



Wallsend Jubilee Primary School Newsletter - Autumn Term 2019

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Head Teachers Blog

I can't quite believe we are now moving quickly towards one of the busiest times in the school calendar – Christmas. It has been an excellent start to the school year and the children have all settled well into their new routines and are working well and making progress. As part of my ongoing work to improve the educational opportunities for our children, I continue to set priorities for the school year and plan actions around these. These actions are detailed and take place at various times of the school year and a significant amount of this work is carried out by the leaders and managers at school at all levels. In an effort to keep you informed about whole school developments for 2019-20, a brief outline of our school priorities are:

- To continue to improve attendance rates across school;
- To further develop the teaching of reading and the children's love of books;
- To develop children's ability to reason in mathematics;
- To continue to support all children in developing positive behaviour for learning

Life Bags

As a parent it can often be a challenge talking to children about difficult subjects, as there is always the concern that you might say the 'wrong thing'. We have 5 'Life Bags' available for families to borrow, covering Dementia/Alzheimer's, divorce/separation, worry/anxiety, bedtime and loss/bereavement. The bags contain resources and information to help parents & carers to support their family in a child-friendly manner. If you have any questions or wish to borrow a Life Bag please contact Mrs Bryson.

School Library Plans

I have been talking to staff and governors recently about the importance of reading both to support academic progress and to nurture children's love of reading. In school we have lots of books which support education and which can be taken home to read. To further enhance this we have been raising the necessary funds to furnish and equip a new library area in school. From funds already raised from last Christmas and the summer fair, we are currently in the process of ordering the furniture to house the new books. We are still working hard to raise the remaining funds to turn this desire into reality. With this in mind many parents have been asking which charities we are planning to support this year, such as Children in Need. As a school we have decided that for this academic year, the fundraising activities we organise will be to support our school library. I aim to plan a non uniform day in the very near future where children can bring a voluntary contribution or instead may bring a good quality second hand book that they may have lying around at home to begin to stock our new library. I hope that you will be able to support us with this important school priority.



Anti Bullying

On Tuesday 12th November we all took part in an anti bullying initiative - 'Wear Odd Socks Day' Educating our children on what bullying is, how we deal with it and the consequences of bullying, is paramount to us at school. The day was very informative and started with an excellent assembly delivered by Mrs Tait. Bullying is a very serious issue and I am confident that the children understand the difference between isolated incidents that make them unhappy, and persistent issues by the same person or group of children that constitute bullying. As part of our ongoing commitment to anti bullying, I plan to develop a working party of children to write an anti bullying leaflet



Parents' Evenings

Thank you for making our parents' evenings such a huge success. 95% of all our parents/carers came to school to discuss how their child has settled into school. It was really nice to see you all in school and I hope that you were very proud of the way your child has settled down to their learning this year.

Attendance

Over the last academic year, we have all worked very hard to ensure that the children have good attendance. Mrs Bryson takes the lead on this very important issue and has worked in conjunction with yourselves and the children to ensure good attendance remains a high priority. I set an overall school target of 96% in line with government guidelines. In 2017-18 we were below this target and whilst we were already working on it, Ofsted highlighted it as a whole school issue. I am pleased to tell you I have just received documentation to tell us we have reached our target for 2018-19 of 96%. Thank you for your hard work. I have now set school the target of at least maintaining 96% for this academic year. We will continue to share this information with you as the year progresses.



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Training Day

Throughout the school year, teachers and support staff complete three training days to take part in essential professional development. I am committed to this in order for staff to keep up to date with recent developments in the changing face of education and maintain their skills and knowledge at the highest level. Our most recent training day was an excellent opportunity for our staff to take some time to reflect on their practice and develop their skills. The focus of the training was:

1. How to develop guided reading in their classrooms;
2. Challenging children with mathematics so that they develop their reasoning skills;
3. Developing positive behaviour for learning.

The training was carried out by the individual subject managers within school and I am positive that we will see the effects of the training in the classrooms very soon



Uniform

Thank you for your support with uniform. The children are extremely smart and you have supported me with the development of all black footwear. Please remember that if your child needs any new footwear as we move into winter, they will need to be all black, in line with our school uniform policy



Behaviour in School

I am very proud of the behaviour of our children both in school and when they represent us outside of school. With this in mind we have been looking at ways to recognise children who always behave well and remain on 'green' in a consistent pattern within our traffic light system.

This was discussed in staff professional development time and Mr McKay has been trialling a system which enables children to move to 'gold' to recognise consistently good behaviour.

After this trial period we talked to the children and evaluated the development and we all agreed we would roll this out into all classes from Years 1 –6. The staff are currently about to discuss with each other, and the children, what reward could be in place for this system.

We will inform you of further developments when this is in place



Wellbeing & Nurture at Wallsend Jubilee Primary School

We aim to ensure children in our school feel happy and safe at all times and that they know the adults around them support them emotionally, socially and mentally, to ensure that school represents a positive time in their lives.

Why is the wellbeing of our children important to us?

Wellbeing is all about our holistic health, including physical and emotional. When we have good levels of wellbeing we feel that life is in balance and that we can generally cope well.

In order to support children to develop their resilience and understand their emotions, we deliver a variety of nurture programmes which take place out of class in small groups. These aim to build self-esteem, improve emotional well-being & confidence levels, deal with friendship/social issues and help children to deal effectively with daily troubles & 'bounce back' from life's challenges.

We aim to ensure that all children during their time at Wallsend Jubilee, will have the opportunity to access nurture sessions to support their wellbeing.

School Visits and Visitors

As part of our wider school curriculum, termly we endeavour to organise a school visitor, or a class visit out of school, to support the class' theme. We always look at value for money and sometimes have to change the trip or visitor, depending on the cost implications. For example, this year we are having a Victorian day in school instead of a visit to Beamish. It was felt that the cost involved, (nearly £20 per child) had become so high, when the amount of time the children actually get to spend at the museum was taken into consideration, that it was deemed to be unfeasible. We hope that you understand the reason why we occasionally have to make changes to trips which may have taken place previously.

