



November 2016 Newsletter

14th November 2016

Dates to remember:

St Helen Auckland Community
Primary School
St Helen Auckland
Bishop Auckland
County Durham
DL14 9EN
Tel: 01388 604168
www.sthenauckland.durham.sch.uk

Inside this issue:

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Attendance | 2 |
| Staffing News | 2 |
| Gentle Reminders | 2 |
| Children's safety | 3 |
| Thank you | 3 |
| School Governors | 3 |
| Class News | 4 |
| Learning Logs | 4 |

Upcoming dates:

- * School photographs
23.11.16
- * Book week 29th , 30th
November & 1st De-
cember
- * 5.12.16 Christmas Fayre
- * Break up for Christmas
Friday 16th December
- * Return Wednesday 4th
January

Friendship Week

This week is Anti Bullying Week and the whole school will be looking at ways to deal with all types of unkind, unfriendly and bullying behaviour. This can often become quite negative so the children prefer it if we tackle these difficult issues by teaching us all about how to be a good friend to each other at home, at school and in the local, National and Global Community.

Please join us to celebrate what the classes have learnt in a special assembly on **Friday 18th November at 9.05 am**. You will then be invited to join the children for activities in class and if you are very good there will be refreshments for adults in aid of Children in Need.

Children in Need

For £1.00 come in your spots on Friday 18th to raise money for Children in Need—the spottier the better.

School Photographs

These will take place on Wednesday 23rd November for children in school. Please complete the form sent home last week and return to the Office by Friday 18th.

Book Week

The Scholastics Book Fair had to be changed to the week beginning 28th November. Leaflets are coming home letting you know what is available to purchase. The children will get a chance to look at the books during the day and it will be open to parents from 3.00pm on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

We are always so proud of how the children in our school enjoy reading and note how well supported reading is by families at home.

Christmas Dates:

Monday 12th December—Christmas Concert 1.15pm

Tuesday 13th December—Christmas Concert 9.30am

Wednesday 14th December—Christmas Dinner (FS2—Y6)

Thursday 15th December— In school Pantomime and Parties

Friday 16th December—Christingle in the Church in the afternoon

Break up for Christmas returning on Wednesday 4th January 2017

Attendance

October's attendance:

| | |
|------|---------|
| FS 2 | 93.9% |
| Yr 1 | 95.1% |
| Yr 2 | 94.4% |
| Yr 3 | 96.1% 😊 |
| Yr 4 | 97.6% 😊 |
| Yr 5 | 93.5% |
| Yr 6 | 96.1% 😊 |

Top Table Winners:

| | |
|----------|----------------|
| 07.10.16 | Year 2 (98.5%) |
| 14.10.16 | Year 3 (96.8%) |
| 21.10.16 | FS 2 (98%) |

Overall school attendance for October was: 95.3% and since September is: 95.4%

Congratulations to Year 4, Year 6 and Year 3

Gong to Year 1 - keep trying to improve

Children with 90% or less attendance at the end of each half term will receive a letter asking if you require any support to improve this. Anyone wishing to request leave of absence needs to apply in advance of the event. We now have a form to complete from the Local Authority that can be collected from the office but as you are all aware holidays in term time will not be granted and could incur a fine.

Staff News

Following the Appointment of our new Deputy Head, Mrs Elmes, we looked to see where we would like to strengthen the leadership of school. We have created a new post for someone to look particularly at the teaching and learning experiences for the children in each class. They will support staff to improve their practice, keep the curriculum current and appropriate to the needs of all, decide on training needs and ensure our resources are kept up to date. Following a rigorous selection and interview process this post went to **Miss Parker**. Congratulations!

Gentle reminders

Children should not be unsupervised on the school playground at any time in the morning. Breakfast Club starts at 8.00am and the school day begins at 8.50am.

PLEASE can you put names your child's clothes as it helps eliminate clothes going missing.

We are a no smoking site. This includes e cigarettes on the school playground —Thank you.

Children's Safety

Children in Year 3 will be taking part in road safety training this month.

Following the talk from the Fire Brigade recently I was extremely impressed with the children's knowledge about how to keep safe around bonfires and fireworks.

There are many resources available to help parents, carers and families keep children safe from Cyber Bullying. I have attached a 2 page leaflet from one company giving clear and simple tips to keep your child safe online and what to do if you suspect they are a victim of bullying. There will be more advice and guidance at our special assembly on Friday 18th November at 9.05am. Please join us.

Christmas Fayre

This will take place in the school hall on **Monday 5th December 2.30 –3.30pm**. If anyone has any contributions for prizes, tombola etc we would be delighted to receive them.

Thank you

It was so lovely to see so many adults attending the recent parents meetings, it is so important for the children to see home and school working together to support them in their learning. We had positive feedback from those who attended and we know you are always keen to come into school and take part in activities with the children.

Shoe Box Appeal—well done everyone. We topped our personal best from last year with 44 shoe boxes finding their way from our school to needy children in Eastern Europe.

Applications for School Governor

Due to terms of Office coming to an end we are able to invite expressions of interest from Parents who think they may wish to help shape and develop school into the future. It is an important position to hold and although it is voluntary without our proactive, passionate and supportive Governors schools would be unable to make the improvements needed for children and also gain the good and outstanding outcomes needed from Ofsted to improve reputations within the community and local authority. Interested Parents/ carers should write to me in the first instance with a brief statement of why you are interested.

Class News

You may wish to ask your child about the following that they have asked me to put on the newsletter:

Foundation 1—going on a Gruffalo Hunt on the school field AND baking Gruffalo Crumble!

Foundation 2—making fantastic Transport Models in topic work. Some even made more at home.

Year 1— learning all about animals and their habitats and categorising them into different types of animals. Oh and we are loving learning adjectives to describe them.

Year 2—we are really enjoying learning about The Great Fire of London.

Year 3—our new Topic looking at the Geography of Great Britain is very exciting.

Year 4—we loved our ' Taste of Italy' food sampling day to help us design and make an Italian Pizza.

Year 5—discovering what talented singers we are! We are also loving our Victorians topic.

Year 6— we have found out we are good collaborators in Year 6 and we also love fractions!!

Learning Logs—these go out on a Friday to be returned the following Wednesday. In the last week 2 children received Star of the Week for their work at home—Keep it up everyone. We may need to start a new prize for the best Learning Log!

Maeve Mackenzie

Head Teacher
