



## Allendale Primary School October 2016 Newsletter

Thank you to all the parents who attended Parents' evenings last week. We hope you found it useful to meet with your child's class teacher early on in the school year to discuss how your child is settling in to his / her new class.

### **Accelerated Reader:**

We held a parents information workshop about our new approach to reading from Year 3 to Year 6. Your child's reading book may well look very different to that which you are used to seeing; teachers are regularly assessing the quizzes taken for each book and allocating a set of books for your child to choose from accordingly. Quizzes do not only assess your child's ability to decode the words but also their understanding of vocabulary and the story. Every book has a sticker on the inside cover which gives the book level, quiz number and points awarded for reading that book. We have not yet introduced the points accumulation to the children but it could get competitive!

### **Sports:**



Well done to James in Lapwing Class, who completed the Mini Junior Great North run in just over 5 minutes and was a fantastic 4<sup>th</sup> in the race.

Well done to the Y6 Football team - with help from 3 members of Y5 - who competed at Highfield Middle in the U11 football competition. Although the boys didn't win any of their matches, William scored the goal of the tournament with a delightful lob of the keeper from almost the half way line.



Good luck to the Cross Country team who are competing in Gateshead today.

### **Free School Meals:**

If you think your child may be entitled to free school meals, please apply, even if your child receives free school meals because they are in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 or your child has packed lunches. Receiving the entitlement to free school meals increases a school's budget which is much needed at the present time.

### **Christmas Card Project:**

Parents should already have received a letter about the Christmas Card project with details of how to order. If you haven't, please let a member of staff know as orders can be made directly to APS, (Arts projects for Schools), this year rather than sending it to school. The art work must be returned to school by the morning of Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October. The children will be bringing their art work home this week.

**Reading Challenge:** Well done to all the children who completed the Roald Dahl themed Summer Reading Challenge.



**School events in October:**

Tues 4 <sup>th</sup> October	Cross Country tournament in Gateshead
Wed 5 <sup>th</sup> October	Pipit, Skylark and Barn Owl Classes Theatre performance at the Village Hall
Wed 12 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Y5 / Y6 Show racism the Red Card workshop
Mon 17 <sup>th</sup> October	BikeAbility 3 day course for Y5 and Y6 PTFA meeting 7pm King's Head
Thurs 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Harvest Festival 9.30a.m. in school
Fri 28 <sup>th</sup> October	PTFA Halloween Disco

School finishes on **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October** for Half term; children back to school on **Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October**

**Health and well-being Week:**

Our annual Health and Well-being week is the first week back after half term. If you are able to offer any health / sporting / fitness related skills / activities during this week, please contact Miss Armstrong or Mrs Clarke.

**Medical Register:**

We keep a medical issues awareness register in school. If you think that there are any updates to your child's records that we need to be aware of, please let a member of staff know so that records can be updated.

On this subject, for any parents who are new to our school, we have children with various allergies, including a nut allergy. Please do not put foods containing nuts into your child's packed lunch box as all children eat together in the hall.

**Trainee Teachers:**

We often have students from Cumbria and Northumbria Universities undertaking part of their teacher training with us. This term we have Mr Teague and Mr Flanagan who have been working throughout school for 2 days per week. After half term, they will be spending 5 weeks in Barn Owl Class, supporting in lessons and working with groups of children.

**Road Safety:**

Thank you to everyone who took part in the Walk on Wednesday initiative last year. We won the runner up prize twice and have been awarded the Modeshift Stars Bronze Award. Walk on Wednesday has now been replaced by Fancy Feet and Whirly Wheels which starts in November. Plans are going ahead to introduce a 20 mph zone outside school and into the village; this should be undertaken in the next 6 weeks and will hopefully keep pedestrians safer when crossing the road.

### Haydon Bridge High School:

The Open Evening for Haydon Bridge High School is on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October from 4.30pm. Haydon Bridge hasn't received the best publicity recently but there have been major changes and improvements within the school over the past year. Mr Glover from HBHS is very willing to come to our school and talk to parents to answer any questions you might have. He has sent me the following information:

*"The Year 7 students have made a fantastic start to their time at Haydon Bridge, parents have recently come in to school and given us feedback about how well they have settled in, the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive about the progress and well-being of the students. As part of the Year 7 transition programme, twenty two students spent an evening at Ridley Hall where they had great fun completing various outdoor challenges and slept outside in the forest under shelters that they built in teams. Groups of students completed an extended blindfold trail through the woods and along a rope trail. Students needed to communicate and work together so that they could move through the woods safely and as a unit. The groups built shelters, lit fires and then ate barbecued food prepared by staff. Everyone went for a walk later on to look at the brilliant night sky and meet the "Giant of Ridley Hall". Despite some rain in the morning the students returned to school by 8.30am and spent the day at school reflecting on their happy and character building experience."*

### Reflecting on academic standards at HBHS:

*This year has seen some excellent results for Haydon Bridge students including:*

- *A2 proportion of students achieving A\*-B and A\*-C has increased*
- *5 A\*-C inc Eng & maths improved from 2015*
- *Academic progress (value added) is positive*
- *Significantly positive value added in a wide range of subjects.*

(value added is an important measure of a student's progress from their starting point on joining HBHS)

*Previous Allendale First and / or Middle School students' success include:*

- *Catherine Sadler secured a place at Leeds University to study Neuro Science after gaining A\*,A\*, A*
- *Molly Agar secured a place at Durham studying Natural Sciences after gaining A\*,A\*,A\*, A,A*
- *Grace Bryson Jones studying Psychology at Manchester after gaining A\*, A, B*

Please have a look around HBHS with an open mind.