

October Newsletter

Richard Avenue



Gabriel Coates – Our Little Inventor !

A big welcome back to everyone, especially all our new starters in the Foundation Stage and other new pupils, throughout the school.

Staff: Welcome to staff returning from maternity leave, Mrs Watchman- Atkinson (Y2), Mrs Islam (Nursery), Mrs Hamid (Midday Assistant) also to new teachers, Mrs Cameron (Y1), Mr Old (Y5), Mrs Stephens (French specialist) and office staff Mrs McCartney

Inset Day School will be closed on **Friday 20th October** leading up to ½ term.

Important Dates:

w.c. 16 th Oct	Well Being Week
16 th October	Whole School Parents Afternoon / Evening (1.50pm – 7pm)
19 th October	Break up Thursday for Inset Day and Half Term. Note: All KS2 pupils have a project for over the half term holiday
30 th October	Return to School
1 st November	Halloween Themed School Meal Halloween School Disco 3.45pm
9 th November	Photographer visits Nursery
10 th November	Remembrance Day in school
w.c. 13 th Nov	Anti Bullying Week
17 th November	Children In Need Day
24 th November	Whole School Nasal Flu Drops
27 th November	Assessment week
1 st December	Whole School Photographer
15 th December	KS1 Christmas Production 9.30am, 2pm- times TBC
20 th December	Christmas Day (Lunch, Santa, Games, Disco)
21 st December	KS2 Carol Service 2.30pm School Breaks Up- Returning Monday 8 th January 8.55am

Nursery Children: A message from Nursery Staff to say thank you for all the parental support whilst settling in the new nursery starters.

Congratulations: To all staff and children for achieving GOLD award at the recent Northumbria in Bloom Gardening Competition.

Charities: The School Council have met and discussed which 'Home' charity we would support this year. A Place2Be the UK's leading children's mental health charity providing in-school support and expert training to improve the emotional wellbeing of pupils, families, teachers and school staff gained the vote for 2017-18. This links nicely with one of our school priorities, promoting Health Lifestyles. Further information will be sent out in relation to this charity and how we intend to support it.

We will also be supporting, The Macmillan Coffee Morning (Sept), Local Food Bank (Harvest- Oct), Children in Need (Nov), Poppy Appeal (Nov), Sport Relief (March), Race for Life- Cancer Research (June), School Sponsored Event (a range of charities home and abroad- July).

Last year our Sponsored Event raised a whopping £1,800. That money is banked in the school bank account, ready for the school council to decide which local and international charities they would like to support. The children are set to respond to disasters around the world by donating a little something from ourselves. If you are aware of any current local fund raising events, where we could help, please contact The School Council via Mr Howard.

MacMillan Coffee Morning- A huge thank you to all those parents and staff that supported such a wonderful cause. A special thank you must go to Mr and Mrs Spoor (Shane Spoor), Mrs Brown (Emma / Jamie Robson), Mrs Bosher and Mrs Christie (lunchtime supervisors). The children had a fabulous morning and altogether raised over £700.

Our Little Inventor: In Summer term, many children from our school took part in a worldwide event with Little Inventors, where they thought of their own designs and entered a competition to have their design made. All of the entries were displayed on the Little Inventors website and Gabriel Coates, in Year 6, won the competition. He had his 'Rolla Lampa' design displayed in the Winter Gardens exhibition on Saturday 30th September. The design will be in the Winter Gardens until 13th October if you would like to see it. Well done Gabriel and all of the children who took part.

Attendance: As you are aware the Government have raised the expectations for children's attendance. The National Average is around 96.1%+ and any child falling below 90% is classed as a Persistent Absentee (PA).

In order to support parents monitoring their own child's attendance, we will be issuing registration certificates at the end of each half term, more frequently to those children already identified.

Obviously it would not be expected for a parent to request Leave of Absence under any circumstance if their child has previous or current poor attendance.

Could I also reiterate- routine dentist appointments SHOULD NOT be taken in school time. Any other appointments, where possible, to be made out of school hours. **Please feel free to discuss any attendance issues with me.**

Refurbishments: Over the summer we have made some improvements throughout the school.

- Y5/6 now has new toilets and an additional teaching space- it is fab!!
- Staff have a new Planning room
- School have a new meeting room
- A room to support a part time councillor is being prepared.
- The rails outside the fire door have been removed
- Various areas have been redecorated

Well done to the team of staff who have managed all the projects and the staff, parents and children who have been very patient during the inconvenience. Especially Y5/6 staff and pupils who have 'plodded on' despite the flood!

But I hope you will agree, well worth it!!

School Visits: Often when children are on a whole day school visit, they are asked to bring a packed lunch. Children usually wish to bring their own packed lunch from home, as they feel this is an important part of the visit! However, if any child who is eligible for Free School Meals would like the kitchen to make a PL, then please **contact the office 8 days** prior to the visit. Requests made after this date, unfortunately cannot be processed.

Yard: Could I please ask all parents to stand well back from their children once they start to go into their lines. May I suggest you begin to leave the yard then, rather than wait until the line has walked into school?

If parents wish to speak to class teacher, coming in early via the main entrance would be better, passing info. via the teaching assistant or discussing important issues on a night. Passing on a quick message is fine on a morning, but at times this is requested by many parents and causes too much disruption.

On an evening, please stand well back and around the edges of the building. Do not come forward and block the view of other parents waiting patiently.

There needs to be a point where children are allowed to grow, mature and become a little more emotionally independent. Kisses, cuddles, blowing kisses, waving- is something the children have suggested is not needed as they get older!

Reuse, Recycle, Reclaim: Reminder that we are collecting clean clothes, shoes, cards (birthday, Eid etc.), plastic bags ink cartridges, batteries. Just send them into school and place them at our re-cycling station. Vegetable peelings and tea bags are also great for the compost bin, please pass to the Nursery.

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

- **Photographic/ Video Policy/ Short Visit Form:** A reminder to all parents that everyone has signed a **visits form**, giving permission for your child to be taken off site. We will inform you by letter if the visit is further than our immediate locality, **also photographic consent** giving permission for photographs to be taken of your child, (school displays, local press, school website, parental / school videoing of performances). We take Safeguarding very seriously

and only want the very best care to be taken of your child. If a parent wishes to change their consent or would like further information, please contact me directly.

- **Seat Belts/ Overcrowding:** Again can we urge parents to ensure their children use seatbelts. Only allowing the correct number of children in the car at any one time.
- **Car Parking Arrangements:** Please be mindful of the Health and Safety of your children. Parking outside the school should be done within the law. Thank-you for your co-operation.
- **Pupil Contact Information:** Any changes to address, contact information or telephone numbers should be given to the school office as soon as possible as these are very important, especially if your child becomes ill and we need to contact parents/carers. We also use the mobile phone information to send texts out; therefore they **MUST** be up to date.

School Uniform: Our children look fantastic, with beautiful, smart school uniform, a credit to you as parents and to our school. A coat is a must, especially when the weather changes for the worst. If you wish to purchase a school coat, please contact the office.

Homework: We have slimmed down our requests for homework, therefore the homework that is given (basic reading, tables, and spellings), must be done to a high standard. I ask you for your full support and co-operation in ensuring homework tasks are completed to a high standard and are handed in on time. Could all parents please check homework, before it is handed in? If you have any problems please contact class teachers or myself directly.

Reading Folders: Reading folders are required for your child to bring their reading books to and from school. We provide them free of charge in Reception and year 1 but, ask parents to replace them if they become old or lost. These can be purchased at many stores or from the school office for 50p each.

P.E. Kit: Children need a change of clothing for P.E. lessons. Red/ black shorts, a plain white T-shirt (not a football top), gym shoes/ trainers. In the winter plain dark tracksuit bottoms and sweatshirt when the weather is cold as children do have P.E. outdoors.

SATs: Tests take place across the school between May and June all children are expected to have excellent attendance during this revision and testing period. Leave of absences (LOA) will not be granted during any revision or testing period.

School Dinner: All dinner money must be paid on a Monday morning (or the first day after an absence), to the class teacher in an envelope **NOT THE OFFICE** and the correct money should always be sent. **£10 per week / £2 per day**. Other changes from dinners to packed lunches and vice versa may only be made **at the beginning of each ½ term**. Please send a letter to the school office in the last week of the previous ½ term to inform us you intend to change your child's lunchtime arrangements.

Cash for After School Club/Breakfast Club, dinners, trips, sponsors etc. must all be in **separate envelopes** please and appropriately labelled.

Reminder: Dogs are not permitted on school premises. No football to be played on the playground before or after school, as it is too busy. Could I also ask all parents to supervise their children whilst dropping them off in a morning and collecting them on a night? There should be **no children** using the fitness equipment, except when supervised by school staff, during the day.

Yours sincerely

Mrs K Todd
Head Teacher