home page of our school website.** If your child is currently on packed lunches, please look at this as you might find school meals might now be an option to consider. **Please note there will be four options daily (two main meals, jacket potato, sandwich)**

Taylor Shaw, the company who run the school meals service, have contacted us today to explain that the planned menu for this week might have to change due to issues with deliveries caused by the snow last week. They apologise for any inconvenience or upset caused.