



Newsletter 4th March 2019

Aycliffe Village Primary School



Dear Parents/Carers

Children in Hawthorn Class led a wonderful class assembly last week on the theme of Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone. They shared some of the learning they had covered linked to this class book, including different types of writing, Design Technology and Art. It was lovely to see the response from other children across school who clearly enjoyed it—I visited our Reception Class the next day and one of the pupils had been so inspired he was using the craft materials to make a Harry Potter scarf and wand! Thank you to all family members who joined us for this assembly—it was lovely to have you in school.

Some events last week, highly publicised in the media, made us all reflect on internet safety and its importance for our children. I am sure we will all agree continued work on this is of paramount importance and we will continue to cover this at school through the Curriculum we teach, assemblies and discussions staff have with your children. Please see the second page of this newsletter for some more updates on this.

Mrs H Sutherland
Head Teacher

Talent Show for Comic Relief

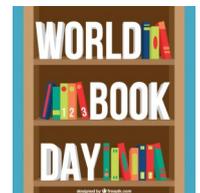
Our School Council have requested we hold a talent show. We will be doing this as part of fundraising for Comic Relief on Friday 15th March. **Entry forms have been shared with children today and they must be returned to school by Friday 8th March for any child who wants to take part.** This is so we can organise heats and the grand final—final arrangements will be confirmed when we know how many children are taking part.



World Book Day and Lime Class Assembly—Thursday 7th March

A reminder that **Lime Class (Year 3)** will be leading an assembly on **Thursday 7th March at 9.00am**. This will be linked to a book they have been reading - The Iron Man. Parents/carers/family members are very welcome to join us for this.

7th March is also World Book Day so children are also invited to dress up as a character from a book.



Celebration Assembly Awards

Outstanding Learner	George H, Archer D, Synnove L
Outstanding Attitude	Alfie J, Brandon T, Sophia W, Mila P
Outstanding Manners	Oscar H, Daisy G
Homework	Arabella Corby-H
Wow Writer	India H, Ashton A
Maths Wizard	Courtney P
Values	Savannah D
Independence and Perseverance	Iyla F, Olivia C
Sports Award	Joe C
Head Teacher Award	Morgan A, Ava P
Golden Broom	Hawthorn Class!



Safeguarding Update—Internet Safety

Following the much publicised concerns on the media (the Momo challenge) linked to internet safety last week, I felt it would be helpful to summarise our school's approach to this. I appreciate it was a worrying time for parents/carers and that some children also became very concerned and upset about it.

We follow advice from safeguarding staff at Durham Local Authority and, when necessary, the police. We are often advised not to draw attention to particular apps as this can cause more panic and add fuel to speculation. However, clearly there are times when we need to mention particular apps/games so we can discuss issues in detail and respond to questions pupils asks.

Our response was to remind all children in Key Stage 2 of guidance on sensible internet use and how to respond to any concerning situations. If they ever see anything concerning online then they **must stop looking at it and report it to an adult immediately**. We also reminded them of other key messages, things we have covered recently as part of Internet Safety day and that we cover regular as part of our Computing and PSHCE curriculums, eg not to share personal details online and to show regard for age guidance on games, social media sites and apps, etc.

Some of the upset that appeared to be caused last week was due to conversations children were having with each other and when rumours and speculation were, at times, being reported as fact. We have reminded children they must avoid this and check with adults for accuracy as we never want any pupils being upset by conversations of this nature.

We did not discuss the specific issues from last week with our Reception and Key Stage 1 children as we did not feel it was appropriate or necessary. It is always difficult to get the balance right with groups of children as some are more aware than others and some ask questions which we feel we need to respond to. Please be reassured we always aim to have these discussions in a calm and reassuring way and share information that is age appropriate. As always, please contact your child's class teacher or myself if you wish to discuss any aspect of this.

Lunchtime Supervisor

We currently have a vacancy for a lunchtime supervisor at our school. This is advertised on Durham County Council's website where you will find more details about the role. You can also request a printed copy of the application pack from Mrs Dolan in our school office. Please mention this to anyone who you think might be interested. The closing date is 4.00pm on Wednesday 6th March.

Year 6 SATs Revision Books

Miss Peel has asked me to mention that she will be available this Thursday after SATs Club (from 4.15 till 4.45) for any parents/carers who would like to look at the SATs revision books and place an order for them. We have ordered some for children to use in school but Miss Peel knows some parents sometimes like to buy additional to use at home.

Attendance for last week

Willow Class	95.2
Horse Chestnut Class	99.0
Sycamore Class	100
Lime Class	96.5
Silver Birch Class	100
Rowan Class	98.0
Hawthorn Class	97.7

Well done to classes Sycamore, Lime, Silver Birch, Rowan and Hawthorn who have all achieved attendance above our minimum target level. Special "Well done" to Sycamore and Silver Birch for 100% attendance that was the best out of the entire school.

PTA Meeting

Our next PTA Meeting will take place this Wednesday from 6.00—7.00. I hope you are able to join us as it would be lovely to have some new members.

Menus

We will soon be introducing the new Taylor Shaw Spring/Summer menu. For those children who have a school meal we will be sending the new menu's home for your child make their selection. More details to follow.

Wow word of the week

