

West End First School Newsletter



10 November 2017

Children in Need

Next Friday 17th November is Children in Need day. As usual we will be joining in with this special event by holding a 'come as you want' day. For a small donation (may we suggest a minimum of £1) the children can wear what they want to school on that day - Pudsey onesies, fancy dress, pyjamas or just their favourite clothes - anything goes.

We do ask that the children are wearing appropriate shoes for playing outside and are prepared for the cold weather with warm coats, hats, scarves and gloves. We will be selling the following Children in Need merchandise at the school office all next week:



Pin Badge - £1.00

Wrist Bands - £1.00

Glow in the Dark Key Ring - £1.00

Flu Immunisations

Letters about the flu immunisations were sent out yesterday (Thursday 9th November) to Reception, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4 only. If you have not received one please check your child's bag in the first instance and then contact the school office. If you want your child to be immunised you **must return the completed letter by Monday 13th November** at the latest. School health will not accept any letters which arrive later than this and your child will not be immunised.

Harvest Collection



Thanks to your generosity we donated over 500 food items to the Salvation Army foodbank. They sent us a lovely letter thanking us which I have included below.

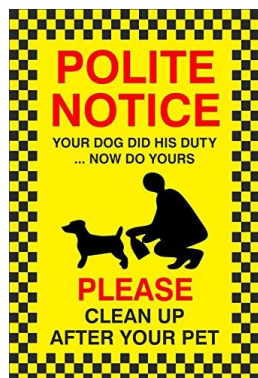
On behalf of The Salvation Army, Bedlington I would like to thank you, your staff and your pupils for your kind donation of food to our Food Bank.

Our food bank is becoming more prolific and we are currently issuing around 15 food parcels each week to individuals and families, so all food donations are very gratefully received. During the winter we anticipate demand to be similar, if not greater and your donation will assist us with this. It was particularly useful to us that the donations included items we use most; cereal, UHT milk, tinned meat and tinned vegetables. We try to offer a nutritionally balanced parcel and always include a breakfast, lunch and dinner for each family member for each day. Our standard emergency parcels cover 3 days and are given to people who do not qualify for government

assistance. We are occasionally asked by NETs (the assessment board) to provide 7 day or 14 day parcels. We do receive a small payment for this, but standard parcels are gifted without remuneration. This means we rely heavily on donations to ensure we are always able to offer food to those in need.

As part of our Toy Appeal at Christmas we give each family a food parcel as well as toys for each child. Last year we gave toys to 198 children and added to this 98 family food parcels. I'm sure you will appreciate how much extra food this takes from our very small food store and your donation will allow us to spend the money budgeted on little extras such as a chocolate log and selection pack rather than basics.

Dog Mess



Once again we are having an issue with dog mess outside of the school. We have informed the council about this on a number of occasions and they have sent dog wardens to patrol the area but unless they actually see a dog fouling there is little they can do. If you bring your dog to school please could you make sure that you take away any mess it makes and that you secure it at a distance from the school entrance. Also please make sure that you and your child are careful of where you tread so that no mess is walked into the school grounds.

Reception Places 2018

The portal for applications for Reception places in September 2018 is now open at www.northumberland.gov.uk. Even if your child already attends our nursery you must apply for a Reception place through the portal. The deadline for applications is 15th January 2018.

Parent Survey

The results of our recent parent survey are below. We are delighted with the outcome and particularly thrilled that parents recognise how hard the staff work to provide the children with an exciting learning experience in a safe and friendly environment. Without your support we could not do what we do so a big thank you to you too. To those parents who wrote such positive comments - you made the staff feel very appreciated. Where there were issues raised we will discuss and address them in due course.



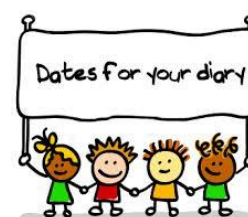
160 responses received. Percentages have been rounded up/down to nearest tenth so may not always add to 100%.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
My child is happy at this school	82%	17%	0.6%	0%	0%
My child feels safe at this school	87%	10%	3%	0%	0%

My child makes good progress at this school	84%	13%	3%	0%	0%
My child is well looked after at this school	89%	10%	0.6%	0%	0%
My child is taught well at this school	88%	10%	2%	0%	0%
My child receives appropriate homework for their age	75%	14%	11%	0%	0%
This school makes sure its pupils are well behaved	83%	14%	11%	0%	0%
This school deals effectively with bullying	60%	12%	27%	0.6%	0%
This school is well led and managed	83%	14%	3%	0%	0%
This school responds well to any concerns I raise	77%	15%	7%	0.6%	0%
I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress	82%	17.4%	0.6%	0%	0%
Would you recommend this school to another parent?	87%	11%	1%	0%	0%

Diary Dates

There are a few new dates for your diary below and there may be a few more before the end of term. We will send out more detailed information nearer each event. Information will also appear on the school website and we will put some reminders on our Twitter feed and via text messages, however we will still need you to complete permission slips so you will receive separate letters about some of these events.



Please check your child's bag every day. New dates are printed in bold and information about all of our Christmas events will be sent out nearer the time.

Wed 15 th Nov	Flu Immunisations Reception to Year 4	
Thurs 16 th Nov	Reception Vision Screening	
Fri 17 th Nov	Children in Need	
Wed 22 nd Nov	Reception Parents Phonics Workshop	6:00pm
Thurs 23 rd Nov	Reception Parents Phonics Workshop	9:00am
Tues 28 th Nov	PTFA Fun day	
Wed 29th Nov	Bluebird Group Trip to Alnwick Garden	
Thurs 30 th Nov	Year 4 Be Safe Workshops	
Fri 1st Dec	Year 3 Northumberland Day	

Tues 5 th Dec	Reception Theatre Trip
Thurs 7th Dec	Nursery Christmas Craft Morning
Thurs 7 th Dec	Year 1 Theatre Trip
Mon 11 th Dec	Nursery and Pre-school Panto Company visit
Tues 12 th Dec	Year 3 and 4 Theatre trip
Tues 12 th Dec	Years 1 and 2 Nativity AM and PM
Wed 13 th Dec	Years 1 and 2 Nativity AM
Wed 13 th Dec	Christmas Lunch
Wed 13 th Dec	Christmas Jumper Day
Wed 13 th Dec	House Christmas Craft Event
Thurs 14 th Dec	Year 2 Theatre Trip
Thurs 14 th Dec	Year 1 Christmas Party
Fri 15 th Dec	Years 3 and 4 Carol Concert AM and PM
Fri 15 th Dec	Nursery and Pre-school Christmas Party
Mon 18th Dec	Nursery and Pre-school Christmas Singalong with Parents
Tues 19 th Dec	Reception Nativity AM
Tues 19 th Dec	Year 4 India Day
Wed 20 th Dec	Reception Nativity AM
Thurs 21 st Dec	Year 2 Christmas Party AM
Thurs 21 st Dec	Year 3 Christmas Party PM
Fri 22 nd Dec	Reception Christmas Party AM
Fri 22 nd Dec	Year 4 Christmas party AM

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Bushell
Headteacher