

# NEWSLETTER

## NOVEMBER 2013

Dear Parents and Friends

**Welcome to the November Newsletter.** Last half term was very busy with lots of interesting learning (don't forget to catch up on the web-site) and of course the **roof work** meant we all had to be very flexible! I know it can be frustrating when we're changing arrangements for getting children into school, but if something isn't working, please come and let us know. At the moment we're on schedule, with all of lower school completed and **Y3 and 4** in their new base at the top of the upper school corridor. It feels strange with no-one in the upper school corridor facing the yard, but hopefully if the weather is kind it won't be too long until Y5 and Y6 are back in main school.

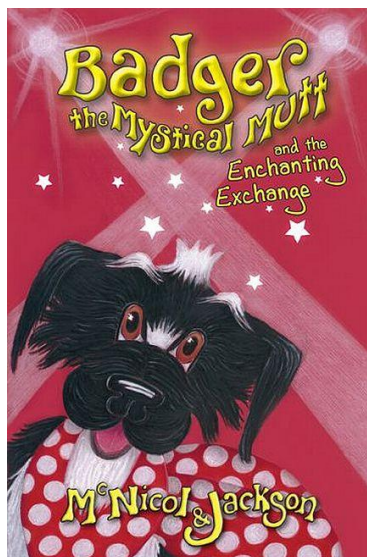


Thank you to all of you who came along to our **transition meetings**. This was our second year of teachers meeting with you to explain what you can expect for your child in the coming year. You have told us that you really value these opportunities on your comment cards, but if things crop up during the year that you think we should have included please let us know.

As you know reading is still one of our whole school priorities this year. We know that the children are becoming more skilful at decoding words but we want to really get them hooked into reading this year. We had a visit from

**McNicol & Jackson who are the authors of Badger the Mystical Mutt.** The website is well worth a look - <http://www.badgerthemysticalmutt.com/>

<http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading-owl/at-school> is a good place for ideas, e.g. Julia Donaldson the children's author has 10 tips for good reading.



**Some of the other things we're doing to promote reading include:**

- **Come Dine and Read with Me**
- **Scholastic Book Fayre**
- **Book Swap in the main foyer**
- **Reading Champions**
- **Premier League Reading Stars**

We are keen to reward the children who read the most and will be talking to them about it. Our focus for **Parents Evening** this term will be reading, so come along to the main school hall to find out more. <http://www.readingzone.com/home.php>

November is **Michael Morpurgo** month in recognition of the author's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. Try his website <http://www.michaelmorpurgo.com/> for his book of the day. Also worth a look are <http://www.lovereading4kids.co.uk/> and <http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading-owl/find-a-book/>.

In maths we continue to focus on counting and times tables – so remember to practise. <http://www.mathszone.co.uk/number-facts-xd/>

Learning across the rest of the curriculum went well last half term too. In EYFS we had a great Halloween Stay and Play, with mams, dads and grandparents all coming along for the sessions. In KS1 the children went to Asda to find out about different foods and mapped their journey there.



Collecting sunflower seeds in EYFS and searching for food groups in ASDA



We always try to make the learning real for the children and one of our long term favourite visitors **Maximus** visited Y3 and Y4, when the children were able to practise their battle formation called the **TESTUDO**. This means tortoise in Latin and you can see why from the photo. Have a look at this web-site. <http://primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/romans/formation.html>



Y5 and Y6 children visited **Bessie Surtees Tudor House** in Newcastle as part of their Tudor enquiry. We finished before the holidays with a fabulous **Harvest Festival and Halloween Discos**. Thanks to Mr Hogg and Mrs. Jennings the older children had a toasty time around the camp fire with marshmallows. You did the children proud with all the amazing costumes which were more gruesome than ever.





Y6 had their residential experience at **Hawes End in the Lake District**, which was all about setting them up for the challenges ahead. The focus was very much on them working as a team and supporting each other. They all had an absolutely brilliant time as you can see from the photos.

We have now selected the 12 new Y6 prefects as well as Head Girl Victoria Armstrong and Head Boy Jack Richardson. Look out for their faces on the display in the entrance hall. All children in Y6 are encouraged to take a job within school as part of their personal development. The adverts are out at the moment and the closing date is Friday. The posts include play rangers, librarians and receptionists and many more.

Now of course we're on the run up to **Christmas**, so you can look forward to parties and productions etc. Before then we have the **autumn term parents' evening** so please try to come along. Our **new prefects** will be on duty to show you around the school and answer any queries.



Starting next week we are supporting Anti-Bullying Week with lots of events in school. The focus is cyber-bullying and about being safe and staying safe. We are going to have a coffee and chat drop in on Tuesday morning from 9 – 9.30am in the foyer, so come along and find out more.

Best wishes

Jackie Chevaugon

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Tuesday, 12 November	Free School Meal for Reception, Year 1 & 2
Wednesday, 13 November	Free School Meal for Years 3, 4, 5 & 6
Thursday, 14 November	School Council Visit to County Hall
Friday, 15 November	Children in Need - Pyjama Day
Tuesday, 19 November	9.00 – 9.30 coffee n chat Anti-Bullying Week Free School Meal for Reception, Year 1 & 2
Thursday, 21 November	Ali Sparks - Author - Visit Years 5/6 Girls Netball @ Blyth Sports Centre
Monday, 25 November	Come Dine & Read - Reception
Tuesday, 26 November	Come Dine & Read - Year 1 Parent Interviews – 3.30 – 7.00pm
Wednesday, 27 November	Come Dine & Read - Year 2
Thursday, 28 November	Come Dine & Read - Year 3
Tuesday, 3 December	Come Dine & Read - Year 4 Year 6 - Blyth Academy PE Day
Wednesday, 4 December	Come Dine & Read - Year 5
Thursday, 5 December	Come Dine & Read - Year 6
Thursday, 12 December	School Choir visit to South Bebside Care Home
Friday, 13 December	EYFS Christmas Production (am & pm)
Monday, 16 December	Key Stage 1 Production (am and pm)
Tuesday, 17 December	Key Stage 1 Christmas Party Lower Key Stage 2 Production (afternoon & evening)
Wednesday, 18 December	School Christmas Lunch EYFS Christmas Party Upper Key Stage 2 Production (afternoon & evening)
Thursday, 19 December	Upper School Christmas Party
Friday, 20 December	Whole School Panto Lunch then school finishes at 1.30
Wednesday, 8 January 2014	School Re-opens for pupils