



Newsletter 16th April 2018

Aycliffe Village Primary School



Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to the start of the Summer Term! I hope you had a lovely Easter and enjoyed time with family and friends. It is typical that the weather has decided to improve as we come back to school but hopefully that will mean fewer indoor playtimes and more opportunities to use our wonderful school field!

I wanted to thank you for your calm, supportive manner on the day children broke up for Easter. Clearly the situation with the threatening emails to schools was concerning for us all, even though our school didn't receive one. It was so helpful that you put your trust in us and enabled us to manage things as we saw best, based on the feedback from the police and Local Authority.

Thank you also to everyone who attended our Easter Services—it was lovely to see so many of you in school. I am sure you will agree our children led two fantastic services and the singing was a real highlight for me. We certainly have some very talented children in our school!

Best wishes
Mrs H Sutherland

Update for parents/carers of children in Reception Class

Mrs Johnson will not be starting her phased return to work today, as planned and as I informed you in my last newsletter (dated 26th March) I can only apologise for any confusion this causes for children and families of our Reception Class. I have arranged for Mrs Smith to stay on as a supply teacher at our school and I hope you will agree this will ensure consistency for your children. I will of course provide further updates, as and when I am able to.

Swimming

Year 5 children from Miss Peel's afternoon class will start swimming this week and will go **for this half term only**. After the May half term holiday, Year 6 children will go swimming. Whilst these groups of children will be swimming for fewer weeks than usual, they will be in much smaller groups so will have twice the amount of time in the water and more instruction with the swimming teacher.



New Awards for Celebration Assemblies

We have revised the awards that will be handed out during weekly Celebration Assemblies so we can ensure we are focusing on things that are priority areas for our school. From this Friday the awards will be as follows:

- Outstanding Learner
- Outstanding Attitude
- Outstanding Manners
- Independence, perseverance and determination
- Values award (linked to our five core values—details on the last page of this newsletter)
- 'Wow' word
- Handwriting
- Maths Wizard
- Head Teacher



I will be giving pupils more details about the awards during assemblies this week so they are clear what they are working towards.

Update about our Professional Development Day on 29th March

We had a very productive Professional Development Day on 29th March. Governors joined staff for the morning and we worked jointly on reviewing the vision and aims for our school as well as deciding on a motto. Thank you to those parents who completed and returned the forms I sent out about this the last week of term. We discussed points raised on these to help us with our discussions. Please see the back page of our newsletter for a summary of what we agreed.

As a staff team we then discussed key points on our School Improvement Plan. We also reviewed and updated our school behaviour system, rewards we offer and considered our school environment and ways of further improving this,

The Big Pedal

As part of our continuous drive to encourage healthy, active lifestyles for our pupils, we are encouraging children to take part in this year's **Big Pedal**. Details are as follows:

- Children are asked to ride their bike or scooter to school **from 23rd April till 4th May**
- Those who come by car should park at the Village Green or around the Millfields area and scoot or cycle the last part to school—getting a scooter out of the boot at the school gate does not count!
- The school can win prizes if over 15% of the school take part (we won the overall prize for this area the first year this competition took place)
- The Big Pedal will culminate in a Superhero day on **Friday 4th May** where children can dress as superheroes (and dress their bike/scooter too!)

Attendance for the week before the Easter holidays

Our Minimum Target is 96%

Well done to Years 3 & 5 and who have all achieved attendance above our minimum target level. Special "Well done" to Year 3 for 100% attendance that was the best out of the entire school.

Reception	91.3
Year 1	93.0
Year 2	91.3
Year 3	100
Year 4	93.2
Year 5	98.6
Year 6	92.9

Charity work by one of our Year 5 pupils

One of our Year 5 pupils, Isobel, has decided to help others in a courageous and selfless way. She is choosing to have her long hair cut and to donate this to the Little Princess Trust, who make real hair wigs for children and young adults who are struggling with hair loss through cancer and other illnesses. Isobel is also collecting sponsorship money for this charity. I am sure you will all agree this is a fantastic thing Isobel is doing. If you wish to support her with this she has a Just Giving Page and the link is as follows :
<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/katie-walsh19>

School Dinners

We start our pre order system this week. As you can imagine there has been a lot of organisation to set this up and I thank Mrs Dolan for her support with this. We have reminded children this morning that they can't change their minds on the day, as we will only be cooking the number of meals that have been chosen and ordered. Hopefully there won't be too many 'teething' problems with this new system however, please bear with us if there are a couple. A reminder that, if your child wants to change any of their choices, **we will require three weeks notice**.



'Wow' word of the week

This will be something on each week's newsletter and is something I hope you can do with your children. I am always astounded at the capacity for children to learn new vocabulary if we aim high and support them with this. The definition of the 'wow' word of the week will be discussed during our weekly Celebration Assembly as will possible ways of using it in context. There is a lot of research to show that vocabulary is one of the key areas to ensuring high educational standards so we wish to prioritise this.

This week's 'wow' word is...

procrastination

Summary of our school vision, motto and details of our core values
(as agreed during a Professional Development Day on 29.03.18 after joint working with staff and governors)

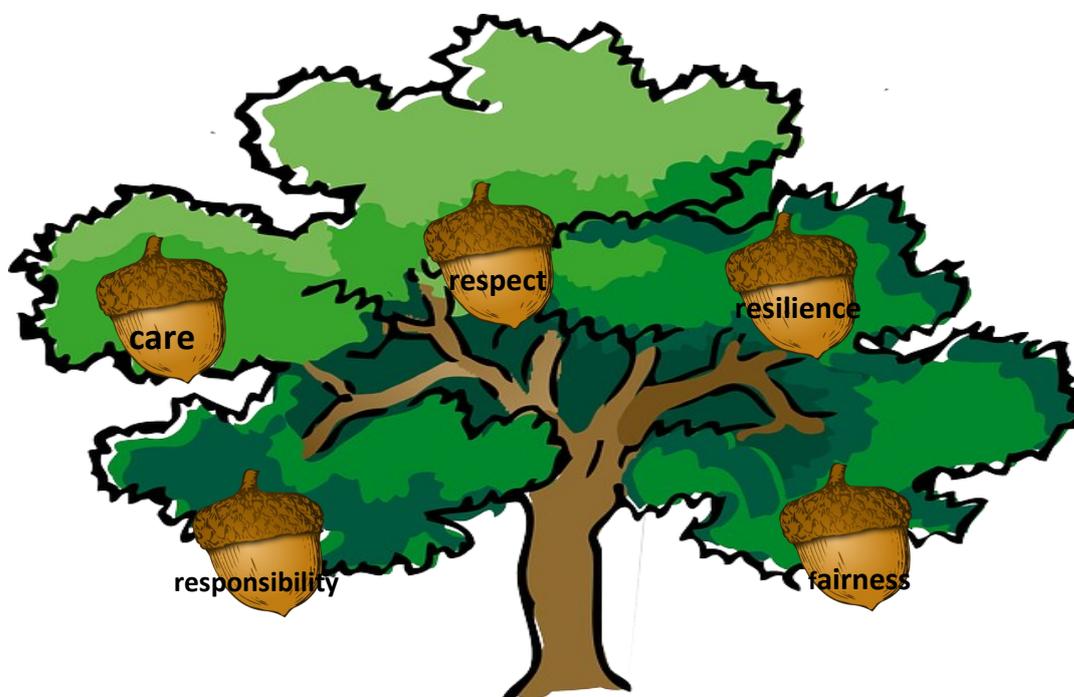


Great oaks from tiny acorns grow

Our School Vision

We are a safe, happy, caring school giving opportunity, challenge and encouragement to everyone.

Our Core Values



Care

Support each other to ensure positive, happy experiences.
Shows consideration for self/others/environment.

Respect

Appreciate and value everyone. Positive interaction and good behaviour - thoughts, words and actions. Show an appreciation of the beliefs and views of others, even if we don't agree with them.

Fairness

Sense of fair play - contributing to a fair and just society. We cannot all always be equal but we appreciate fairness in a situation. Promote sharing in a positive way and leading to more equal opportunities.

Responsibility

To be and do lots of valuable things. Kind, honest, trustworthy, well mannered, healthy, be a team member, cooperate, and follow agreed codes for behaviour and conduct.

Resilience

Cope with challenges, adapt to changes, overcome adversity and disadvantages, persist to progress and attain.