



Newsletter Wednesday 25th March 2020

Aycliffe Village Primary School



Dear Parent / Carer

I wasn't sure whether to write a newsletter this week but thought it might be good to follow usual practice, even if it is a couple of days late. I am a big believer that routine and normality can be good for us and this seems especially important during this challenging time. It is also important we share some positive news, such as names of children who were given certificates in Celebration Assembly last Friday and names of children through to our Aycliffe's Got Talent final!

I would like to thank all staff who are showing such commitment by coming into school to support with child care so we can support key/critical workers to fulfil their essential roles. At a time when most of us feel concern about our own health needs, and those of their families, our staff are putting these thoughts aside and playing their part. I am frustrated I am no longer able to be in school to support with this (due to medical guidance I have received) but am extremely grateful and proud of our staff for all they continue to do.

I hope you and your families are staying well and are surviving the first week—you have all been in my thoughts. I can't decide if many of you will decide you want to become teachers after leading some learning at home with your children or whether you'll have a new found respect for anyone who comes into this profession...

Take care
Mrs H Sutherland

School Closure Updates

- School continues to be open from 8.15 till 4.00 for children of key/critical workers **where there are no other options available to them for child care** (please note we are not able to provide a breakfast for children attending earlier than the usual school starting time).
- **We will be open over the Easter holidays** for children of key/critical workers, if there are families who need this support to enable them to get to work.
- We appreciate work circumstances of many key/critical workers might be changeable. Please just keep us as up to date as possible. Email is best on aycliffevillage@durhamlearning.net or by telephone on 01325 300227.
- As discussed on the phone with some parents earlier this week, our school will provide packed lunches daily for all children who are eligible for Free School Meals. These will be placed on a table just outside our main entrance. Please come and collect them from 11.30 and be considerate of social distancing measures. We have received some information today from the Local Authority about the possibility of a food voucher scheme to support families whose children receive free school meals. Details are not confirmed yet but we will ring you if this comes into fruition and you are eligible for this.

Guidance for Home Learning Activities

As explained in communications last week, staff have prepared and uploaded some suggested activities to do at home to our school website. These can be found in the **Classes section** (see tab at the top of the home page and find your child's class). **Staff email addresses are available there so you can contact them if you have any questions.**

We decided not to print and hand out work packs as it is not possible to provide hard copies of enough work to last for weeks/months. CGP is a company that sells reasonably priced work books if this is something you would like for your child—however there is absolutely no need to do this—I am just suggesting it as an option.

We are looking into other ways of being able to share some ideas electronically (Miss Peel is exploring the use of Google Classroom with her class and we will roll this out with other classes if it proves effective) However I would say please be kind to yourselves. I am aware of many parents (not just from our school) who are putting pressure on themselves to continue their children's education, whilst juggling work commitments, and are concerned about their children falling behind. I think the most important thing, at this point in time, is for children to feel happy and secure during these challenging and uncertain times. If you provide lots of opportunities for conversation, reading and fun learning activities, such as baking, arts and craft, gardening, physical activity, etc this will be very beneficial to them.

Aycliffe's Got Talent!

Huge congratulations to the following children who were chosen to go through to the final of Aycliffe's Got Talent!

Winners from each year group were voted for by their peers



Reception	Lily	Skipping
Year 1	Hannah	Performing rhymes
Year 2	Adam and Ethan	Singing and playing guitar
Year 3	Harry	Comedy
Year 4	Hannah	Singing
Year 5	Claudia	Singing
Year 6	Chloe	Dancing



Wild Cards were chosen by staff

Wild Card	Susie	Ventriloquist
Wild Card	Oliver	Guitarist
Wild Card	Eloise	Keyboard player

Thank you also to all children who took part in the heats—your efforts were much appreciated. The talent in our school is amazing!

Wow word of the week



Can you find out the meaning of this word and guess why I chose it this week?

Celebration Assembly Awards

Well done to the children below who were chosen for awards in our Celebration Assembly last Friday!



Outstanding Attitude	Daisy G
Outstanding Manners	Sophie F, Myles F
Wow Writer	Jamie L
Values	Adam L, Eden S, Harvey W, Robyn E
Maths Wizard	Sebastian L, Hannah C
Reading Rockstar	William P, Sam S
Head Teacher Award	Laylah M, Imogen C, Charlie P
Golden Broom	Willow and Rowan Classes!