



Thursday 25th October 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Harvest Festival Collection

Thank you for your donations for such a worthy cause that supports local families. They were gratefully received by Fusion Housing.

DOJO assemblies

I am delighted to share that our children have collectively earnt an astonishing 13,934 DOJOs this half-term! A DOJO is earnt by showing strong learning behaviours which may include mastering timestables, spellings, reading regularly, working collaboratively, or achieving a pen licence. This list is not exhaustive as children are expected to try their very best with all aspects of learning. DOJO certificates are awarded as follows:

50 DOJOs - Bronze certificate

150 DOJOs - Silver certificate

250 DOJOs - Gold certificate

350 DOJOs - Platinum certificate

We have already held two certificate assemblies where Parents/Carers have attended to help celebrate the children's achievements. Many more celebration assemblies are planned for the very near future. Parent/Carers receive individual invitations via School Ping when it is their child's turn. Well done!

Attendance and Punctuality

Our school attendance average is currently 95.91%. Whilst this is below our average of 97%, I appreciate the effort families are making to ensure their child attends school every day they can. Many classes have already earned awards for achieving attendance targets set by Miss Bancroft every week.

Following ongoing monitoring of attendance, some Parents/Carers attended meetings with me and our Local Authority Attendance Safeguarding officer earlier this week. The next meetings are scheduled for December. Families will receive individual invitations if attendance is causing concern.

The recently updated school's Leave of Absence policy is available on the school website to view. This policy has been created jointly with local schools to support our families with consistent and clear messages about attendance.

All children that achieve 97% attendance at the end of this academic year (exact cut off point to be determined by school) will be rewarded with a school trip in July. This trip will be fully funded by school. The calculations required to determine eligibility for this trip will be completed wholly by school and the school's decision will be final. Any children not accessing this reward will be expected to attend school that day. We understand a small minority of children have underlying health conditions. Children that have underlying health conditions fully evidenced with medical reports will not be disadvantaged when calculating their final attendance percentage.

To support all families, we will send individual notifications about their child's attendance on a half-termly basis. The first of these notifications will be released after half-term.

We have observed a concerted effort with punctuality too. The safeguarding Team will notify all Parents/Carers of the date of the next 'Late Gate'. Thank you for your support with this.

School website

Our school website contains a wealth of information to support our families. This includes information about learning, copies of policies as well as key dates/events. Please support us by using this resource prior to contacting school with general queries. Thank you in advance for your support with this.

Sports/Clubs

This half term, our Physical Education and Sports have been very successful with opportunities provided for the children to be engaged in high-quality learning and increased physical activity.

All children were invited to participate in morning dance sessions using the dance mats we were fortunate to borrow through our Sports' Partnership with the local high school. The children loved these sessions and were energised at the start of the day.

We have been able to run 7 After School Clubs including football, dodgeball, cricket, cross-country, tag rugby and table tennis. This is only possible due to the continued dedication of our team.

Our children have also had opportunities to compete against other schools. Year 5 and 6 participated in the North Kirklees Cross Country Competition. They all ran exceptionally well, over a difficult course, with three of our children finishing in the top 3. This resulted in them being invited to participate in the next round, which is the Kirklees finals, later in the term. Good luck boys!

Two teams (a girls' and a boys') team from Year 5 and 6 also competed in the Tag Rugby festival. Our girls' team finished in 3rd place and our boys' team won the tournament, which is a fabulous achievement. Both teams were commended for their team work, support and encouragement for each other, and their sportsmanship. We are extremely proud of every one of them.

Next half term we have children competing in cricket, bowling and football: we wish them every success.

Our Sports' Leadership programme is now underway; we had some exceptional applications from Year 5 and having had their training this week, will commence this responsible role after the holiday.

Parking

Thank you for your support with using the voluntary one-way system when dropping off and collecting children. When parking cars, please ensure driveways are not blocked. Please do not park on pavements as this encourages children to walk on roads instead.

Key Dates

Monster Ball - Thursday 9th November - separate letters have been sent already.

Parent/Carer information evenings - Tuesday 14th November and Wednesday 15th November. This is an opportunity to discuss how well your child has settled in. Once the booking facility is open, Parents/Carers will receive notification via School Ping. If your child is supported by Mr Mellor or Blossom, you will be able to book a slot an additional slot.

Book Fair - Tuesday 14th November and Wednesday 15th November - more details to follow.

Rocksteady Concert 1:45pm - Friday 8th December - more details to follow.

Whole School Pantomime - Wednesday 12th December pm. All children will be able to enjoy a show. School fully funds this.

Dates for Christmas Parties, Christmas lunch, Christmas performances and Christingle services will be shared once finalised.

On behalf of the Bywell Team, thank you for your on-going support of our school. Have a lovely half-term break and we look forward to receiving the children on **Tuesday 7th November.**

Kind Regards

Ms Z Adam
Head Teacher