



Allendale Primary School February 2017 Newsletter

Sports News:

We have held 2 successful events for local schools in the Sports Hall. Y1 and Y2 took part in a multi skills festival which the Year 6 peer leaders helped to run and yesterday Y5 and Y6 took part in an indoor athletics event with Middle Schools from the West of Northumberland. Well done to all our participants and peer leaders.



Multi Skills Festival

There is a Y3 / 4 Gymnastics Tournament for local schools taking place on **Thursday 16th February at 10.00am.**

Thank you to all the parents who were able to attend the parents' information meetings last week. Hopefully, I didn't alarm too many! The expectations of the curriculum are much higher for all age groups but we are maintaining a balance across all curriculum subjects and hosting events such as the Sporting Festivals, coming off timetable for Health Week, Science week etc. Homework will always be a contentious issue but it is important in giving the children opportunities to practise work from lessons and enhance their reading and spelling skills which does give the vast majority of children increased confidence in class. School budgets are challenging - for all schools in Northumberland and pupil numbers are incredibly important in providing funding. However, **we are a successful school**, our Y6 SAT results were amongst the best in the County and we were the only school in the area to show positive progress across Reading, Writing and Maths; out of 62 Northumberland schools, Primary and Middle, we were 4th in Maths, 6th in Reading, 9th in Writing and for the second year running were 1st in Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling. However, academic achievement is not the be all and end all and children's strengths and skills in other areas should also be celebrated and valued.

The focus of our next Parents' workshop will be raising awareness of E-safety issues and how parents can help their child stay safe online.

Bag2School Collection:

We had a great response to the Bag2School collection last week and raised £174. Thank you.

Parents' Evenings and Open Afternoon:

Open Afternoon is next **Friday, 10th February** from 1.30pm to 3.00pm. It is an opportunity for your child(ren) to share their work with you or a family member. This takes place in the School hall, our Y6 children will greet you and bring your child to you with their work. We have just had a visit from an advisor from County, who undertook some lesson observations of teaching and learning and looked at the work in books from Reception to Year 6. He was impressed by the standard of work and the differentiation and support in work provided in all classes to meet individual children's needs. He was especially impressed with the quality of marking and feedback which helps the children to improve their work - hopefully you will see this and the progress your child is making when you look at their books.

Parents' Evenings then take place on **Monday 13th February** and **Thursday 16th February**. Appointment requests will be sent home today with your child. Please return your form by **Wednesday 8th February**.

Building Work:

Parents may have noticed that the builders' compound is now established in the car park. New windows have been installed in the kitchen and library, new doors in the corridor and work has just started to replace the big windows in the hall. Work will continue up to and over half term to repair the main building roof and finish the window replacement.

We have also secured some additional funding to develop the nurture room. We received a grant for £100 from Vision Supply and have the bucket collection money from the Nativity. Work will start on that shortly.

Swimming:

We finish for half term on **Friday 17th February**. When we return on **Monday 27th February** it will be swimming for Y2, Y3 and Y4. Children should come to school wearing their swimming costumes underneath their uniform - please don't forget to bring underwear and a towel! There is a weekly charge of £3.50 for swimming lessons; some parents prefer to pay this half termly, which is £21.00 up to Easter.

World Book Day:

World Book Day is officially **Thursday 2nd March** but we will be holding our celebration on **Friday 3rd March**. Children are invited to dress up as a favourite book character for the day. The children will shortly be bringing home their WBD token which can be used as part payment for a book or full payment for a designated WBD book.

Mrs A Hawkins
Headteacher