



NCEA Warkworth Primary School

Spring 1 Newsletter

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,
Happy New Year to you all!

Whilst the Christmas tree might firmly be back in its dusty box, the mornings getting slightly lighter and the promise of a new year do make up for the end of festivities.

It may be a minority opinion, but Spring term is my favourite term - slightly less of the mad rush (and sweaty classrooms!) of summer, and far enough in the year to really keep improving what needs to be improved.

Over the next half-term, we will finally approach finishing our long-term improvement to the EYFS space, with two new sheds due to be erected in the coming weeks (once we can get Mr Victor some more pairs of hands from across the trust!).

As I write this from my office, I can hear children in the library comparing different books and making that all important decision of which text they want to take home tonight. Speaking of which, I have recently approached a wide range of library design companies to put the money raised over previous fairs and events towards our new library space.



In terms of the curriculum, our recent teacher training day focused on consolidating improvements towards Writing and RE. Whilst I appreciate these days can throw a spanner in the works of childcare (!), as headteacher, teacher training days are a real privilege that allows me to have the highest impact I can in working with teachers to take practice to the next level, reflecting on what works well and making the necessary changes. Staff continue to amaze me with their positivity and bounciness on such occasions!

Worship-wise, as we get closer to Lent, we will be thinking even more about how mistakes are normal and how to fix them. I have tasked children with setting their own New Year's Resolution, sharing my own: I need to take more time to enjoy the things that matter! I would say that sounds easier than last year's 'stop eating takeaways' but we'll see...!

Thank you as always for your support and here's to another successful half-term.

Jonathan Booth
Headteacher



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Acts of love and good works. *Hebrews 10:24*



Christmas Fair Money Totting Up...

There are so many people to thank for the Christmas Fair that it will be hard to fit them all in the newsletter!

Staff efforts were supremely high, and I must of course note Mrs Frater's efforts in organising such a successful event.

The School Council managed to persuade many different local businesses to donate to our raffle - both our representatives and the local businesses deserve significant praise!

Of course, you as families with your many contributions to stalls like the bottle stall must be deeply thanked.

Most of all, I must thank the families who attended and donated so generously at the Christmas Fair. Thanks to your donations, we raised **over £1,200** which is an astronomical figure! As aforementioned, that money is being safeguarded closely to help build our library space!

I am already looking forward to next year!



Bishop of Newcastle



As many of you will be aware, the Bishop of Newcastle's December visit was postponed due to the icy weather conditions! We look forward to welcoming her on Friday 2nd February.

RSPB Bird Watch



Big Schools' Birdwatch

We are very much looking forward to participating in the Big Schools' Birdwatch at school. We certainly receive many more interesting winged visitors than my last school in a rather more urban area!

May I also encourage you, if you're so interested, to consider participating in the Big Garden Watch at home from 26-28th January. Details are available [here from the website](#). It is always lovely to hear about children participating in such things in their own time!



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Clubs

As discussed in the last newsletter, we were delighted with the excellent turn out (over 70% of pupils!) in our lunchtime clubs. Having spoken to staff across school, we have decided to offer clubs from the middle of Spring 1 to the middle of Spring 2.

Last term, we experimented with not using Arbor to sign up. Whilst I said in the last newsletter Arbor wasn't necessary, I must admit I got this wrong (!), as evidenced by the very inconsistent numbers in and out of clubs and children pulling in and out a lot more!

As such, we will go back to what we tried in Autumn 1 which is asking families to sign up via Arbor. Information will follow in due course.

In addition to these clubs, our social work student, Miss Dunn, will be offering informal 'drop ins' through a **Mindful Colouring** group twice a week. Tuesdays will be for Years 3 and 4 and Thursday for Years 5 and 6. This will not need families to sign up! Miss Dunn is a very popular person in school and some children are very keen to work with her and otherwise may not get the chance. We are very grateful for her efforts across school.

Friendship Club Mrs Morris	Continuing on from last term: a club for Years 4-6 to enable them to become 'Friendship Leaders', working with our younger children, but all children are invited to take part in events. <i>Years 1-6, Thursdays</i>
Debating & Philosophy Club Mr Booth	We will be thinking about how to listen to others, as well as how to persuade them (!) and thinking about big topics. For example: Should children wear school uniform? Is eating meat ok? As well as topics chosen by the children themselves! I do look forward to restarting Coding Club in the future, though! <i>Years 4-6, Mondays (although the day may have to vary depending on my meetings!)</i>
Wellbeing Walk Club Mrs Gibson	Mrs Gibson has very kindly volunteered her time to go on a brisk, but brief (!), weekly well-being walk in the village with some of our older children for a catch up and chat. <i>Years 3-6, Tuesdays</i>
Disney Club Miss Fife	Miss Fife's usual club will continue! <i>Year 1 and 2, Thursdays</i>
Reading Club Miss Milne	A chance for peer reading, sharing books children enjoy, completing Accelerated Reader quizzes for older years and becoming Library Champions. <i>Years 1-6, Wednesdays</i>
School Choir Mrs Coils	This will continue from last term. Newcomers are welcome to join! Our choir leaders from St Lawrence's are looking at singing some recognisable pop songs this coming term! <i>Years 1-6, Wednesdays</i>
Chess Club Mr Teasdale	I will be following Mr Teasdale's Chess Club very closely as a rather rubbish if avid player myself! New and experienced players welcome alike. <i>Years 2-6, Tuesdays</i>





E-Safety

As I am sure you are aware, e-safety remains a high priority in schools and rightly so given the myriad risks involving raising a child in today's day and age!

As recommended by our safeguarding consultants, I will regularly share e-safety information via the newsletter. There will be several guides attached for your reading pleasure depending on the age of your child(ren).

May I also remind you that our safeguarding consultants can be utilised if you have any queries of your own, particularly those related to e-safety but also more widely.

If you would like any further information on this, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Online E-Safety Resources for Parents

A great website for parents to consider [general e-safety matters](#).

[Official government guidance](#) on staying safe online.

[NSPCC guidance](#) to families.

[Safer Internet](#) which provides a wide range of advice to families.

[Guidance on WhatsApp](#) from another county's safeguarding board

Christingle and Ash Wednesday

We are delighted for the two following events occurring with Rev'd Helen and St Lawrence's!

Date to be confirmed! 2:30pm @ St Lawrence's Christingle Service

Whilst it may seem like Christmas is finished (!), we are in the period of Epiphany within the church calendar. We are looking forward to thinking about the messages of Epiphanytide and will take Years 1-6 to St Lawrence's, dismissing from the church as we would at Harvest, Christmas and Easter. The date will be sent out via Class Dojo once confirmed.

Wednesday 14th February @ School Ash Wednesday Service

Rev'd Helen will commemorate Ash Wednesday in school, including burning of palms on the school yard! All families are welcome to attend - the children attending will be Years 1-6.





Parental Engagement

I will be asking families to complete a safeguarding questionnaire in the next few weeks. It would be very helpful if as many families as possible complete it as it allows the school to evaluate parent perceptions of safeguarding and what we can do better to support families.

We will also be looking at sending further questionnaires to families over the coming few months for general feedback on how things are going!

As usual, my door will be open to any families who want to reach out and speak to me (or my phone line available, or my email!) for feedback, both positive and constructive!

I am very grateful for the positive feedback I received about my recent letter to families sent earlier this week. Your support, as always, is greatly appreciated, even more so in the current climate!

In addition, I must admit I have not been inundated with volunteers for a potential reforming of the PTFA (Parents, Teachers and Friends Association)! I will make the call again however (and hopefully get Miss Fife and Mrs Coils on the doors to persuade families more directly!).



Safeguarding

Mr Booth is our school's Designated Safeguarding Leader, with Mrs Gibson, Miss Milne and Miss Fife our Deputy Leaders. If you have concerns about a child, you may contact any one of us. If it is an emergency and a child is in immediate danger, please call the police.

Members of the public can also report concerns to Children's Social Care directly. If you have a concern about a child please contact one of the following:

- OneCall – 01670 536400
- Northumbria Police – 101 (in an emergency always dial 999)
- NSPCC Helpline – 0808 800 5000

There is also a secure online referral form available for you to explain your concern, if you are a member of the public.



With my very best wishes,

Jonathan Booth

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 # Strive Together As One

January 2024			
Monday	8 th January	Teacher Training Day	School closed to all pupils
Tuesday	9 th January	Return to school for Spring 1.	
Wednesday	31 st January	SEND Parents' Evening	Message sent to specific families.
February 2024			
Friday	2 nd February	Bishop of Newcastle visit.	See Autumn 2 newsletter.
Monday-Weds	5 th February-7 th	Y5/6 Coniston Residential	Information sent to families
Wednesday	14 th February	Ash Wednesday Worship (Years 1-6) on school yard, 9am.	Families welcome.
Friday	16 th February	Years 5 and 6 visit from King's College, University of Cambridge.	See Autumn 2 newsletter.
		Last day before half-term.	
Monday	26 th February	Return to school for Spring 2.	
March 2024			
Thursday	7 th March	World Book Day	Details to follow via Class Dojo
Week commencing 11 th March		Parents' Evening	
Thursday	28 th March	Final day before Easter holiday.	



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April 2024			
Monday	15 th April	Return to school for Summer 1.	
Weds-Fri	17th-19th	Year 4 Ford Castle Residential	Information sent to families.
May 2024			
Monday	6 th May	Bank Holiday.	School closed to all pupils
During the month		Year 2 SATS	Details to follow
Week commencing 13th May		Year 6 SATS	Details to follow
Friday	24 th May	Final day before May half-term.	

June 2024			
Monday	3 rd June	Return to school for Summer 2.	
Monday and Tuesday	3rd and 4th June	Year 5&6 STEM Days at Duke's Secondary School	
During the month		Year 4 Multiplication Times Table Check	Details to follow
Week commencing 10th June		Year 1 Phonics Screen	Details to follow
Week commencing 24th June		End of year reports published.	
Friday	28 th June	Teacher Training Day	School closed to all pupils
July 2024			
Wednesday	3 rd July	Sports Day and Summer Fair	
Friday	19 th July	Colour run and final day.	