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

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**Dear Parents/Carers 27th Feb 2017**

**PANCAKE PARTY**

Rev Joanna and some of our Messy Wednesday team are holding a Pancake Party in the school hall at 3.15pm on Shrove Tuesday. Please come along for some tasty treats.

**There will no No Football Club that day!**

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**Attendance**

We hope everyone has had a restful half term and all the illness and sickness has gone.

To promote and reward good attendance across the school, the governors have agreed to provide an AMAZING incentive!

The class with the greatest attendance at the end of the year will win a MINI IPAD and a family with 100% attendance will be entered to a prize draw to win £30 shopping voucher.



**POCKET MONEY STALL**

On Friday 3rd of March our pocket money stall will be open after school run by the Friends of Grange View. Please come along to spend your pennies and support our school.

**Topic Reviews Spring 2017**

**Dinosaurs Acorn Class**

Some of the children from our Afternoon Nursery joined our Morning Nursery this term. They will all start school in September so it is good for them all to be together. We have also welcomed some more children into our Afternoon Nursery and they are enjoying accessing the activities in the unit. Here are just a few of those exciting things we have been doing.

* We have enjoyed listening to lots of Harry and the Dinosaur stories this term.
* In our role play area we dressed up and went on lots of dinosaur hunts.
* On E-Safety day we talked a lot about being kind to each other and using kind words with our friends. We also talked about ALWAYS telling an adult about things on the internet that you are not sure about.
* We celebrated Chinese New Year by telling the story of how the years got their names and tasting Chinese food.

Well done everyone we have had another fun packed and exciting term.

**Dinosaurs Topic –Oak class**

This has been a fun-filled half term learning all about dinosaurs which the children have been very enthusiastic about. Here are some of the activities that we have done:

* Reading lots of dinosaur stories such as ‘Harry and his Bucketful of Dinosaurs’ and ‘Dinosaur Roar.’
* Dinosaur Dig workshop – the children pretended to be archaeologists and found dinosaur bones. They then went back in time to time of the dinosaurs to see what the land was like then.
* Found fossils in the woods and put them back together to make a dinosaur. They then made some shelter for the smaller dinosaurs to hide from the T-Rex.
* Painting pictures of our favourite dinosaurs.
* Enjoyed playing in our dinosaur themed book area.
* The children have enjoyed the weekly Yoga sessions with Debbie.
* They learnt all about Chinese New Year and enjoyed making lanterns to decorate the classroom. They also learnt what year they were born and made animal masks.

**Elm class Topic Review- Our Cool World**

Elm class have thoroughly enjoyed learning about the Arctic and Antarctic. They have learned a lot about penguins and other Arctic and Antarctic animals and how they are adapted for living in the extreme cold. We were lucky enough to have Mrs Liddle on hand who offered to come and tell us about her adventures in the Arctic and Antarctic. There were some amazing photographs and stories. She showed us the clothes she wore to keep her warm as well as well telling us more about penguins. In fact penguins almost took over our topic as we also made them and wrote about them – even our Internet Safety Day story had penguins in it!

As a further part of our topic and leading on from seeing Mrs Liddle’s Arctic/Antarctic clothing we designed and made wonderful, warm jumpers for Charlie the rabbit to take with him on his adventure to the Arctic. He is going to be the best-dressed rabbit in the area as well as being toasty warm too! He has said he will send them back to school when he has finished so the children can take them home for their own teddies to wear.

Towards the end of our topic we went to the Forest Area to gather items for our ice pictures. We put them into yoghurt pots, added water and put them in the freezer. Once they were frozen we looked at them and hung them on the tree branches outside our classroom window. They looked spectacular and gradually they melted throughout the day. We used this opportunity to further extend our writing talents too.

**Beech Class Topic Review-Our Cool World**

Beech Class have loved every moment of ‘Our Cool World’ topic! After exploring photographs of Arctic animals the children became so enthused and could not wait to begin researching all the different animals! We used the children’s questions about Arctic animals to develop our reading and writing skills as they researched their own Arctic animal and wrote some fantastic information texts.

We were also very lucky to have been joined by Mrs Liddle who has visited the Antarctica a number of times. She helped us understand what life is like in Antarctica including the climate, geographical features and, our favourite part, the different animals! The children learned such a lot and it really ignited their interest in the geography of the North and South Pole.

From this we used our creative skills to design and make wonderful, warm jumpers for Charlie the rabbit to take with him on his adventure to the Arctic. Beech class researched suitable materials and came up with our own design criteria before making his jumper. The material we selected is sure to keep him warm in the freezing conditions.

Keeping it creative, we also used our Art and Design skills to produce our own beautiful water colour paintings of the Northern lights. We also added a silhouette of a polar bear to our water colour backgrounds. The children loved experimenting with different shades and tones and felt very proud of their stunning paintings once they were complete.

**Willow Class Summary**

At the start of the Spring Term, KS2 embarked on a local study in coordination with Historic England. During the week, they used ordinance survey maps and aerial photographs to compare life in Widdrington to how it has changed throughout the years. They used memory markers to identify distinctive shapes that appeared throughout the ages to help orientate themselves and find familiar landmarks such as the train line and school. Later in the week, they then used street directories and census information to research the life of a person living in the village 100 years ago. All their knowledge and findings were then shared with parents in a celebration event in the hall, where parents came in and were shown the maps, photographs and historic evidence from the village and were taken back in time by the children. It was an event that was very well attended and seemed to be well received by both the children and the adults.

Following this, we travelled to the polar regions to study ‘Our Cool World’. The children watched Frozen planet videos during peer massage and learnt about food chains, adaptation, insulating materials and different habitats due to extreme weather. We had a great creative carousel on a Friday afternoon, taking it in turns to design and make arctic inspired fridge magnets and insulating cups to make our hot chocolate warm in the North Pole. Best of all we made different soups which we taste tested and some even made at home using the recipes from Class Dojo.

In Literacy, the children each planned and wrote their own ‘Cool World’ imaginary story, which was typed up in ICT and then made into a pop-up book through their DT work. The term was a whirlwind of fun, topped off with sporting achievements with the Year 3’s attending a skipping festival, some of our Year 4’s representing the school at a Gymnastics festival and best of all our immense success with e-safety which is soon to be published in the Morpeth Herald. Each term we just go front strength to strength.

**LOST PROPERTY**

We have a full box of unclaimed lost sweatshirts etc in the school hall with no names. Please come and take any that you think may belong to your child.

**CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS SWIMMING AND TRIPS**

We recognise the importance of school trips and regular swimming lessons in broadening our pupils’ experiences. Although we subsidise these from the school budget and our PTA support additional activities, we also ask for contributions towards these sessions from parents in order to make them financially viable. We would really appreciate it if all parents could make these contributions when asked, as without these we may need to reconsider the breadth of activities we are able to provide.

**Sainsbury’s Voucher’s - Active Kids Vouchers**



Please help Grange View by collecting Sainsbury’s Active Kids Vouchers, parents and members of our local community can donate their Active Kids vouchers to school. By exchanging them school can receive an exciting range of active and cooking equipment, and experiences. We can support our children to eat well, move well and live well.

**The school day – Cloakroom Doors**

Please remember that Nursery doors open at 8.45am and stay open until 8.55am. **BUT Oak/Elm/Beech and Willow doors close at 8.50am as soon as the children are in the building.** The school day begins when the bell rings. We have a lot of parents coming to the main entrance. Please use the Nursery entrance for your child to keep routines familiar for them.

Please be aware that if your child has to come in via the main entrance, he/she will receive a late mark in the register and these marks are monitored by the Education Welfare Officer.

**READING**

Reading at home is so important, we encourage all parents to hear their child read every day as it really does help with their school work. A massive thank you to those parents who do this, keep it up please!

**Family Worship**

Please can we remind all parents/carers to turn off mobile phones. If anyone needs to leave early for work or appointments then please sit near the door. We encourage all families to stay for the full service to celebrate all our children’s successes and achievements that week.

**After School Clubs**

These will continue as usual, thank you.

# Dates for diaries

* **Tue 28th Feb – PANCAKE PARTY 3.15pm in school hall NO FOOTBALL CLUB**
* **Wed 1st March – Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent begins**
* **Fri 3rd March- World Book day- Bedtime stories- wear your PJ’s/Onesies for school and bring in your favourite book**
* **Mon 13th March- Y2 Gymnastics at JCSC, letter to follow. Parent’s evenings this week.**
* **Fri 17th March- NON UNIFORM for Easter Egg donations for Easter Fair**
* **Fri 24th March – Comic Relief – separate letter already sent out**
* **Tues 28th March – Friend’s Easter Bingo 7-9pm**
* **Fri 31st March – Easter Fair 3pm**
* **Easter Service- In school hall on Wed 5th April 2pm with Rev Joanna Dobson- NOTE NEW DATE!**
* **Fri 7th April – Break up for Easter 3.15pm**

**Attendance – Does it matter? YES IT DOES!!**

Please remember your child’s attendance in school is extremely important. Awards will continue to be given to each class with the best attendance. 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.

Last week’s attendance before half term:

**Well done Elm Class who won with 93.9%**

Acorn – 86.5% Oak – 84.8%

Elm – 93.9% Beech – 86.8% Willow – 73.9%

TOTAL FOR THE LAST WEEK –84.0% ☹

Our overall school target is now 96% attendance.

PLEASE TRY to get your child to school on time every day and help us achieve our target EVERY week, thank you.

**We had lots of children off sick across the school which impacted in our attendance record for the week.**

Kind Regards

Louise Laskey

Louise Laskey - Headteacher