



Allendale Primary School February 2016 Newsletter

Thank you to all the parents and family members who braved the high winds on Friday and came to our Open Afternoon. It was very well attended and our Year 6 greeters and refreshment providers did a fabulous job. Parents' Evenings take place today from 4p.m. and **Wednesday 3rd February** from 4p.m. All parents should have received their appointment times last week. Please contact Mrs Clarke if you have not.

At the Open Afternoon, some parents may have seen and met Mrs Kelly and Miss Boe who are student teachers on placement in Barn Owl Class. Miss MacDonald is a student teacher who has been on placement each Friday in EYFS and she will be with us for 4½ weeks from next week.

The Co-op have very kindly sponsored our new football kit, which looks very smart, (pictured below). The team will begin local league fixtures, hopefully towards the end of February / beginning of March. We'd like to thank the Co-op for their generosity in supporting school.



Just to remind you that the children finish school on **Thursday 11th February** for half term; **Friday 12th February** is a Teacher training Day.

Before Christmas, we took part in the WoW initiative, (Walk on Wednesdays). Many parents entered into the spirit and walked a little extra or their child scooted to school. We're delighted to say that we are a runner up school and 3 lucky winners will be drawn to receive a small prize from Mrs Aitken, who co-ordinates WOW in Northumberland. WoW continues this term.

On **Thursday 4th February**, Judy Hayman is running a couple of author workshops. Judy has written a series of books for children called Dragon Tales. She will be working with Y2 and Y3 for the first workshop and Y4 and Y5 for the second. Judy will be bringing her books which the children can buy for £5.00. Judy will try and sign any bought copies, time permitting.

On **Friday 5th February**, the PTFA are funding a somewhat unusual event for Year 2 to Year 6 - The Grammar Show, making grammar fun! The expectations of how much technical grammar and punctuation terms the children should know and use has increased significantly under the new curriculum and the staff themselves have had to do a lot of extra revision in order to deliver the new expectations!. Hopefully, the show will help to develop deeper understanding of language construction.

Mr Hopper will be meeting with staff on **Wednesday 10th February** to plan a mini outdoor learning programme which starts in April when hopefully the weather will be reasonable - well dryish and not blowing a gale at least!

When we come back to school after the half term holiday, swimming will start for Y2, Y3 and Y4 on **Monday 22nd February**. Each swimming lesson costs £3.50. If parents choose not to pay this then the shortfall has to be met from the school budget which obviously takes money from other areas. School budgets are extremely tight as the government has frozen our allocation but costs have risen. Some parents have asked me why we can't have single age group classes. The simple answer is that we don't have enough pupils in some year groups, as a vast proportion of the school budget is allocated per pupil, we would need more pupils in some cohorts where there are very low numbers.

After half term, the PTFA will be offering the opportunity for the children to purchase Mothering Sunday chocolate gifts with 3 Golden Tickets wrapped within the lucky gifts.

World Book Day is officially **Thursday 3rd March**; however due to a Gymnastics Festival which may take place on this day, our celebration will be held on **Friday 4th March**. The children traditionally dress up as a book character and different workshops take place around school on this day to encourage a love of reading. World Book day tokens will be sent home after half term and are valid from 29th February.

British Science Week will take place from 11th March to the 18th. We will be planning some workshops for the children.

On **Wednesday 16th March**, the PTFA will be holding a daffodil tea from 1.30p.m.

We finish for the Easter holidays on **Thursday 24th March**.