



Newsletter 23rd April 2018

Aycliffe Village Primary School



Dear Parents/Carers

We had a lovely first week back at school and I was so impressed with the enthusiasm and interest your children have shown in some of the new systems we have introduced to school, eg our 'Golden Acorn' behaviour display! I have also been thrilled with the way they have responded to the challenge of the 'Wow' word on our newsletter—I know our Year 6 children were extremely impressed with Jenson (Year 2) when I took him to visit their class last week to explain the meaning of the word **procrastinate** and how he had used it in a sentence. It is wonderful to see them all aiming so high!

As Miss Richmond and Miss Peel are away for three days this week (taking Year 4 children on the residential trip to Ford Castle) there will be some amendments to teaching arrangements this week. I have detailed them overleaf so you and your children know what is happening. I know our Year 4 children are very excited and we hope they all have a wonderful time!

I hope you enjoyed the sunny weather last week and that it continues this week!

Best wishes
Mrs Sutherland
Head Teacher

Year 4 Trip to Ford Castle

Miss Richmond and Miss Peel will take Year 4 pupils on their Ford Castle residential from Wednesday to Friday this week.

The bus will be leaving at 9.30. Please make sure children are in school for the usual time so we can take the register and get everyone ready in a settled manner. Suitcases/bags can be brought to the main office to be stored in the corridor until the bus leaves.

Just a reminder that any Year 4 children not going to Ford Castle must still come to school as usual.

Punctuality

Unfortunately this has slipped again. Today we had 21 children late for school (nearly equivalent to a whole class) and last Monday was similar. As I have explained in past newsletters, this is not acceptable as it is disruptive to the start of the school day and also does not show our children the very important lesson of being on time (in preparation for when they are adults and have to be on time for work.) I look forward to seeing a big improvement with this.

Celebration Assembly Awards



Outstanding Learner	Harry P
Outstanding Attitude	Ruby C, Hannah S
Outstanding Manners	Susie M, Joe C
Handwriting	Ben S, Hannah W
Wow Word	Jenson C, Finley S, Clara M
Maths Wizard	Theo J, Dylan H
Values	Zachary H, Isobel W
Independence and Perseverance	Sophia W, Jacob J
Head Teacher Award	Kobe P, Ashton H
Golden Broom	Year 2

Meeting about school structure next academic year

A few parents have spoken to me recently about classes for next year and how the school will be structured. I have been considering this for a while but, until we had our budget setting meeting, we were unable to make any definite decisions. Now this has happened, Mrs Brown and I will be discussing options further. Obviously there are a range of factors that we have to consider and some that we are unable to control, eg the size of one of our Key Stage 2 classrooms can only accommodate 16/18 children at the most. However, please be reassured we will put the needs of your children at the heart of any decisions we make.

We will be holding a meeting at school on **Tuesday 5th June at 5.00pm**. This will be an opportunity for us to explain the school structure for next year and to discuss any concerns and answer any questions you might have. I will share some detail on a future newsletter before the meeting but wanted to give you advance notice of the date for the meeting so you can make arrangements to be there, if you feel this would be helpful for you.

Wow word of the week



Reminder about the Big Pedal

As explained on last week's newsletter, children are encouraged to ride their bikes and /or scooters to school over the next two weeks. Please see the item on last week's newsletter, for further details. Thank you to everyone who took part on the first day today!

Attendance for last week

Reception	97.6
Year 1	99.5
Year 2	99.6
Year 3	97.7
Year 4	100
Year 5	99.6
Year 6	100

Well done to all year groups who achieved attendance above our minimum target level of 96%. Special "Well done" to Year 4 and Year 6 for 100% attendance that was the best out of the entire school.

Teaching arrangements this week

Due to Miss Peel and Miss Richmond being away at Ford Castle from Wednesday to Friday this week, the following cover arrangements are in place.

Year 6—I will teach Year 6 all day on Wednesday then Thursday and Friday mornings. As we are near to their SATs week we wanted to ensure there are no disruptions to preparations for these. On Thursday and Friday afternoon, Mrs Pullan will be working with Year 6 on an art project for a display of letters in our school entrance and other topic work they have to complete.

Year 5—will be taught as a whole group on Thursday and Friday afternoons and will be covered by Mrs Byrne and Mrs Brown.

Swimming will still be on this Wednesday for the group of Year 5 children who have their turn this half term.

Miss Richmond's afternoon class will be taught by either myself or Mrs Rusk.

Year 4 children not going to Ford Castle will join our Year 3 class in the morning and the Year 3/4 class in the afternoon.

Concerns raised by a local resident

Unfortunately I had a phone call from a local resident last week. Concerns were raised that children from our school have been climbing on her wall, swinging on her gate and going on her property at home time. I have been told this has caused some damage to aspects of her property. As this is at home time and children are in the care of their parents/family members, then I ask that you please ensure your children are well supervised when they are leaving our school. I have spoken to all children about this during assemblies and have reminded them about the importance of showing respect for the property of others and our community. If your children are older and walk home from school alone, I would be grateful if you could also reinforce this message to them please. Many thanks in anticipation of your support with this.

School Holiday Dates for the Academic Year 2018—2019

*Please give careful consideration to these dates when planning holidays. Absences will only be authorised in **exceptional circumstances** (as determined by guidance from the Local Authority and government) Unauthorised absences can lead to fines as poor attendance can impact significantly on our child's education and progress.*

Please be aware the dates below include days for staff Professional Development Days. Schools are required to have five of these each year (three during term time dates and two during school holidays) We have joined these to either the start or end of holidays , rather than in the middle of terms, to ensure minimum disruption for our families.

Holiday	Closing Date (school closes at the usual time on the dates given be- low)	Date School Re-opens
Summer 2018	Friday 20th July 2018	Tuesday 4th September
Autumn Half Term 2018	Friday 19th October 2018	Tuesday 30th October 2018
Christmas 2018	Thursday 20th December 2018	Monday 7th January 2019
Spring Half Term 2019	Friday 15th February 2019	Monday 25th February 2019
Easter 2019	Friday 5th April 2019	Tuesday 23rd April 2019
May Day 2019	Friday 3rd May 2019	Tuesday 7th May 2019
Summer Half Term 2019	Friday 24th May 2019	Monday 3rd June 2019
Summer 2019	Friday 19th July 2019	To be confirmed