



Whittonstall and Broomley First Schools
Weekly Newsletter
7th January 2022



Tel: W: 01207560325 B: 01661842271

Website: www.broomley.northumberland.sch.uk/website



Our overall attendance this week was

93.4%

Well done everyone - let's keep up the good work!

HEAD TEACHER'S MESSAGE TO THE CHILDREN:

Happy New Year to you all and welcome back to school. I hope that you all enjoyed the Christmas break and were able to spend some quality time with your loved ones. On behalf of all the staff, we would like to say a huge 'Thank You' to the children and parents who brought Christmas cards and gifts at the end of last term. We all really appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity, especially at such a busy and costly time of year.

We have lots to look forward to this half term starting off with art projects across the classes this week. The children all have new portfolio sketch books and have begun to explore drawing techniques, watch out for some photos on Marvellous Me and make sure to ask them at home what they have been up to.



So far this week, our current levels of covid cases in school have been relatively low and we have all our staff on site. We are still operating precautionary measures to keep the children and staff safe, including additional cleaning of touched surfaces throughout the day alongside ventilation in classrooms and social distancing amongst staff.

As the weather is very cold we encourage the children to wear layers under their uniforms as the temperature in school will be cooler. We also have gilets available to purchase from Salto

that the children can wear over their uniforms too. We will of course monitor the temperature in the classroom and make adjustments when necessary. When we receive notification from parents of a positive case that has been in school we will write to the parents of that class. The remaining children who have been identified as a close contact will be asked to take a LFT each day for 7 days.

I'm sure that you will be aware of the constantly changing Government guidance regarding COVID19. Confirmatory PCR tests following a positive lateral flow device (LFD) test result are to be temporarily suspended from Tuesday 11 January. This will mean that anyone who receives a positive LFD test result will be required to self-isolate immediately and will not be required to take a confirmatory PCR test. The isolation period has now been altered to 7 days from the point of symptoms or from the date of positive test if asymptomatic, on condition of two negative lateral flow tests undertaken on days 6 and day 7 at least 24 hours apart. There was a further Government briefing on Wednesday evening and once we have further clarity from the Department for Education, I will update you again. This is a situation where Government policy is changing quickly at the moment and it is important that we take our lead from the Department for Education.

AWARDS OF THE WEEK:

Kid Awesome - Stars of the Week:

Reception

- Hugo J for his exceptional drawing which showed what he knows about winter. We love that he was keen to talk about his work and even write the names of the people in his drawing

Year 1

- Ben B for his fantastic work in phonics this week

Year 2

- Francesca S for her amazing mark making work in Art.

Year 3

- Jess S for impressing Mr Moore with her love of reading and overall goodness!

Year 4

- Henry K for brilliant reading both at home and at school!



Head Teacher Awards

- Luke M in Year 1 for being super brave!
- Penny W in Year 2 for excellent explanations in art and fantastic collage work
- Charlie L in Year 4 for always being so helpful and having lovely manners

SCHOOL UPDATES

SPELLINGS UPDATE

We would like to introduce our new spelling scheme of work: **The Spelling Book: Transforming the Teaching of Spelling**. The scheme is carefully matched to the National Curriculum requirements for teaching spelling, and builds on the phonics knowledge the children gain in EYFS and Year 1.



As you will be aware, spelling in the English language is very tricky, with well over a million words affected by over 1300 years of history. Understanding the origins of words and pattern finding are more important teaching strategies than ever. This scheme provides a clear, systematic approach to help children understand 'probability matching' and the theories behind spelling patterns.

The scheme works on a two-week cycle. In week one, two focused spelling investigations are taught over a 50-minute window. During week two, the same amount of time is split into five 'ten minute' slots. During

these sessions the children experience pace, look at spelling errors and why these errors occur and revisit teaching to commit the spellings to their long-term memory. The scheme focuses on teaching spellings, rather than testing them.

Year 1 and Reception will not have specific spelling lessons, as they will be continuing on their phonics journey.

As our new approach is classroom based there will **no longer be a weekly set of spellings** for any of the children (including Year 1) to learn at home. However, your child's teacher will be sending home a copy of the most common high frequency words for your child's year group. These will be there for you to practise **if you wish** throughout the rest of the year, but are not compulsory, and the children will not be 'tested' on weekly spellings.

We are very excited to introduce our new spelling scheme to the children, and monitor the progress in class. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to ask your child's teacher, they will be more than happy to help.

TIMETABLE INFORMATION FOR SPRING TERM:

PE Sessions:



- Reception: Thursday
- Year 1: Thursday
- Year 2: Thursday and Friday
- Year 3: Monday and Thursday
- Year 4: Monday and Thursday

Please can the children continue to come dressed in their PE kits on days when they have PE sessions. Where possible the children will be having PE sessions outside so will need to be dressed in school PE kit appropriate for the weather (jogging bottoms, t-shirt, hoodies and trainers)

There will be no outdoor/ forest school sessions for Year 1 and 2 this half term due to other curriculum commitments.

Reception will continue to have outdoor sessions on Fridays where the weather allows, although these sessions may be shorter if the weather is not great. Reception will therefore still need to come in their outdoor gear on Fridays.

Music Lessons:



The whole class music lessons for Year 1 and Year 2 will continue on Tuesdays. We have ukuleles in school for these lessons but if children have a ukulele at home that they would like to bring in they are welcome to do so.

Whole Class lessons for Year 3 (recorder) and Year 4 (flute) will also continue on Monday afternoons with Miss De Vere.

Small group lessons with Miss Humble for those children in Year 2,3 and 4 who have signed up for them, will continue on Mondays starting next week (10th January). There will be no music lessons on week commencing 17th Jan and 24th January as Miss Humble is getting married.



BOOK REVIEW CORNER:

We don't have a review this week but hopefully some of you will have got some fantastic new books for Christmas that you are already avidly reading. Don't forget that we would love to share the titles of these books with your classmates so if you have a book you love, we would love to receive a book review from you - it doesn't

have to be long, just a sentence or two and if you want to send us a picture of you reading your book that would be amazing too.



ECO-SCHOOLS GREEN FLAG ACCREDITATION:

This year we have made the decision to work towards Eco-Schools Green Flag accreditation.

Eco-Schools began in 1994 and is the largest educational programme on the planet (there are currently 70 countries delivering the Eco-Schools programme around the world), in England it is operated by the environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy. The Eco-Schools programme focuses on empowering young people to lead environmental education and action in their school, local community and beyond. It does this by providing a simple, seven-step

framework that turns pupils into forward-thinking, decision-making, planet-protectors.

There are multiple reasons we have decided to embark on the journey to Eco-Schools Green Flag. Firstly, our planet (and all life on it) is already beginning to feel the catastrophic effects of climate change, plastic pollution, biodiversity loss and a myriad of other environmental challenges. We want our pupils to be aware of the challenges our planet faces, and will continue to face throughout their lifetimes. We don't want our pupils to avoid or shy-away from these challenges: we want to engage young people in conversations about them and we want to provide them with the skills needed to tackle these challenges directly. Our hope is by doing this we will empower our pupils with the passion and skills to protect our planet now and throughout their lifetimes, including as they grow to become leaders, decision-makers and educators themselves. Alongside benefitting our planet, we also hope it will benefit our pupils - independent research has found that pupil participation in the Eco-Schools programme leads to: increased confidence, development of leadership skills, improved behaviour and greater motivation at school. We also anticipate it will help our school, it is proven Eco-Schools consume less water, use less energy and produce less waste, which creates financial savings for schools which can then be spent on important educational resources.

You may be reading this and wondering, 'How does this impact me?' Well, our young Eco-Warriors are yet to decide on the environmental actions we will embark upon, so a detailed answer is difficult. However, over the coming months you may notice: environmental hints and tips on our school newsletters; invites to litter-picks, marine-cleans, community gardening days or other similar events; requests for donations of time, equipment or expertise; and, perhaps most noticeably, a young person in your home with a keen interest in all things environmental. This interest may manifest in various ways, which may include: increased awareness of correct recycling practices; a determination to switch lights off when not in use; a desire to create bug hotels and bird feeders; offers to help nurture nearby plants and maybe sometimes even requests to time their (and your) showers!

If the children are keen to become a member of our Eco Committee, they will bring an application form home that must be completed and returned to Miss Richardson by Friday 14th January 2022.

I hope you're as excited about our Eco-Schools journey as everyone at school is - if you would like to find out more, or get involved, please feel free to contact Miss Richardson directly or check out the Eco-Schools website on www.eco-schools.org.uk



CLOTHING BANK - PLAYGROUND:

Some of the more eagle-eyed of you will have noticed a new addition to the back of the playground. We now have a clothes recycling bin courtesy of the Fundraise and Recycle Ltd School Connect Project. This is a north - east based company that specialises in the recycling of unwanted and unloved clothing, bags, pairs of shoes and belts for collection and distribution.

This scheme ties in with our desire to be a more eco-friendly school and in our efforts to gain Eco Schools Green Flag accreditation (see above for more information).

You can put items in the recycling bin at morning drop off and afternoon pick up.

If you would like more information about this scheme, please see www.thefundraiseruk.co.uk or follow them on social media.



DONATE YOUR UNWANTED ITEMS

**WE ACCEPT
CLOTHES / SHOES / BAGS / BELTS**



ADMIN@FUNDRAISERECYCLELTD.CO.UK

WWW.THEFUNDRAISERUK.CO.UK

TEL: 0191 7062199



SPRING TERM LUNCH MENU:

We have had a few queries about the lunch menu for the spring term. The autumn menu will continue this term and we have started again this week at week one. The menu is available on the school website if anyone needs another copy.



CHRISTMAS DVD ORDERS:

We have been in touch with the person preparing the Christmas DVD order. They have been having some technical printing difficulties as well as being hit by Covid over the Christmas holidays but are hoping to have the DVDs ready for early next week. As soon as we get them, we will let you know. Thank you all for your patience.

TEACHING ASSISTANT POST AT Ovingham Middle School:

We have been asked by our colleagues at Ovingham Middle School to provide details of a teaching assistant position they have there. If you are interested in finding out more, please follow the link below:

https://www.northeastjobs.org.uk/job/Teaching_Assistant/218465



DIARY DATES

- Monday 10th January Small group music lessons continue with Miss Humble (please note there will not be a lesson on Monday 17th or Monday 24th January as Miss Humble is getting married)
- Thursday 13th January Y3/Y4 Netball club begins (weather permitting)
- Tuesday 25th January Reception Class Vision Screening - information has been sent by parentmail this week
- Wednesday 26th January M&M Production of Jack and the Beanstalk rescheduled date
- Friday 28th January Christmas Disco/ Class Parties rescheduled date
- Friday 4th February NSPCC Number Day - mega maths fundraising day - more information to follow shortly
- Tuesday 8th February Safer Internet Day - activities in class
- Friday 18th February School Closes for half term
- Monday 28th February School reopens for Spring term 2
- Friday 18th March Comic Relief Red Nose Day - more information to follow
- Mon 21st - Fri 27th March Neurodiversity Week - celebrating learning differences and the strengths and talents that come from thinking and perceiving the world differently
- Friday 8th April School closes for Easter holidays
- Monday 25th April School reopens for Summer term 1

On behalf of staff and governors may I wish you all a lovely weekend, take care and stay safe.

Mrs Barker

Executive Head Teacher