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| **Grange View C.E. First School**  Grange Road, Widdrington Morpeth, NE61 5LZ.Telephone: 01670 790 686email: admin@grangeview.northumberland.sch.uk Headteacher: Mrs Louise Laskey B.Ed(Hons) **www.grangeview.northumberland.sch.uk**  |

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**Dear Parent/Carers 19th Feb 2018**

**Welcome back to our busy Spring 2 half term. Thank you to the 26 parents out of 102 families who have taken the time to complete the Ofsted online parent questionnaire. For those few parents who do have any worries about the school or their child’s education, please make an appointment to see me so we can help you with anything you are concerned about.**

**TOPIC REVIEWS FROM CLASSES**

**Acorns- 2018 Spring 1 Winter & Percy the Park Keeper**

The new children who started in January have settled into Acorn class really well, it feels like they have always been part of the class.

Our topic this half term has been winter - the children have enjoyed lots of opportunities to get outside and explore the winter weather. We have also brought the elements inside, snow and ice in the water tray, frozen paint to create pictures, snow dough to squash and squeeze. One of our favourite stories has been Percy the Park Keeper, One Snowy Night; we used this as our theme for our role play, everyone loved re-telling the story and acting it out.

**Oak class topic review – Spring term 1: Winter.**

Oak class have had another very busy half term learning all about winter. The children have been very enthusiastic about the topic and have enjoyed all of these activities;

* Looking for signs of winter at the woods
* Making snowflakes
* Writing about what we see and do in Winter
* Painting winter trees and printing snowflakes with bubble wrap
* Designing our own snowmen/snowwomen and then writing a description
* Exploring ice and learning about melting
* Learning about animals that hibernate during winter and making homes for them outside
* Maths – the children really enjoyed learning about Money and playing in the shop
* E-safety day – we listened to the story ‘Smartie the Penguin’ and talked about how we can stay safe when playing on computer games

**Elm Class Topic Review- Spring 1 2018- Traveller’s Tales**

Although our Spring 1 half term was very short at only 5 weeks we seem to have fitted a lot into it! Our main focus has been the journey the children have travelled from their birth to the present day which has enabled them to reflect upon the progress they have made in their lives so far. We began with a poem by A. A. Milne (creator of Winnie the Pooh) called ‘Now I am Six’ which the children learned very quickly and lead to the children finding out about the stages of progression through their lives so far. Throughout the half term we have enjoyed looking at the photographs sent in (thank you to all those parents who responded to the letter at the beginning of the term) and the children have liked telling each other about them. Finally, at the end of the topic the children created mood-boards using copies of photographs, were possible, to share their life-journeys as well as their favourite things. Science learning focused upon the parts of the body and how their bodies have grown over time. The children really enjoyed labelling each other!

Our literacy has also focus on stories involving journeys, two of which were We’re Going on a Bear Hunt and Where the Wild Things Are. The children explored the stories in the classroom and forest area then created their own versions by altering characters and settings to suit their imaginations. The finding of a large dinosaur egg in the forest area was a definite highlight though not everyone was convinced it came from a dinosaur – was it from something else!

Within History and Geography children have learned about the British Isles and the world thinking about places they have been to and how they travelled there. We also started our learning about the world’s oceans which will continue through our next topic of Water World – Land Ahoy!

**Beech Class -Wonderful Woodhorn!**

Year 2 have worked exceptionally hard this half term learning all about their local mining heritage. This fantastic arts project was designed with Woodhorn Museum to evaluate the arts experiences our children receive. What a brilliant time they had! We had a pre-visit from a History Expert at Woodhorn who came into school to discuss the kind of things we would like to learn at the museum. She also brought lots of exciting objects, artefacts and photographs for us to sketch, observe and make some interesting predictions about. The children were particularly enthused by the old mining boot! We then kick started our topic with a visit to Woodhorn where we were able to view some works of art by the pitman painters in the gallery. We also had a go at drawing one of the paintings using our new skills we had learned. The drama was fabulous as the children dressed up as miners and really got into role. When we returned the children produced some wonderful recount writing about their trip. We designed and made our own coal tubs inspired by the one we saw at Woodhorn. The children used lots of tools and equipment to ensure they created a successful moving vehicle. In Art we studied lots of close up back and white photos of coal wheel and developed our sketching skills. We then used these new skills to create pastel landscape of Ashington Colliery at dawn. They were super!

**KS2: Mysterious Mayans- Willow and Chestnut Class**

What a short but fun filled half term! The children have been busy from start to end, exploring the mysterious Mayans and what life was like back then. They researched information on different Mayan cities to find out where they were and how they lived. A main city we looked at was Chichen Itza. Using Google maps and our ICT skills we got to see the site and explore it as if we were really there! The children used their ordering skills to place the Mayan events in chronological order. This was especially difficult when we saw that they existed in BC and AD. We looked at the different gods and discussed how they prayed to certain gods for specific needs. When looking at the Mayan foods, we found out that one of their staple foods was maize. So we linked that to our healthy eating in topic and designed a healthy tortilla wrap. And to top it off at the end of term, both classes got to enjoy a hot chocolate outside relating it back to how the Mayans also drank a hot, bitter chocolate drink!

**\*\*\*\*STAFF CAR PARK\*\*\*\***

**Please can we remind all parents that the school car park, for health and safety reasons, must not be used to drop off any children. It is only for staff, visitors and disabled pupils. Thank you.**

**SATS Meeting**

**Year 2 parents are invited to a SATs meeting at 3.15pm in Beech Class on Wednesday, 28th February. We will entertain the children in Elm class while Mrs Miller speaks to you all.**

**Easter Service**

This will be held in school w/c 26th March but final date and time to be confirmed!

**EASTER FAIR**

**Don’t forget the Friends have organised The Easter Fair on 23rd March 2pm in the school hall with lots of chocolate and fun for all!**

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**EASTER BINGO!**

**TUESDAY 27TH MARCH**

**DOORS OPEN 6.30PM**

**ALL WELCOME!**



**THANKYOU FOR ALL YOUR BOTTLE DONATIONS THE EASTER FAIR!**

**After School Clubs – begin this week Monday, 19th February**

These will continue as usual from 19th February so if your child still wants a place for the following paid clubs:-

Monday - Drama (6 weeks); Thursday – LEGO – (5 weeks); Friday - Karate – 5 weeks (all £2 per session) please pay at the office upfront for all of these clubs as soon as you can thank you. Football and Dance continue as usual.

**Key Stage 2 Residential Trip in May**

Please have the balance of this trip paid by the end of the Spring Term (29th March) so we can pay the final amount owing. This can be paid either by instalments or one payment to the school office, thank you.

**Sending money into school**

Please remember if you are sending in any money to school for whatever reason, send it in an envelope or money bag indicating what the money is for, this includes when handing to members of staff. PLEASE DON’T HAND LOOSE CASH TO MEMBERS OF STAFF.

School handles money for lots of different activities and would appreciate your co-operation, thank you.

**PUNCTUALITY!**

During last half term we recorded lots of occurrences of pupil lateness. Pupils are recorded as being late for school if they arrive after the doors have closed and come in through the main school doors. Children who arrive after 9am receive an unauthorised mark.

**All Doors will be locked once classes are inside and the main entrance will have to be used!**

IF YOU ARE RUNNING LATE FOR ANY REASON OR YOUR CHILD IS NOT COMING INTO SCHOOL DUE TO SICKNESS, PLEASE RING TO LET US KNOW, THANK YOU.

All late marks show on children’s attendance registers and we will be routinely contacting parents whose children are regularly late. Our routines start the minute children arrive at school with children getting straight on with their independent work in class. Children arriving late miss out on vital learning time and find it harder to settle into the school day and some pupils get upset when they are constantly late. Please help us by ensuring your child is at school, ready to come in when the bell rings at 8.50am. We’ll keep you posted on how we are doing in our assemblies and newsletters.

# Attendance

Please remember your child’s attendance in school is extremely important. Awards will continue to be given to each class with the best attendance. **Letters and appointments to see Mrs Laskey and the Education Welfare officer to follow for persistent absentees.**

Can we remind parents about a section of the Education Act 1996:

“Central to raising standards in education and ensuring all pupils can fulfil their potential is an assumption so widely understood that it is insufficiently stated – pupils need to attend school regularly to benefit from their education. Missing out on lessons leaves children vulnerable to falling behind. Children with poor attendance tend to achieve less in both primary and secondary school”

**NO HOLIDAYS will be authorised in term time.**

We have a new Education Welfare Officer working with us this year who will be monitoring attendance very closely; especially the late marks so please ensure your child/ren are on the school yard for the bell at 8.50am every morning.

**Attendance for last week**

**Well done Oak Class who won with 99.1%**

Acorn – 87.5% Oak –99.1 % Elm – 92.3%

Beech – 98.5% Chestnut – 92.3% Willow – 94.3%

TOTAL FOR THE LAST WEEK – 94.3% ☹

Well below our school target of 96%

PLEASE TRY to get your child to school on time every day

and help us achieve our target EVERY week, thank you.

***Beech***

Merit – Leon, Aaron

Sparkle –Ashpreet

Writing – John

Presentation – Leah

***Chestnut***

Merit – Jake, Lola

Sparkle – Jaiden

Writing – Katie

Presentation – Elsie

***Willow***

Merit – Leigh, Bret

Sparkle – Kenzie

Writing – Daniel

Presentation - Maddison

Stars of the week

***Acorns***

Merit – Zak, Jayden S

Sparkle – Georgie

Writing – Jayden B

***Oak***

Merit – Kristian, Poppy A

Sparkle – Olivia

Writing – Thomas

***Elm***

Merit – Porscha, Holly

Sparkle – Robyne

Writing –Alfie

Presentation - Ben

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Football Award

Ella – best goal scorer

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 Grange View Gymnasts who took part in a recent Schools Partnership Festival at Ashington Leisure Centre for KS2:

Katie, Caleb, Leigh, Ella, Reagan, Lillie

# FREE SCHOOL MEALS (PUPIL PREMIUM)

Some parents/carers whose income is below £16,190 per family are entitled to Free School Meals **(OFSTED call this pupil premium).** The school currently receives additional funding per

pupil in our budget to use to support these pupils across the school. We use it to benefit every child by supporting us to have extra staff for small group work, buy resources to support small group work and interventions. A small proportion of this funding is used to subsidise Breakfast and Afterschool clubs and support costs of residential and school visits.

Information leaflets are available in the Main Entrance and the FMS telephone number is

01670 623592

**Diary Dates:**

* Monday, 19th February – school re-opens at 8.50am. Messy Monday starts today at 3.15pm in the hall, please join the Team!
* PARENTS EVENINGS- please see your child’s class teacher for an appointment for week beginning 26th February
* Monday, 26th February – KS2 Sea Life Centre Trip – separate letter sent home
* Wednesday, 28th February – Year 2 parents SATs meeting at 3.15pm
* Thus 1st March – WORLD BOOK DAY- separate letter sent home
* Tuesday, 6th March – KS2 River Trip – separate letter sent home
* Friday, 9th March – Non-uniform for chocolate donations
* Wednesday, 14th March – UV bike markings in school – see separate letter
* Friday, 23rd March – Friends Easter Fair at 2pm
* Thursday, 29th March – deadline for final balance for KS2 residential trip
* Thursday, 29th March – School closes a 2pm for Easter Holidays
* Friday, 30th March – Good Friday
* Monday, 2nd April – Easter Monday
* Monday, 16th April – School opens at 8.50am for the Summer Term

**Easy Fund Raising** [www.easyfundraising.org.uk.](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/) Please register and keep Shopping online on this website for school funds. Every penny you spend helps school.

**Parent questionnaires/Ofsted website-** please complete our online parent questionnaire on Parent view when you and if you can. Please complete the slip at the end of this letter if you have completed the online questionnaire and you will be entered into a Prize draw for a shopping voucher by the end of term, thank you. <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk>

**Kind Regards**

Louise Laskey

Mrs L Laskey

Head Teacher

I have completed the Ofsted questionnaire online.

Please enter me \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for the Prize Draw

Childs Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Class\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_