

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2025

## Newsletter

### Children's Mental Health Week

Last week the children took part in activities designed to support their mental health and well-being. This year's theme was 'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself.'

*'The more we can understand about ourselves, the more prepared we are to express our emotions and take on life's ups and downs.'*

Every day, the children completed activities in class, which included:

- discussing different emotions
- thinking about when and why they might experience them
- creating personality islands to show what is important to them and what their values are
- dancing and singing to improve moods and help them to be happy
- sharing what they can do well and what they would like to learn to do
- creating a 'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself' tree to represent themselves.



### Safer Internet Day – 11<sup>th</sup> February

Tomorrow, is safer internet day. This is always a good opportunity to provide the children with additional reminders about staying safe online. It reinforces messages that come through the curriculum across the year, as part of their PSHE learning and through assemblies. We also provide support when parents raise concerns about children's online behaviour and reinforce the positive messages.

More information about the day can be found at <https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2025/tips-for-parents-and-carers>. As a minimum, we would advise closely supervised use whenever the children are online, checking their tablets, phones, messages and browsing history for any issues and reinforce messages about asking for help if they ever feel uncomfortable about anything or anyone online.

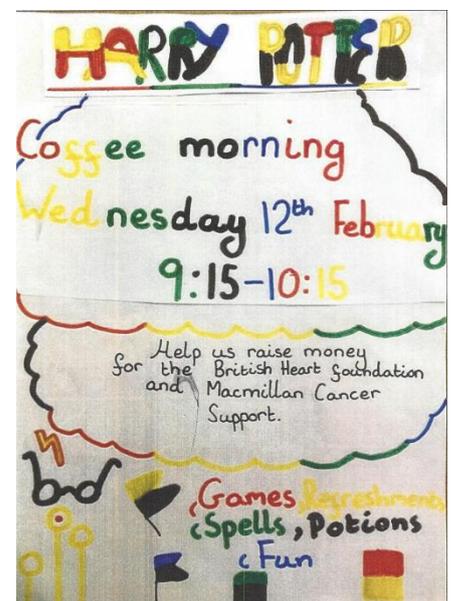
The NSPCC also have some good resources for parents: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>.

### Year 5/6 Coffee Morning – Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 9:15 – 10:15

As part of their PSHE curriculum, Year 5/6 have planned a Harry Potter themed fundraising coffee morning for this Wednesday morning. All are welcome to come and enjoy 'games, spells, potions and fun' as the children raise money for their chosen charities of the British Heart Foundation and Macmillan Cancer Support.

### Reception Vision Screening – Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 9:00am

Reception children will take part in NHS vision screening on Wednesday morning. They will be supported by a member of school staff during the screen.



## Year 6 SAT Booster session – every Tuesday morning from 8:30am

Our Year 6 children are working very hard in school and with homework tasks. Every Tuesday morning, there is a chance for them to come into school for an extra booster session and some early morning treats.

## Nursery - People Who Help Us

Thank you to all the parents and services who have supported Nursery with their 'People Who Help Us' topic. The children have enjoyed visits from the fire brigade, the ambulance service, a vet nurse and a chef. This week they are looking forward to a visit from the police and next week a postman. The visits have supported their creative play and photographs of the events so far are on the website.



## Community Orchard

The Community Orchard continues to develop, and the team have been busy planting trees.

Our Year 3 and 4 school councillors were delighted to be invited to help plant two apple trees in the Orchard that will be under the guardianship of school.

Please see the information at the end of the newsletter about two Orchard events happening in the next few weeks:

- A Magical Event in the Orchard - 22<sup>nd</sup> February
- Race Night (at the Cricket Club) – 7<sup>th</sup> March



## School Meals Special Menu Days – Valentine's Lunch 14<sup>th</sup> February

After the success of the Chinese New Year lunch, the school meals team have a number of special menu days planned for this year. The next event is the Valentine's lunch, on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February, where there will be decorations and special desserts.

Nursery children who don't normally stay for lunch are welcome to extend their morning session to 12:30pm to take part in this lunch. Please let the school office know if your child is staying and the lunch can be paid for via the Arbor system.



## Swimming Gala – 19<sup>th</sup> February

Good luck to our Year 5/6 swimming team who qualified for the gala at the recent trials. Parents are welcome to spectate at the event which will take place at Dunston Pool from 12:30 to 3:30. Children will leave school at 11:30 and the bus will leave the pool at 3:30. Children will be due back at school around 4:00pm and should be collected by an adult.

### **World Book Day – Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March**

Our Book Day will take place on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March. Further information will follow, but to give advance notice, the children will be invited to dress as a book character or as a favourite word, e.g. happy or colourful. Parents will be welcome to join us for a 'Booky Breakfast' from 8:15am in the school hall. The Book Fair will also be in school all week.

### **Year 3 Dance Festival – afternoon of Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March**

The Year 3 children will take part in the Gateshead Dance Festival on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March at The Glasshouse. This is a lovely celebration of dance from schools across Gateshead. The children have been working on their routine with their dance coach and are looking forward to the performance.

Parents can book tickets directly with the Glasshouse (see information sent by email), please contact the school office if you need any support with this. Please can you also let the office know if you are picking your child up at the end of the event or whether they will need transport back to school.

### **Attendance**

You can regularly check your child's attendance in the Arbor app. As a reminder, our attendance categories are as follows:

<b>Persistent Absence</b>	<b>Concern</b>	<b>Below Average</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Very Good</b>	<b>Excellent</b>
Less than 90%	90 – 93.99%	94 – 95.99%	96 – 97.99%	98 – 99.99%	100%

The Department of Education tracks individual children's attendance now and highlights where there are concerns. Over the next two weeks, I will be writing to parents where attendance is below 94% to raise their awareness of this. If attendance is below 90%, there will be a four-week monitoring period to check whether any additional support is needed. If you have any attendance concerns, please contact school to discuss these.

### **Term-time Holiday Absence**

As a reminder, term-time holiday absence is not authorised and if more than five days (10 sessions) are taken within a 12-week period, then a referral will be made to the local authority for a penalty notice (for statutory-aged children). This is an expectation of all schools from the Department of Education. Penalty notices are £80 per parent per child in the first instance. Please read our attendance policy carefully (on the website) before deciding to remove your child from school.

### **After School Activity Clubs for Spring 2 – Booking from 19<sup>th</sup> February**

After school activity clubs will be available for sign-up on Arbor from 19<sup>th</sup> February at 6pm. As clubs were so popular this term, those children already on this half term's waiting list will be contacted by the school office to be offered a place before the clubs go live. All clubs run until 4:15pm and children must be collected by an adult.

- Monday Y1-3 Multi-skills
- Tuesday Y4-6 Football
- Wednesday Y1-6 Dance
- Thursday Y3-6 Fitness

### **Wraparound Booking**

Wraparound sessions for next half-term are now open for booking via Arbor.

### **Parent Governor Elections**

We have vacancies for two parents on our governing body. After half term, we will start the election process. If any parent is interested in this voluntary role, please come and talk to me about what it involves.

## Diary Dates

<b>Spring Term</b>		
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> February	All day	Safer Internet Day
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	9:15	Year 5/6 Harry Potter Charity Coffee Morning
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	9:15	Reception Vision Screening
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> February	11:30	Swimming Gala – Year 5/6 team
<b>Half Term Monday 24<sup>th</sup> – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February</b>		
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	All Day	Book Day (dress as a book character or as a word / Booky Breakfast)
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	All Day	Y3/4 Bikeability (information to follow)
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	Afternoon	Year 3 Dance Festival
<b>Easter Holiday Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April</b>		
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> May	All day	School closed – Bank Holiday Monday
12 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> May	All week	Year 6 SATs Week

Further dates will be added as the term progresses and more information will be sent as needed. If any dates need to change, we will update them in subsequent newsletters and communications.

## Reminders

### **Uniform**

Please can you ensure children are wearing their plain black school shoes rather than trainers. If there is a short-term reason for your child wearing different footwear, please contact the office to let us know the reason and try to resolve this as soon as possible. Staff can help with access to the Uniform Hub if needed.

### **Appointments during the school day**

Where possible, medical and dental appointments should be made outside the school day. However, we appreciate that this is sometimes very difficult to arrange. If an appointment is within the school day, your child should be absent for as short a period of time as possible and an appointment letter, card or NHS message should be shown at the school office when completing the medical form.

### **Bags**

We have very limited space in school and do not have space to store large rucksack style bags. A small drawstring style bag will fit into children's lockers.

### **PE Kits**

Please can you make sure children's PE kits are in school every day. Although children have usual PE days, sometimes there are changes to timetables. We recommend sending PE kits in a drawstring bag and storing them in lockers (or on pegs for Y1 and Reception).

Please can you also make sure names are in PE kits and school uniform and

### **Packed Lunches**

Please can you ensure packed lunches are a healthy offer for your children and do not contain too many items, particularly sugary ones. As a guide, our packed lunch policy is on our website.

We are also a nut-free school to ensure we support the safety of children with nut allergies so please do not send any items containing nuts into school, such as Nutella, Snickers or pesto pasta as we will not be able to let your child eat them.

We no longer have children with egg allergies in school so these items can now be included in lunches. If there is a change in circumstances, we will let you know.

### **Baby and Toddler Group**

Our Baby and Toddler group takes place in the school hall every Monday morning from 9:15 to 10:45. This is a great opportunity to let your little one run off some weekend steam and a chance to catch up with other parents and grandparents. Sessions include play, singing, snack and story for a contribution of £1.

## Mobile Phones

We have a number of our Y5/6 children bringing phones to support travel to and from school. As soon as they enter school premises, phones should be switched off and they are then held in a box and switched off until the end of the day. If your child is being picked up by an adult, they must not bring a phone to school.

If you are allowing your child to have a phone on their journey, it is very important that you check their browsing history as it is very tempting for them to access websites or share information with friends when they are not supervised.

## Yellow Lines

Can I reinforce the safety message again about our yellow lines. Cars must not park or pull up on them for drop off at the beginning and end of the school day, this includes wrap around and activity club sessions. You are not only risking a fine, but you are compromising the safety of all our children and the wider school community. A number of parents are quite rightly complaining about this.

## Community

### SEND Lego Club session – Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 4:00 - 5:00 at Blaydon Winlaton Family Hub

There is an opportunity for children under 12 with additional needs to attend a LEGO building session at Blaydon Winlaton Family Hub tomorrow evening from 4:00 – 5:00pm.

Parents, carers and siblings are welcome to attend. This is organised by Gateshead Family Hubs - contact [familyhubs@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:familyhubs@gateshead.gov.uk) or 0191 433 5579 for more information.



## Community Orchard Events

