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17<sup>th</sup> December 2012

Dear Parents

### PUPIL PREMIUM

As you may have heard in the News, the Government is giving additional money to schools – called Pupil Premium Funding – based on the number of Free School Meals pupils, looked after children and children of service families on school's roll during the January census day.

This additional money helps us maintain and enhance existing provision in our school by funding our inclusion mentor and some of our teaching assistant support. It is also used to provide additional curriculum opportunities such as ukulele and cornet tuition and it subsidises educational visits and activities such as swimming.

The Pupil Premium makes a huge difference to the support we can offer our pupils and I urge you to register for free school meals if you think you may be eligible, even if your child currently has a packed lunch.

### CHESTNUT CLASS

As you know, Mr Coates has been absent for some time, and unfortunately he will not be returning to school. Mrs Patterson has been teaching in Chestnut Class during Mr Coates' absence and I am delighted to say that she has agreed to continue in that role until July. I would like to thank her for the work she has done so far, and am looking forward to working with her for the rest of this academic year.

### PRIMARY SCHOOL

The children and staff have all settled well into Primary School life. We are ensuring there are opportunities for us all to be together by holding joint assemblies, and through Y5 attending PE on the High School site and Y6 working some afternoons on the main school site. However, we are very much looking forward to next September when we will finally join together on the main site, and preparations to allow this to happen are now underway. I will keep you informed of developments during this exciting time!

### FAMILY LEARNING – ONE STEP AHEAD

In January we will be beginning a course to help you support your child in literacy. The course, which will take place in school, will be run by Northumberland County Council's Family Learning Team and will cover many aspects of literacy. The course will be held on Tuesday mornings from the 22<sup>nd</sup> January for 9 weeks. If you would like more information please come along to an informal 'Cuppa and a Chat' session on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> January at 9.00am in school.

### JANUARY 2013

Please remember that doors will reopen at 8.45am on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2013 for our new term. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a healthy and happy new year.

Yours sincerely

Mrs P. Mulholland  
Head Teacher