

"In any given moment we have two options; to step forward into growth or step back into safety" - Abraham Maslow

celebrating success

Attendance

Sycamore class had the highest attendance last week with 99%. Whole school was 94%. Please don't forget to ring 01670 822326 if your child is going to be late or unable to attend school. Thank you.

Star of the Week

Star of the Week Certificates were all given to the following children: Rhys Lloyd, Grace Challoner, Sophie Hudspith, Nathan Uddgren-Barham, Hayden Clark, Chelsie Packer and Thomas Kerry. These children all had Star Tea with Mr Sutherland due to their exemplary attitude.

Head Teacher Awards

The following children were all given a Head Teacher Award Certificate for their outstanding work last week: Jake White, Georgia Cowen, Ruby Richardson, Kasey Humble, Shay Foster, Adam Holland and Olivia Bailey. Well done to all of you and keep up the good work!

Ice Cream Friday

The following children all had ice cream sundaes at Ice-cream Friday last week: Matthew Metcalf, Simon Philpot, Katie-Leigh Robson, Evie Moat, Morgan Struthers, Jakub Rudnicki and Kelsie Saddler. These children were rewarded because of their outstanding behaviour.

important information

Balanceability

Last week we welcomed Balanceability into our school to work with our Reception children in Willow Class. This is the UK's first and only accredited "learn to cycle" activity programme for children from the age of two and a half years, specifically to help develop confidence, spatial awareness and dynamic balance.

Balanceability benefits children in the following ways:

- Physical improvement through the development of Gross Motor Skills such as balance, co-ordination, agility, core strength and flexibility.
- Gets children cycling much earlier without stabilisers
- Increase children's confidence, self-esteem and resilience

The children loved the sessions which I have introduced as the start of a whole-school push on safer cycling and scooting. I hope to run further sessions in school later in the year, including some training for staff and work with Partnership schools. We have been part of the Bikeability scheme over the last few years for our older children and you already know that we will be having a new Bike Shed and Cycling and Scooter contracts later this year.

Uniform Issues - An Apology

I know that some parents and carers have had difficulty with uniform orders this academic year. Our supplier was already operating on a 2-week backlog when school placed the order before the summer holidays. We then had additional requests for uniform to add to this list which I'm afraid then added to the delay. I believe we have now had a delivery in so I am hoping that most children now have their orders and we will endeavour to get any remaining items to you as quickly as we can. We have spoken to the manager who has said that they took on too much work at one time which has caused the backlog. He apologised unreservedly for any inconvenience caused. I also apologise to you all and thank you for your patience and understanding.

I can assure you that it is not in our interest to hold onto any orders, especially as I am so grateful that the majority of our children wear their uniform every day. I am very appreciative of your support in this area. I know that some schools now work with companies who have uniform shops or warehouses where parents need to go to order, pay for and collect their items. I have to do this for my 4 children at the school they attend and I can assure you it is not an experience I relish or would recommend, having done it many times myself. I would far rather work with the school and pick it up from there, which is more convenient and also cheaper, as these companies then put a mark-up on the prices to cover their own costs. We have been offered this facility by a company which I turned down. If however, as parents you would prefer this method of payment and collection then please let me know.

Say NO to Bullying

I attended an assembly for Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 children yesterday led by Mr Layton with the theme "Say NO to Bullying". The assembly and the accompanying leaflets and posters educated the children on how to tell the difference between someone being Rude, Mean or whether the behaviour can be termed Bullying. The message was very clear and the children gave lots of examples as to what this might look like and what to do if it happens to them. A leaflet has been sent home for you to see but please talk to your children about what it means and ask for their thoughts and opinions. I firmly believe that instances of bullying in our school are very rare and we deal with them quickly and decisively when informed. I can assure you I will not tolerate bullying in any form within our school setting and will do whatever I can to stop it. This initiative is another measure to help tackle this issue and ensure we prevent it happening in the future. Children will have the opportunity to discuss this further in class with their teacher and Willow and Acorn classes will have these important messages given to them in class to ensure that they know what it looks like and what to do if it happens.

Play Patch Update

I'm sure you will have notice that work has begun on the Play Patch construction and everyone is very excited. The work is due to be finished tomorrow, if all runs to plan and the weather holds. As I have said, we will then have a Grand Opening on a date to be announced soon. Needless to say we have had to cordon off areas of the yard and are being extremely careful when walking children around the site. The safety of your children in my care is my number one priority. Of course, they are keen to see what is happening to the site and we are able to let them watch from time to time from safe areas and ask lots of questions.

MacMillan Coffee Afternoon

Thank you to all parents/carers who attended our Macmillan Coffee morning last week, as always this PTA event was well attended and we have raised a fantastic £210.41. Thank you again for your fundraising efforts for this worthy cause.

Governors Coffee Morning

Our parent governors are holding a coffee morning at East Bedlington Community Centre on Tuesday 10th October from 9.10am-10.15am. This is an opportunity for parents to share views, concerns and ask questions. Free tea and coffee will be available.

Important Notice - Secondary and High School Application Deadline

The Northumberland County Council (NCC) admissions portal opened on **Monday 11th September** for parents to apply for their middle, secondary or high school place for September 2018.

The portal will close on the **31st October**. NCC have informed me that they are not writing to parents individually this year, and have asked us to please help ensure that all parents apply on time and know the consequences of not submitting an application on time. I have displayed a poster on the school noticeboard for your information but if you have any questions or are unsure then please feel free to contact us and we will advise you.