

Thought of the Week: "When you talk, you are only repeating what you already know. But if you listen, you may learn something new." – Dalai Lama

celebrating success

Attendance

Maple class had the highest attendance with 99%. Whole school was 97% which is above our target of 95%. Well done again everyone!

Please don't forget to ring 01670 822326 if your child is going to be late or unable to attend school. Thank you.

Head Teacher Awards

The following children were all given a Head Teacher Award Certificate for their outstanding work last week: Eloise Douglas, Chloe Hibberd, Hayden Clark, Nikita Linney, Josie Blackwood, Nathan Roy and Connor Gibbon. Well done to all of you and keep up the good work!

Pudding of the Week

The pudding of the week was chosen by Willow class and the children are very excited about their creation. It is called '**Fantastic Firework Fun**' and it will be served on Thursday 12th November.

Mathletics – KS2

KS2 Mathletics winners prior to half term were Rowan class with 36,235 points, Katie Agnew with 11,245 points but Emma Archer had the highest points in October with 13,592. Well done everyone!

Greener Time

As it was the end of half term all children who stayed green were able to participate in various activities around school.

important information

Welcome Back

A warm welcome back to everyone after the half-term break. I hope that you managed to spend some quality time with family and friends and feel refreshed and energised. It was lovely to see all the children back in school at our whole-school assembly on Monday morning and many of them have told me about all the exciting things they did on their week away as I have been walking around school. I have been impressed with their desire to also get straight back to their learning in the classrooms, so there is certainly no let-up in our desire to be the best we can be.

Fire Safety

As promised, already this week we have had a visit from Red Watch Fire and Rescue Service, who talked to the children at assembly on Tuesday about the need to be safe around fire, bonfires and fireworks, particularly at this time of year. Whether you are attending an organised firework display or putting on something at home or at family or friends', I hope everyone is able to enjoy the fireworks safely this week.

School Photographer

You will know that the school photographer was in our school yesterday. I am sure you can imagine the logistical difficulties involved in ensuring that all children and families who wish to be photographed are seen to as quickly as possible. The sheer numbers involved, along with the relatively small space we have available in school, means there are significant challenges to be overcome. I would like to thank all children, parents and carers for their patience and understanding whilst we made sure that everyone was seen. Can I also thank all the staff from Bedlington Station who helped to keep things running so smoothly all day. Please don't forget to return your completed order form as soon as possible.

School Meals

Our new Winter Menus are up and running and you can view them on our web-site or in our school noticeboard, should you wish to. The menus are also clearly visible for children in the main school building so that they can see what they will be having that day and what is coming up later in the week.

Bikeability

Next week, Bikeability will be taking place for our Year 4, 5 and 6 children. Please see the separate paragraph below for up-to-date information and please make sure your child brings his or her bike in on the correct day. If you have any questions please speak to your class teacher or call in at the Office.

Years 4, 5 and 6 children

For those children involved in Bikeability week next week, we ask that they come to school dressed in appropriate clothing ready to take part (trainers, jogging trousers, t shirt, hoody/jumper and coat). Whenever your child is taking part in their cycling training, they will need to leave their bike in the cordoned off area on the left hand side as you come through the school gates.

Year 4: Monday and Tuesday Years 5 and 6: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.

Parents' Evenings

You have all been sent a letter home about Parents' Evenings, which are also taking place next week on Monday and Tuesday after school. Please make sure you have signed up for an appointment and if you are unable to make either of those days please speak to your class teacher who will be happy to arrange an alternative appointment at a mutually convenient time. At the end of your meeting with the teacher, you will be given a feedback form to complete. We would be very grateful if you could spare two minutes to write down any thoughts or views you may wish to share. This may be an acknowledgement of things that are going well or an area where you feel we could do better. Any ideas or suggestions on how to improve would be much appreciated. All feedback forms will be read by Mr Sutherland and either he, or a member of the Senior Leadership Team will respond personally to any queries you may have. Please leave them outside the classroom before you leave or hand them in at the Office if you wish them to remain confidential.

Parking Safely Around Our School

Further to my note on our newsletter a couple of weeks ago about parking, I also wish to inform you that, as part of the measures to deal with ongoing parking problems more effectively, Northumberland County Council (NCC) are introducing a parking enforcement vehicle. Since April 2012 the Council's Civil Enforcement Officers have been carrying out enforcement of schools' "keep clear" restrictions and other parking regulations outside schools. In the interim this had a significant positive impact on behaviours of drivers dropping off and collecting children from school. Experience has shown that when officers are in attendance the behaviours of drivers are improved. However when there is no enforcement presence there is a significant decline in safe parking and compliance with the regulations in place.

The new vehicle will monitor the County schools' keep clear restrictions and from information gathered by the camera, any vehicle found to be parked in contravention of the regulations will be issued with a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) by post. Northumberland County Council regularly receives complaints about road safety concerns outside of their schools. These can include issues such as speeding, inconsiderate parking and the safety of children accessing school. For many years NCC have worked with schools and parents as well as local residents however these issues continue to cause growing concern.

Over the coming weeks NCC will be delivering a communications programme to help raise awareness of the vehicle. They will work with the local press and social media and will also be working with a number of schools on specific awareness raising and events. There will also be an opportunity for some school children and local stakeholders to look inside the vehicle and learn more about how it will be used to improve road safety.

There will be an initial period of training however it is planned that the vehicle will be fully operational from January 2016. In the meantime, we will keep you informed of any developments as they occur.

Poppies – Remembrance Sunday

Don't forget we are selling Poppies in school for a minimum donation of 50p and other items too such as: friendship bracelets and rulers £1 each and wristbands, reflectors and small boxes of coloured pencils all for 50p each. All proceeds will go towards the Royal British Legion.

Halloween Disco

A big thank you to everyone that came along to the Halloween disco and to the PTA for organising this event, £180 was raised on the night towards school activities.

Children In Need

Children in Need will be held next Friday 13th November. The theme is come dressed as: your hero, a hero, a new hero or a Superhero for a minimum £1 donation. Chocolate crispy cakes will also be on sale Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for 20p.

School Admissions for Reception The Online Portal is now OPEN for First and Primary School Places for children starting school in September 2016 and will be open from 2nd November 2015 until 15th January 2016.