

Newsletter September 2014

Dear Parents and Friends

Welcome back to the start of another school year. I have spoken to many of you at the end of last term and since the start of this one and I know you are just as delighted as we are at the outcome of our Ofsted Inspection. The good judgement has been a long time coming but in some ways feels all the better because of it. During the inspection, the children absolutely shone and then to cap it all we had our best yet end of Key Stage 2 results with 91% achieving level 4+. Not only are we above national, we are very close to the best in Northumberland.



The end of last year was as poignant as ever with our Year 6 children sharing their dreams and aspirations and moving onto secondary school. **Shakespeare Rocks** was their production and they excelled with a full house for three performances. I suspect the singing could be heard in Asda, but probably the best thing of all is how much they discover about themselves when challenged to do something different. Our **Annual Prom** which is becoming a real community event, brought sunshine and smiles – and didn't they look amazing! The leavers' year book is available in the foyer – pop in to have a look.



Enjoy the photos
Didn't they look grand!



I'm delighted to welcome **Mrs Judith Rose** to the Early Years' team. She has a wealth of experience in the early years having previously worked for the local authority as well as in a range of schools and settings. Mrs McDonald and Mrs Rose will be the nursery teachers for the coming year. Some other staff have moved year groups, but otherwise we have maintained what is now officially a strong team! Just last week we appointed **June Carlisle** to the post of **Family and Pastoral Support Worker**. She will be joining us in the middle of October and will be available at our first parents' meetings in November.

Now for this year and as well as the usuals we have some new events too. We are well underway with our preparation for the 2 year old provision Horton Early Starters, which will be open by January at the latest. If you know of anyone who has a 2 or almost 2 year old please ask them to contact school or look on the Northumberland web-site at www.northumberland.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=15706 where there is more information. There is a booklet to download on the school website and Facebook page or you can pop into the office for more information.

As you will no doubt have heard there is a new **National Curriculum**. We are already up to speed with the English maths and science with three new schemes which your children may talk about and you will see at the parents' evening. In **English** we still use **Read, Write Inc** phonics and then follow up with **Get Writing** and **Literacy and Language**. There is a national focus on the importance of children not just being able to read, but on them reading lots of different kinds of books. We are always keen to have volunteer reading supporters in school – **please contact Mrs McDonald or Mr Fields** – who will train you for the role.

Look at - <http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/>

In **maths** we use **Numicon**, **Every Child a Counter** and **Broadbent Maths** (google each for more info.) There has been a real shift in expectation in that all children are now expected to know all the times tables up to 12 x 12 by the end of Y4. We will be putting our **Tables Challenge** in place soon – but in the meantime practise, practise, practise!
http://www.transum.org/Tables/Times_Tables.asp

Our new science scheme **Snap Science** is already going down really well with the children. There are lots of practical experiments so if you would like to help with that or our garden please have a word with Mrs Brownrigg our science leader. She recommends this website for outdoors ideas: www.naturedetectives.org

In **French** we have expanded our teaching to include years 3 and 4 as well as years 5 and 6. Although we have always introduced other languages across the school, through story rhyme and song this is now systematically taught across lower as well as upper KS2. Mrs Whitehead is the MFL (Modern Foreign Language Leader) and we are currently talking to Newcastle University about becoming a language hub school for Northumberland. Look out for our French Day on Friday 26th September when you will have a chance to go into your child's class to see some French being taught. We plan to run 2 sessions in Y2,3,4,5 and 6 as follows.

Session 1	9.00 – 9.30	meet in foyer for coffee and croissants
	9.30 – 10.00	classroom learning
Session 2	1.50 – 2.20	classroom learning
	2.20 – 2.50	coffee and croissants

We'll finish the afternoon with assembly when we'll share some of our activities.

As we go through the year we are developing our topics for the other subjects and these will be available on the website. We are however in the process of designing a new website, so please be patient while we get it underway. I'm hoping it will be up after half term but I'll keep you posted. In the meantime we will of course continue to use our Facebook page and text messages to keep you up to speed. Please let us know if you think something isn't working then we can try to put it right.

This time last year we held transition meetings for Years 1 – 6 and you told us that they helped you understand year group expectations. This is an opportunity for you to meet with the teachers and for them to tell you about the class and the learning. We've planned them for this year as follows:

Y1	Thursday 2 nd October 2-30 pm
Y2	Friday 3 rd October 9.15am
Y3/4	Monday 6 th October 9.15am
Y5	Monday 6 th October 2.30pm
Y6	Monday 6 th October 3.30pm

Details of where each meeting will be held will follow soon.

Individual Parent / Child Assertive mentoring meetings are planned for Tuesday 25th November – details to follow.

We have been talking to Dr. Bike and we are keen to set up a cycling club, because as Dr Bike says cycling keeps the body and the mind healthy. Morpeth Road has kindly offered us the use of their bikes, but we want to buy our own. We are planning a sponsored event but if you have any ideas for fundraising, or would like to take part in our cycle club please talk to Mr. Harker.

You will find attached a letter from Sharon Common who has been Chair of our PTA for a number of years. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sharon for all of her hard work, positive attitude and commitment. Through her and our other parents plus Mrs McDonald we have built a really strong PTA. Don't let it founder - come to the PTA meeting on 23 September at 5.30 (we provide coffee and choccy biscuits!)

Our aim is to reduce the number of paper copies we send to you, so please keep us up to date with your contact details and let us know if you don't have access to either Facebook or the website.

Breakfast Club is running once again in the dining room from 8.00am to start of school. This is 50p per day and is run by Mrs Jennings. We use the door half way along the drive at the back of the main school hall – ring the bell!

After school clubs currently up and running are:

Homework Club Y5/6	Monday 3.30 – 4.30pm
Y5/6 football club	Tuesday 3.30 – 4.30
First Aid Club Y5	Thursday 3.30 – 4.30 – see Mrs O'Connell

More will follow in the near future, we are aiming to have all clubs for the whole year in place by half term, so let us know if you have any ideas.

That's all for now – but don't forget to let us know if you have any worries or concerns. All it takes is a phone call to the office and someone will get back to you.

Best wishes to all

Jackie Chevaugeron

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Monday, 15 September	Y5/6 Homework Club starts
Tuesday, 16 September	Y5/5 Football Club starts
Wednesday, 17 September	Bikers' Breakfast & Dr Bike
Wednesday, 17 September	Meeting for Year 5 Parents re London Trip
Thursday, 18 September	Group 1 First Aid Club starts (for 5 weeks)
Friday, 19 September	Get Off Your Stabilizers - Year 1
Week commencing 22 September	Inspiring Languages week
Tuesday, 23 September	Osiligi Maasai Warriors
Tuesday, 23 September	PTA Meeting - 5.30 pm
Friday, 26 September	European day of Languages – French Day
Wednesday, 1 October	Y5/6 Visit to Blyth/Tynemouth/South Shields
Thursday 2 October 2-30 pm	Y1 Transition Meeting
Friday 3 October 9.15am	Y2 Transition Meeting
Monday 6 October 9.15am	Y3/4 Transition Meeting
Monday 6 October 2.30pm	Y5 Transition Meeting
Monday 6 October 3.30pm	Y6 Transition Meeting
Friday 25 October	HALF TERM HOLIDAY
Monday 3 November	Teacher Training Day
Tuesday, 4 November	SCHOOL RESTARTS
Wednesday, 5 November	12.00-12.40 - Multi-skills (for 5 weeks)
Thursday, 6 November	Recycling assemblies
Sunday, 9 November	Remembrance Sunday
Thursday, 13 November	KS2 Recycling Workshops
Thursday, 20 November	KS2 Recycling Workshops
Tuesday, 25 November	Individual Parent / Child Assertive mentoring Meetings
Wednesday, 17 December	Christmas Lunch
Friday, 19 December	Panto Children stay for lunch then school finishes at 1.30

Dates to follow:

- **EYFS Stay and Play**
- **Come Dine and Read**
- **Read Write Inc – classroom visits**
- **Literacy and Language – classroom visits**
- **World War 1 – cross school topic**
- **Book Fayre**
- **Christmas Calendar**