



Whittonstall and Broomley First Schools
Weekly Newsletter
21st January 2022



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Our overall attendance this week was

82.9 %

Our attendance this week has been hit by a number of Covid absences. Hopefully we will start to get back to normal next week!

HEAD TEACHER'S MESSAGE TO THE CHILDREN:

Next week we look forward to catching up on some events in school which had to be postponed before the Christmas break. On Wednesday we will welcome M&M productions to perform Jack and the Beanstalk for the children and on Friday the children will have their class Christmas parties. Further details, including what to wear, are in the main part of the newsletter. It will be wonderful to see the children having fun and making the most of these events.

We still have a number of covid infections in school, with positive cases in every year group. Thank you to you all for your support with daily lateral flow testing, which is picking up new infections and helping to slow the spread of the virus in school. Please be mindful that if your child has any covid symptoms then it is recommended that they have a PCR test and do not rely on a lateral flow test. You may take a walk-in test at both the Hexham and Blaydon testing centres, with no need to pre-book an appointment.

We had a visit from Local Councillor Anne Dale this week, to congratulate the 'Stocksfield Garbage Crew' on their excellent work litter picking in our local community. This links to our Eco Schools work and has involved lots of local families and children and we hope to take it from strength to strength. A photographer came along from the Hexham Courant to take a picture of some of the children and grown ups with their litter pickers! Look out for this in next week's Courant.

AWARDS OF THE WEEK:

Kid Awesome - Stars of the Week:



Reception

- William M for fantastic work in his paintings of garden birds

Year 1

- Georgia H for fantastic work and effort in all subjects this week

Year 2

- Isla P for her super rhyming work during sentence stacking.

Year 3

- Cole S in Year 3 for being a great friend and thinking of others

Year 4

- Oliver M for trying really hard with his handwriting

Head Teacher Awards

- Ethan L in Year 3 for his fantastic descriptive illustration of Egypt

SCHOOL UPDATES

WHITE ROSE MATHS APP:

This week White Rose Maths have launched their 1 - Minute Maths App...it may be a good way to help your child gain greater confidence in maths.

Check out these 7 top reasons for using 1-Minute Maths!

1. Excellent practice — and no worksheets.
2. A clear, intuitive process that children pick up straight away.
3. No sign or internet access needed. Just download and play.
4. Enjoyable and motivating... How many can they get correct in one minute?
5. Helpful hints match those used in class.
6. Brilliant for building number fluency and confidence.
7. It's FREE!

Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play

HOMEWORK HELP:



Below is a link to parental webinars to help you help your child with their Doodle Homework. The short videos are quick and easy to follow and will give you further knowledge of our Doodle Homework apps. Great for getting the most out of Doodle Learning.

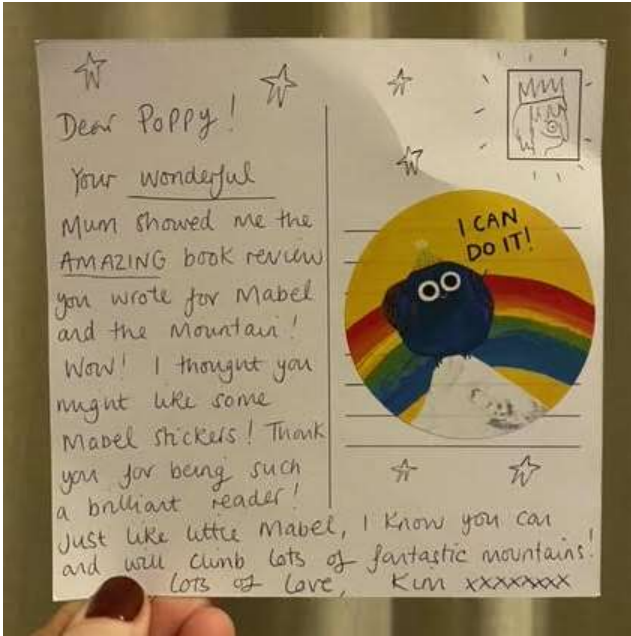
<https://www.doodlelearning.com/parent-webinars>



BOOK REVIEW CORNER:

We don't have a book review for you this week, but we do have an update on a review we received at the end of last year from Poppy M in Year 1.

Poppy's mum emailed the author of the book that Poppy reviewed (Mabel and the Mountain by Kim Hillyard) to let her know how much they loved her book. They were thrilled to receive a letter and some Mabel and the Mountain stickers in the post from the book's author Kim Hillyard!



What a lovely letter, Poppy, and thank you for sharing it with us.

We are delighted that we have so many brilliant readers in school. Don't forget to share the books you are reading with us so we can let everyone know how fantastic they are.

BELATED CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS:

Next week we are hoping to hold our belated Christmas celebrations that we had to postpone at the end of last term.

- On Wednesday, we are welcoming M&M productions into school to show us their performance of Jack and the Beanstalk. The children should just come to school in their normal school uniform on that day.

Thank you to everyone who has paid for their tickets to this performance. We will contact anyone who hasn't yet paid separately with further information about this.

- On Friday afternoon, we will be having our Christmas Disco Parties. The children will play some games and receive a small treat. To help get the party mood started, the children can come to school in their party clothes (please note there will be no outdoor / PE sessions that day so PE kit and outdoor gear will not be required).



INFORMATION FROM NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL RE INCOME RELATED FREE SCHOOL MEALS:

We have attached a leaflet alongside the newsletter this week from Northumberland County Council regarding income related free school meals. It explains what criteria you need to be able to apply for free school meals and the benefits that both you and school get from this.

Although children in Reception to Year 2 get universal free school meals, we do urge any parents who think they might be eligible for income - related free school meals to apply as this benefits both you, your child and school.

Details of how to apply are shown on the leaflet - it is a very quick process so please have a look if you think it applies to you.

THINGS TO DO IN THE COMING WEEKS:



North East Puddle Jumping Championships at Washington Wetlands Trust Saturday 19th - Sunday 27th February

Put on your wellies, get out into nature, get muddy and have a splashing time! That's right, join our family-friendly Puddle Jumping Championships once again at Washington – guaranteed fun whatever the weather!

What better way to blow away the winter cobwebs and have a splashing day out together? Come rain or shine, our Puddle Jumping Championships are the perfect activity for the whole family, not just the kids – grown-ups can join in the fun too!

Challenge your family and friends on our popular Welly Boot Camp obstacle course and show us your most creative puddle jump to complete the course. Then take a shot at our welly shy or splash-themed bean bag toss, but who will be the winner of your group?

Self-led throughout the day during February half-term (Saturday 19 - Sunday 27 February), simply pick up an activity guide at the admissions desk and have some fun. Look out for a fab competition to enter too!

Cost: Included with admission ticket and free to WWT members. There is no longer a need to book your visit with us but if you're not already a member and would like to, please book your tickets online.

Celebrate 1900 years of Hadrian's Wall with a year-long festival

Sites across Hadrian's Wall

Monday 24 January until Monday 23 December



This year is the 1900th anniversary of the building of Hadrian's Wall, the World Heritage Site that stretches 73 miles from Wallsend to Ravenglass. Enjoy a year-long festival with hundreds of events and activities for all ages across the Wall.

Find out more by following the link: [1900 Years of Hadrian's Wall](#)

DIARY DATES

- Mon 24th Jan on Monday 31st Jan No small group music lessons - classes resume with Miss Humble
- Tuesday 25th January parentmail Reception Class Vision Screening - information sent home by
- Tuesday 25th January Kielder Observatory Visit to school - Year 2
- Wednesday 26th January performance M&M Production of Jack and the Beanstalk - rescheduled
- Friday 28th January Christmas Disco/ Class Parties rescheduled date
- Friday 4th February information to follow shortly NSPCC Number Day - mega maths fundraising day - more
- 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
- Thursday 3rd March World Book Day
- W/C 7th March information to follow shortly about booking appointment slots Parents' Evenings - class dates and times to be confirmed and more
- 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

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

Mrs Barker

Executive Head Teacher