

Thought of the Week: "I am not what happened to me, I am what I choose to become." – Carl Gustav Jung

## celebrating success

### Star of the Week

Star of the Week Certificates were given to the following children: Dominic Long, Nathan Mason, Harry Mason, Alfie Robson, Toni-Lea Hudspith, Lucas Rushton and Nathan Roy. These children all had Star Tea with Mr Sutherland due to their exemplary attitude.

### Ice-Cream Friday

The following children all had ice cream sundaes at last week at Ice-Cream Friday: Lili-Ann Ferrier, Jacob Cook-Syborn, Kirah O'Brien, Alex Roy, Ryleigh Tomlinson, Charli-Sioux McLeod and Eleanor Jordan. These children were rewarded for their exemplary behaviour.

### Head Teacher Awards

The following children were all given a Head Teacher Award Certificate for their outstanding work last week: Ryan Davies, Jaycob Short, Finn Besford, Rob Holman, Conner Dodds, Dylan McMorn and Lewis Stanton. Well done to all of you and keep up the good work!

### Attendance

Chestnut class had the highest attendance last week with 99%. Whole school attendance was 97%. Please don't forget to ring 01670 822326 if your child is going to be late or unable to attend.

### Mathletics

Sycamore class once again had the highest points the week last week with 41,126 points. Chelsie Packer had the highest individual score last week with 6,856 points. Well done everyone!!

## important information

### Parents' Evenings and Ongoing Communication

Thank you to all parents and carers who were able to attend our Parents' Evenings on Monday and Tuesday of this week. We were delighted to see you all in school and hope that you found the chance to talk to your child's class teacher helpful. If you were unable to make your appointment for any reason or could not attend and would like to, please contact your child's teacher or the school office and we will be happy to make an appointment at a mutually convenient time. I think it's so important that we get the chance to meet with you to share and celebrate your child's achievements at least once per term if possible. Thank you to those of you who took the time to complete one of our Evaluation Forms. At the time of writing this newsletter we have had 40 returned to us, which is the highest number we have ever had. If you haven't returned yours yet please bring it to the school office and they will ensure that they are passed to me. I have read each one and they are overwhelmingly positive about the school and the teaching and learning that happens here which is so pleasing for me to read. Either myself or a member of SLT will get back to individual parents where a query has been raised and a response is required but I do know from reading the forms that most issues have been resolved with the class teacher on the night or the class teacher will get back to you with additional information as soon as possible.

Can I please stress that I or any member of our teaching staff are always happy to meet with you to discuss any issue you may have or just to talk about and share information on the progress of your child; in other words, anything that keeps our lines of communication open and helps to keep you informed. I try to be out on the yard or at the doors to greet children in the morning or after school, (and sometimes both), so please feel free to come and talk to me and if I can help there and then, I will. If not, I am happy to make an appointment with you to discuss the matter in more depth.

Teachers and support staff are usually stationed at or around their classroom doors or just inside the classroom to welcome the children at the beginning of the day. Sometimes it is possible to get a quick word with them then or at the end of the day but their primary responsibility, particularly lower down the school, is to ensure that the children enter the classroom to begin their learning quickly and safely and that they are handed over to parents

and carers safely at the end of the day. Both these times can be quite frenetic, as I am sure you can appreciate, with lots of parents and children around at the same time and it is not always possible or easy to have a meaningful or productive conversation. There are often several parents trying to have a quick word all at the same time and it is important, unless it is a brief query, that we are able to focus on your own particular issue. I would therefore please strongly encourage you either to quickly ask the teacher if they can make an appointment to meet with you at a mutually convenient time or call in at the School Office where an appointment can be made for you.

To clarify - we have whole-school Parents' Evenings once in the autumn term and once in the spring term, with an opportunity to meet with the teacher again after your child's report has been sent home at the end of the academic year.

However, please don't wait until those evenings if you want to talk about progress or look at your child's work. I spoke to all class teachers this morning and all are happy to meet with parents at any mutually convenient time throughout the year.

Thank you once again for your support of our lovely school but please don't wait for another Parents' Evening or Evaluation Form if you have a query or question in the future; either catch me in the yard or make an appointment and I or a member of our teaching staff, will be happy to help. Thank you.

### **Admission Arrangements – Consultation by Northumberland County Council (NCC)**

Consultation is now open on Northumberland County Council's proposed Admission Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools for entry into Reception and transfers to middle and secondary school in September 2018.

Overview - All schools must have admission arrangements that set out clearly how children will be admitted to schools. Admission arrangements must include the criteria that will be applied if there are more applications for a school than there are places available. Northumberland County Council is the admission authority for all community and voluntary controlled schools in Northumberland.

Why are NCC consulting? - The Admissions Code 2014 requires admission authorities to consult on their admission arrangements once every seven years even if there are no changes proposed. This consultation will apply to the admission arrangements for entry into schools in September 2018. A six week consultation is now open and runs from now until 21 December 2016. The link below will direct you to the relevant section where you will find the proposed admissions arrangements on the Council's website

<http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/About/Contact/Consultation.aspx#schooladmissionsarrangementsconsultation>

Hard copies of the documents are available on request.

Please forward any comments on the proposed arrangements by email to [school.admissions@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:school.admissions@northumberland.gov.uk) or by telephone to 01670 624889

Further information can be found on the DfE webpage, please refer to the School Admissions Code at: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/389388/School\\_Admissions\\_Code\\_2014\\_-\\_19\\_Dec.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/389388/School_Admissions_Code_2014_-_19_Dec.pdf)

Following the outcomes of consultation, the admission arrangements for 2018/19 for community and voluntary schools will be finalised by the Council in February 2017.

### **Children In Need**

Tomorrow, Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November is **Children in Need** and the theme this year is Spotacular (dress 'spotty') for a minimum donation of £1.00. Don't forget we are selling Chocolate crispy cakes at 20p each.

### **Upcoming Dates for your Diary**

Tue 29 Nov/Thu 1 Dec - Elf Shelf - 3.15pm - 5.15pm - Please see accompanying letter for more information.

Wed 7 Dec – Christmas Lunch - More information to follow next week.

Wed 7 Dec – Christmas Fair opens at 3.15pm - More information to follow next week.

Tue 13 Dec/Wed 14 Dec - Christmas Performances at St Johns Church 2.15pm - More information to follow soon.