



Whittonstall and Broomley First Schools

4 November 2022



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Our overall attendance this week was

96.4%

Well done everyone! Keep up the good work everyone!



Welcome to our Half Termly Newsletter

Welcome back to school everyone. We've heard lots of lovely stories about everyone's half term this week and it sounds like you have all had a restful, fun break. The children have returned to school refreshed and ready to continue their learning.

This half term is always one of the busiest in school, as we have a lot going on! We have tried to give you as much notice and information as we can to keep you as up to date as possible but please keep in mind that sometimes events in school may change slightly due to unforeseen circumstances. The dates for Christmas events are listed below, as well as information about book fairs, parentcraft sessions and remembrance day too.

SCHOOL UPDATES



Parent Support / Liaison Role:

Most of you will probably already know Mrs Swan as our wonderful Senior Learning Support Assistant in school. This year however, in addition to her current role, Mrs Swan will be undertaking a role of parent contact support.. She now has specific time in her week to work with school families with a range of services. This role will involve Mrs Swan supporting families with attendance, lateness, uniform queries and homework. As part of this role, Mrs Swan will also be running parent and child workshops and developing community links too.

We are really excited to have Mrs Swan supporting in this way, and think her role will complement and enhance the work that already goes on within school.

If you wish to contact Mrs Swan she will be on the yard at home time every Tuesday and Wednesday or alternatively you can message the office or speak to your child's class teacher to get in touch with her.



Parent and Child Craft and chat sessions:

As mentioned above, we will be running some parent and child craft and chat sessions in school from the week beginning 14th November. These sessions will be per year group and will be on a Tuesday afternoon between 2.20 and 3.10pm. The first session will be on Tuesday 15th November and will be for parents and carers of Y4 children.

The sessions are open to any parent/ grandparent/ carer and will be a fun craft session that you and your child can enjoy together.

The sessions will also be a good opportunity to chat and meet other parents. Further information will be sent out from Mrs Swan with the specific dates and times.

School Arrivals and Pick up

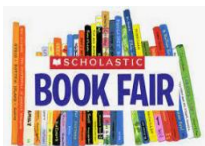
As I'm sure you spotted, the remaining scaffolding and containers were finally removed from the school throughout the October Half term. This now means we are able to look at the best and safest options for arrival and pick up everyday. From Monday 7th November the following will apply for each year group:

- Reception:** Arrival and dismissal remaining the same as current arrangements
- Year 1:** Arrival through the gate next to the cricket field (therefore no longer the main entrance)
Dismissal from the year 1 classroom door (veranda)
- Year 2:** Arrival through the gate next to the cricket field (therefore no longer the main entrance)
Dismissal from year 2 classroom door (veranda)
- Year 3:** Arrival through the gate next to the cricket field
Dismissal from door left of the veranda.
- Year 4:** Arrival through the gate next to the cricket field.
Dismissal from yard door.

Staff will always be on hand to help and direct where needed, if you have any questions or queries please get in touch.

Christmas Card Competition

Miss Swan would like to say a huge well done to you all for your amazing Christmas card designs. Huge congratulations to **Lucy Weir**. Lucy's design will be made into a Christmas card and sold in our Stocksfield Village store. 50% of the profits from the sales will be donated to a charity that the school council are choosing for next week.



Book Fair

Next week we are holding our annual school book fair. The book fair will run every night after school from 3.20pm to 4.00pm and we would love you and your children to come along and have a browse.

It is slightly different this year, compared to previous years, as Scholastic only send two copies of each book title (one to browse and one to buy). If you come along for a browse and find a book you would like to buy, you can pay online either by scanning the qr code or at the link below (which will also be available at the fair):

bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/pay

Any additional copies of the books will then be ordered and delivered to school for your child to bring home. School earns commission on the sales made which is used to buy new books for our libraries and classrooms.



Christmas:

Now that we are well into the term, our thoughts are starting to turn towards Christmas and all the exciting things we have planned. So here are some of our Christmas Dates:

- **Christmas Jumper Day -Tuesday 13th December**
 - We will be joining in with the Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day again this year where children will be able to come to school in their Christmas jumpers or dresses for a donation to this amazing charity. More information on how to donate will follow soon.
- **Christmas lunch in school - Tuesday 13th December**
 - Mr Brennan will again be cooking us all a delicious Christmas lunch. The staff and children always really enjoy this and we are sure this year will be no exception.
- **M&M Productions Christmas Pantomime - Cinderella - Wednesday 14th December**
 - We will once again be inviting the touring production company M&M to come into school to perform their Christmas pantomime - Cinderella - for the children. This is always good fun and the children have a fantastic time. Watch out for more information coming home soon.
- **Whole School Christmas Celebration Concert - Wednesday 14th December 5.30 - 6.30pm**
 - This year we will be hosting a Christmas Celebration concert at Prudhoe Community High school. This will involve each of the classes doing a special event as we celebrate 'Broomley First Presents.. Christmas at the Movies! We hope you will be able to join us to celebrate with us. More information to follow soon so save the date!
- **PTA Christmas Break the Rules Day - Friday 16th December**
 - Our PTA will be organising a Christmas Break the Rules Day where the children get to break a few school rules like having extra playtime, whacky hairstyles and non school uniform to name a few. We will send further details home soon.
- **Christmas Story Afternoon - Tuesday 20th December**
 - The teachers will pick their favourite Christmas stories to read to the children
- **Christmas Carols at Allendale Estates - Wednesday 21st December**
 - The children and staff will walk along to the Allendale Estate at Bywell where the family open up their house to allow the children in to sing Christmas Carols and have hot chocolate. Unfortunately due to limited space, we are not able to invite parents along to this event.
- **Christmas Parties - Thursday 22nd December**
 - Each Key stage (Early Years / Y1 and 2 / Y3 and 4)will have a Christmas party on the last day of term. Children will be able to wear their party clothes for this event.

We are also hoping that we will be able to hold a Music Concert for the children who are learning instruments to be able to perform some of their tunes to you all but we are just working on the details of this so will let you know soon.





Sale of Poppies for Remembrance Day

We are once again raising funds for The Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal. The children will be able to buy a Poppy or other merchandise (rulers, erasers, wrist bands etc) next week in school. A voluntary donation of £1.00 is suggested.

The timetable for the children to be able to donate is as follows;

- Monday - Reception
- Tuesday - Year 1
- Wednesday - Year 2
- Thursday - Year 3
- Friday - Year 4

If you would like your child to make a donation, please send it into school next week on the relevant day.



Online Safety:

Some of the children have been talking about an online game called Poppy Playtime (this appears to be linked to another similar game involving a creature called Huggy Wuggy which some of the children came across last year). These games can be quite scary for small children so we thought it was worth bringing it to your attention so that you can be

aware of the risks. The link below has further information which may be helpful:

[Poppy Playtime: Online Safety Review - Safer Schools \(oursaferschools.co.uk\)](http://oursaferschools.co.uk)



Information for Asthma Sufferers:

Now that winter is coming, some of our children do struggle more with asthma. For anyone who has a child who suffers with asthma, the link below will take you to the Beat Asthma website which has lots of information on how to help deal with this condition:

www.beatasthma.co.uk

Book Sale:

A big thank you to all parents and children that came to the book sale. All donations will go towards books and resources for the library which our school Council is also supporting this year.

SECOND HAND UNIFORM:

We do still have some second hand uniform in various sizes in school. If you would like to come and view the uniform, please pop into the school office and we will be happy to help. We ask for a small donation to school funds (at your discretion) if you would like to purchase anything.

If anyone has any good quality uniform that their child has outgrown, please drop it into the school office - if possible, sorted into different sizes.



DIARY DATES

- Monday 7th - Fri 11th Nov School Book Fair - every afternoon 3.20 - 4.00pm
- Monday 7th - Fri 11th Nov Poppies on sale in school raising funds for the British Legion
- Tuesday 8th November Parents' Evening - Y3 - see above for more information
- Wed 9th and Thurs 10th Nov Parents' Evening for Reception, Y1, Y2 and Y4- see above for more information
- Tuesday 15th November Parents' Evening - Y3 - see above for more information
- Friday 18th November Children in Need - more information to follow
- Tuesday 13th December Christmas Jumper Day - raising funds for Save the Children
- Tuesday 13th December Christmas Lunch
- Wednesday 14 December M&M Productions present Cinderella - more information to follow
- Wednesday 14 December Whole School Christmas Celebration Concert 5.30-6.30pm Prudhoe High School - more information to follow soon
- Friday 16th December PTA Christmas Break the Rules Day
- Tuesday 20th December Christmas Story Telling Afternoon
- Wednesday 21st December Allendale Estates - Christmas Carols - children only due to space
- Thursday 22nd December Christmas Parties - party outfits can be worn
- Thursday 22nd December School Closes for Christmas Holidays - PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE
- Friday 23rd December Teacher Training Day

On behalf of staff and governors may I wish you all a lovely weekend, take care.

Mrs Howe

Executive Head Teacher