



Newsletter 1
4.9.24

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back! It was lovely to catch lots of people in the yard this morning and hear about holidays and lovely days out! I hope that everyone was able to enjoy some sunshine to revive the bones and brighten the days. From the tiniest nursery child to the tallest Year 4, the children came into school beautifully this morning with a smile on their face ready to learn.

As I've popped around the classes this morning, everyone is settled and working hard. It is so lovely to have them back in school and starting the new year full of excitement. From next week our extra curricular activities will begin again - information on the activities on offer is attached (enrolment is now complete for this half term).

Apologies for the short notice but next week we are holding our 'New to' meetings for Y1-Y4. Parents are invited into school to meet the class teacher and find out about the expectations and term ahead in the new class. The meetings will be held first thing in the morning, after drop off. Don't worry if you are unable to attend, we will send home all of the key information. The meeting dates are as follows:

Year 1	Tuesday 10th September
Year 2	Wednesday 11th September
Year 3	Thursday 12th September
Year 4	Friday 13th September

The meetings will take place in the classrooms so please wait outside the external classroom door. The meeting is for parents only. Children will work in the hall or will be outside while the meeting takes place. Class newsletters, curriculum letters and homework challenges will be sent out after the meeting.

EYFS will be having a stay and play sessions. Nursery Tuesday 1st October 9-10:30am and Reception Wednesday 2nd October 9-10:30am.

News

As you know Mrs Gibbon left us in July for her secondment in the Cheviot Learning Trust and I took on the acting executive Headteacher role across Wylam and Prudhoe Castle First Schools. Jake Chapman is now out of class and has taken on the Executive Deputy Headteacher position. Aimee Todd is our SENCO across the schools. Carole Weatherspoon (who works at Prudhoe Castle) has taken on the lead role in teaching and

learning development across the schools, and Kerry Baxter is leading on Early Years (who is also working over at Prudhoe Castle).

We welcome Mrs Carter into Year 4 and Mrs Alexander into the Office. I know that both will bring energy and enthusiasm to our lovely school. We are very excited to have them join our team.

A little community news... Don't miss the Wylam Parish Council Village Harvest Festival on Sunday 6th October at Wylam Institute Garden from 2pm to 4:30pm. Look out for the flyers and posters around the village for more information. It looks like a lovely community afternoon.

Information

Attendance and Punctuality

It is widely known that a child who attends school regularly, and on time, is more likely to perform better, is more likely to establish good friendships and is more likely to fulfil their full potential. To ensure that your child has good school attendance please make sure that your child is at school, on time, every day unless they are unwell and are unable to come to school. Please try to arrange appointments outside of school hours wherever possible and avoid taking extended holidays during term time.

In school we track attendance using colour coded attendance zones. The expectation is that all children will achieve Gold or Green. When attendance falls below 95% we begin to track attendance and will work with parents to ensure that attendance is improved. Once attendance falls below 92% an onward referral to the Education Welfare Officer may be necessary.

Gold	100%
Green	99%-96%
Amber	95%-92%
Red Below	92%

It is essential to start good habits of attendance from an early age. Most children who truant from school as teenagers or who become 'school refusers' have had a history of poor attendance during their early education. The Government has issued new attendance guidelines and a fining approach which came into effect from 19th August 2024. The trust will issue their guidelines in due course.

Holiday requests in term time

Holidays taken in term time will be recorded as unauthorised unless there are 'special circumstances' which have been explained in a letter to the attendance lead, Mr Chapman, with evidence from employers if appropriate.

Thank you, in advance, for your support with this matter. If you have any concerns about your child's school attendance and would like some support then please contact Mr Chapman.

Reading at Home

We know that many of our children and families read at home. It is essential that children are given the opportunity to practise their reading at home regularly to support their progress. It is also so important that children get the opportunity to read for pleasure and to listen to and enjoy a range of stories. We know that life can be busy but spending just 10 minutes practising the school reading book 3 times a week and sharing a daily bedtime story can have a significant impact on both reading and writing.

To support your child please try to read a minimum of 3 times a week and don't forget to sign the reading record.

PE in school

All children will take part in an indoor PE session which will consist of dance, gymnastics and fitness and an outdoor PE session, with Erica Warren from NUFC Foundation. A reminder that children come to school in their PE kit on PE days. The PE timetable is as follows:

PE Timetable		
Class	Indoor	Outdoor
EYFS	Wednesday	Thursday
Y1	Monday	Thursday
Y2	Wednesday	Thursday
Y3	Tuesday	Thursday
Y4	Swimming Wednesday	Thursday

Indoor PE kit = white, plain t-shirt and navy blue shorts or tight blue leggings. Tracksuit bottoms can be a trip or slip hazard in the hall. In the colder months your child can wear their indoor shorts under their outdoor tracksuit. Indoor PE is completed barefoot so there is no requirement to have sand shoes or plimsolls.

Outdoor PE kit = white, plain t-shirt and navy blue shorts or navy blue tight leggings/jogging bottoms, a navy hoodie or sweatshirt and trainers.

Football kits are not part of the uniform and should not be worn.

Y4 Swimming

Y4 children will take part in swimming lessons this term. Further information on this will follow.

Rocksteady

Rocksteady begins again on Friday 13th September. If you would like your child to be part of Rocksteady you can find all of the information required here: <https://www.rocksteadymusicschool.com/info-for-parents>

English Workshop

On **Wednesday 25th September at 9am**, Mr Chapman will be holding a parent workshop to talk about English in our school, how we teach reading and writing across the school and how you can help your child at home. Once the workshop is over you will then be able to go into your child's class to take part in a talk for writing lesson with your child.

Maths Workshop

On **Wednesday 13th November at 9am**, Mrs Weatherspoon will be holding a parent workshop to talk about how we teach maths at Wylam and how you can help your child at home. Once the workshop is over you will then be able to go into your child's class to take part in a maths lesson with your child.

Wild About Adventure

Mr Mordue will be working with Y4 children this term. Their focus will be preparing for the Harvest Festival and achieving some of the objectives in the Wild Passport. Please remember that children will need wellies in school and warm, outdoor clothing. This takes place on a Tuesday afternoon.

Reminders

Jackets in School

Please remember to send your child to school with a warm, preferably showerproof jacket, even if it is warm and sunny in the morning. At this time of year the weather can be changable and as we spend a lot of time outdoors it is important that the children have the option of putting on a jacket.

Healthy Snacks

In School Children in Early Years and KS1 receive a piece of fruit each day. Children in KS2 are encouraged to bring in their own piece of fruit for their break time snack. Please do not send in cereal bars or fruit based sweets as an alternative.

All children are asked to bring a water bottle, containing water only, to school each day. This can be refilled throughout the day.

Until the term they turn 5, children also receive free milk. There is the option to purchase milk after that point - orders are taken a term in advance.

Packed Lunches

Just a reminder that we are a 'nut free' school. We have a number of children in school who have nut allergies so it is really important that there are no nut based products in packed lunches, including things like Nutella.

Head Lice

The return to school always means the possible return of head lice. To try to combat the spread of head lice please can we ask that all long hair is tied up for school and that hair is checked regularly. If head lice are spotted please treat the hair immediately. Once hair is treated the child can come into school. If we spot head lice in school we will ask you to collect your child to treat their hair. They can return to school as soon as this is done. Thank you for your support with this.

School Calendar

Monday 4.9.24	Back to school
Week beginning 9.9.24	Extra curricular activities start
Tuesday 10.9.24	9am New to Year 1 meeting
Wednesday 11.9.24	9am New to Year 2 meeting

Thursday 12.9.24	9am New to Year 3 meeting
Friday 13.9.24	9am New to Year 1 meeting
Wednesday 18.9.24	Y4 start swimming
Friday 20.9.24	Flu Vaccinations
Wednesday 25.9.24	9am English Workshop with Mr Chapman
Tuesday 1.10.24	9am Nursery Stay and Play
Wednesday 2.10.24	9am Reception Stay and Play
Friday 11.10.24	PTA- Bonkers Bingo!
Tuesday 15.10.24	1:30pm Harvest Festival TBC
Thursday 24.10.24	Break the Rules Day!
Thursday 24.10.24	PTA- Halloween Crafternoon
Friday 25.10.24	Teacher Training Day- School Closed
28.10.24 to 1.11.24	HALF TERM HOLIDAY
Monday 4.11.24	Back to School
Tuesday 5.11.24	Parent Consultations
Wednesday 6.11.24	Parent Consultations
Wednesday 13.11.24	9am Maths Workshop with Mrs Weatherspoon
Friday 29.11.24	7pm PTA Christmas Wreath Making
Friday 6.12.24	10am Rocksteady concert
Friday 6.12.24	3:15pm Christmas Fayre
Week beginning 9.12.24	Christmas Performances this week- dates to follow
Week beginning 16.12.24	Christmas Party Week- dates to follow
23.12.24 to 6.1.25	Christmas Holidays
Monday 6.1.24	Back to school

Thank you for your continued support

Miss Jill Dodds

Acting Executive Headteacher