

**23 October 2020**

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

As we come to the end of an exciting half-term, can I thank you again for your continued support. Despite the necessary adaptations due to the Covid19 pandemic, the children and staff have had a brilliant half-term. The children have returned to school incredibly well, have quickly adapted to the 'new normal' and have settled into school life remarkably. It is incredible how brilliantly our children adapt to change!

I would like to also say a **huge thank you** to the staff in school for their hard work and resilience. They have made sure that our children feel safe and secure, whilst continuing to provide an amazing quality of education for our children. They really are an incredible bunch! Please make sure you follow us on Twitter/Facebook to find out about what has been going on in classrooms. From explosions in Science to building a life-size wattle and daub roundhouse in history, the staff really have brought learning to life!

### **Halloween Events**

On Thursday we had a 'spooktacular' day, the children's costumes were brilliant and both children and staff thoroughly enjoyed the exciting Halloween themed lessons and activities that took place! Thank you to everyone who also took part in our Facebook Live Halloween party. Lots of fun was had by all and it has already been viewed 1400 times! Don't worry if you missed the event, it still can be viewed [here](#) on our Facebook page.

### **Harvest**

Thank you so much to everyone who donated to our Harvest collection for The Wansbeck Food Bank this morning. Your generosity, in difficult times, is both heartwarming and overwhelming. We are so lucky to work with you all. The staff and children have been working hard to create a virtual Harvest Assembly which we will be able to share with you very soon. I hope you enjoy it.

### **Parents Evening**

This year parents' evening will be conducted via telephone during the week commencing 9th November 2020. To help facilitate the conversation, a questionnaire will be sent out to parents after half term to allow us to capture what is going well and what we can improve upon.

We will be using an electronic booking system this year, so look out for this after half term. Further information will be sent to you all closer to the time.

### **Attendance**

So far this year our whole school attendance is 97%, which considering the current climate we are all facing is a wonderful effort by all. Ensuring your child is in school every day is very important for not only their academic progress but also their social and emotional development. Year Two has the best attendance so far this year with 99%. If you have any problems, or concerns which are hindering your child attending school on a regular basis, please see Mr Henderson as he will support you with this.

Attendance	Description	Approx. days lost per year	Approx. weeks lost per year
98% - 100%	Excellent	0 - 4	Less than 1
96% - 98%	Good	5 - 9	1 to 2
93% - 96%	Satisfactory	10 - 13	2 to 3
90% - 93%	Unsatisfactory	14 - 28	3 to 6
Below 90%	Persistent Absentee	More than 29	More than 6

Can we please thank you again for your continued support by adhering to Covid19 guidance, in particular, social distancing and wearing masks on the school site. It is important that we continue to do everything possible to reduce the risk of transmission from the community into the school.

The number of positive cases in the Morpeth area is still high and there is a risk during the half term that being in close contact with other children and adults outside of school will enable the virus to spread further. The bigger the social group the more likely this is to happen again.

Please can you discuss with your child the importance of maintaining social distance during the half-term holiday, particularly not mixing with children from outside of their school bubble, if at all possible. Halloween, of course, occurs during the half-term holiday, and I would urge all parents to limit the social mixing for their children on Halloween, as the traditional activities do present a significant risk to spreading the virus more widely and potentially impact on the school after half term.

I appreciate that this is very difficult for children but the more school they miss, the greater the impact on their education and we must do all we can to ensure that the school is fully open and that individual children are in school as much as possible.

Thank you for your continued support and I hope you have a very enjoyable half-term and we look forward to seeing you on Monday 2nd November

Kind regards,

Glen Whitehead  
Head Teacher