



Newsletter 27th April 2020

# Aycliffe Village Primary School



Dear Parents/Carers

There are some lovely additions to our school grounds that I am sure all children will enjoy once school reopens. Children who are currently attending school have worked with staff to create this fabulous mosaic. Thank you to the children who helped with this and to Mrs Pullan for pulling it all together. We think it will be placed in the sensory garden area in our school field. A beautiful and special reminder of the very unusual time we are living through.



We now also have a fantastic Bug Hotel on our school grounds. Thank you to Miss Peel, Miss Dunn and children for making this. I am sure you will agree it looks like 5 star accommodation for any visiting bugs!!



Take care  
Mrs H Sutherland  
Head Teacher

## Refunds for After School Clubs and Willow Class School Trip

Mrs Swainston will be arranging refunds to Parent Pay accounts for after school clubs that haven't taken place. She will also arrange refunds for Willow Class's planned trip to Hardwick Park.

## Update about Ford Castle Residential Trip

Year 4 should have been heading to Ford Castle this week and I am sure many of them are feeling very disappointed about this. I am therefore delighted to let you know we have liaised with Ford Castle to rearrange the trip from 14th to 16th October! If anyone has any questions about this, please email school on [aycliffevillage@durhamlearning.net](mailto:aycliffevillage@durhamlearning.net)



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**Update about Vouchers for Free School Meals**

These are finally all up and running for our school! I want to thank Mrs Swainston for her hard and patience with all of this. She has spent many hours (and I am not exaggerating!) trying to use a system that was completely overwhelmed and painfully slow to work with. Hopefully things will be easier moving forwards. If anyone receiving the vouchers has any issues with them, please email school and we will do all we can to help.

**VE Day—Friday 8th May 2020**

It is such a shame that the planned community events have had to be cancelled due to the current situation. However, as a school, we are determined that this very important event won't be overlooked. Teachers will be arranging some home learning activities next week based on this special day. Children currently attending school will be having a red, white and blue party, cooking using some recipes from the time and playing some traditional games. Some of you might also be engaging in the VE Family Day Festivals at home (observing social distancing, of course!).

Our school was recently contacted by a multimedia officer from Durham County Council. They shared details with us of an entry into our school's log book on 8th May 1945. I thought you might enjoy reading and sharing this with your children. We can only imagine the jubilation everyone must have felt after nearly 6 years at war!

**Aycliffe Village School Log Book: 1945 (written by the Head Teacher)**

*May 8: VE Day. It was announced on the radio that Mr Churchill would announce the unconditional surrender of Germany at 3pm today and that this day and the following would be taken as a national holiday.*

*But according to County regulations issued, school was open as usual, but only 50 per cent of scholars present. The milk supplier came to say he had cancelled the order for milk as he expected the school closed, so with no milk and no school dinners I was free to dismiss the children. After prayers and some attention to the rabbits and the greenhouse, we played games and the children went home at 11.30am and were told that the rest of the day and the following day were a national holiday. The registers were not marked.*



**Something to make you smile...**

The article in the link below made me laugh when I read it earlier and I thought it might resonate with many of you too! Supporting children with home learning whilst continuing to work, certainly isn't easy! Please be kind to yourselves.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-52458237>