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| **Dear Parents,**  Welcome to the latest newsletter. The next few weeks are incredibly busy so please do check out all the dates below. There are lots of exciting things going on and lots of dates to remember. Please ask if you are unsure about anything in the newsletter or need additional information. | |
| **November 29th- Street Scientists in school**  We are very excited to be welcoming Newcastle University’s Street Scientists into school on Wednesday 29th November. They will be performing the ‘Story of the Earth’ to Class 3 and 4- complete with loads of experiments! | **Christmas jumper exchange**  Many thanks to those of you who have found Christmas jumpers for our exchange shop.  Our Christmas jumper exchange will be open from Monday next week. We are asking for a £2 donation for any jumpers which you take. This is to fund our next project. |
| **A bag is for life- not just for Christmas!**  Our climate change club are busy designing and decorating ‘bags for life’ to reduce the use of plastic bags.  These will be on sale before and after school from Monday 4th December. | **Advent Storytimes**  We will be holding an ‘advent storytime’ in school every afternoon in December for the whole school.  Ms Blake Darcy has all of the stories wrapped and ready to go. Each day, a child will select one suitably themed book to be unwrapped and shared with the school just before home time. |
| **Bikeability Sessions**  We are really delighted to have managed to arrange some ‘bikeability’ sessions for Class 3 and 4 this term.  **Class 3** will be learning bicycle safety offroad on the playground or the MUGA on **MONDAY 11th DECEMBER.** The **level 2 training for Class 4** takes place over 2 days **, TUESDAY 12TH AND WEDNESDAY 13TH DECEMBER** and will include an element of training on the road.  There will be 2 instructors on each day.  The children will need to be warmly dressed in extra layers as they will be outside. They also need to bring in their bikes- if they have them- and bicycle helmets. IF YOUR CHILD DOES NOT HAVE ACCESS TO A BIKE , PLEASE LET US KNOW as the trainers can provide bikes for them. Similarly, if your child hasn’t yet learned how to ride a bike, or isn’t confident, then please let us know and we can make adjustments to the programme to accommodate this.  For children who normally come to school on the taxi, bikes can be dropped off at school at a time which suits you- please just contact us. | |
| **Non-Uniform Day -Christmas hamper donations**  There is a non-uniform day on Friday 1st December in exchange for the children bringing in luxury food and drink items for our Christmas hampers.  No smellies or non-consumables please!  The raffle for the hampers will be drawn at the evening performance of the Christmas play on Tuesday 19th December.  Raffle tickets will be coming home in book bags on Friday 1st December. Please sell these to family and friends. Every ticket sold benefits your child! | **Advent Service in Church**  We will be taking part in an advent service at St Aidan’s on Tuesday 5th December. We will be leaving school by 9 o’clock and the service will start at about 9.20 am.  Please make sure your child comes to school with a coat. |
| **Film Night**  The Friends are organising a film night on **Tuesday 5th December**. The children can come to school in pyjamas and slippers and bring a cuddly toy if they wish. They will be served hot chocolate and popcorn during the performance.  Timings: **Start 5pm prompt.**  Class 1 (EYFS/R) finish at 5.45 pm  Class 2, 3 and 4 finish at 6.30 pm  Cost: £3 per child  There will be a choice of films available. | **Friends of Newbrough Primary School**  Many thanks to all those who attended the AGM on Monday night and continue to work so very hard to raise funds for our school.  The Friends do an amazing job raising money for school. This year, they are paying for the musical theatre sessions which Class 3 and 4 are enjoying every week; they are paying for a bus for each class to go on an educational visit which helps to keep the costs reasonable; they are donating a massive £1000 for new books to ensure we have an attractive and up to date selection in the library and the classrooms and they are donating money to up date all of our art resources. This is a phenomenal list and we are very, very grateful to all of you who support all of the fundraising which they do and especially to the very hardworking committee. THANK YOU! |
| **Christmas Play**  I can now reveal that the Christmas play this year is… ‘Straw and Order’. We will be talking to the children about the play and their parts over the next few days- as well as beginning to learn the songs. Thank you in advance for helping the children with their lines! As in previous years, we will be performing in Newbrough Town Hall. A huge thank you to the Town Hall committee for accommodating us.  The dates for the play are:  **Monday 18th December 10 am Dress rehearsal**- you are welcome to bring toddlers to this.  **Monday 18th December 2 pm Afternoon performance**  **Tuesday 19th December Evening performance**  As in previous years, there will be a limit of 2 tickets per family for each performance. | |
| **New online payments and messaging service via ParentPay**  Our new online messaging and payment service, Parentpay, is now live. Thank you to those of you who have already signed up for it.  You can no longer make payments via the old system, Parentmail, **AND WE WILL STOP SENDING MESSAGES BY PARENTMAIL ON NOVEMBER 30TH.**  Please ask for help from the office if you are still having problems setting up the new system or if you have lost the original information. | |
| **Santa Dash!**  On Friday 8th December, we will be holding a short fun run in school- joining many other schools across Northumberland virtually for this event. The children will need to be in trainers- and are welcome to wear their Christmas jumpers/ hats or other festive apparel! | **Christmas Dinner**  Our Christmas dinner is on **Thursday 14th December.** The children are welcome to wear their Christmas jumpers again. We will be asking you to let us know if your child would like a Christmas dinner by Friday 8th December to give Mrs Bridges time to get her orders in. |
| **Christmas Party**  The Christmas party will be on Thursday 21st December.  The children are welcome to wear their own clothes for the party- but they still need to be suitably dressed for school activities including playing outside!  Mrs Bridges will be providing party food for us on that day. | **A plea!**  Over the next few weeks, we will be walking up and down to the Town Hall and to church on lots of occasions. Please, please ensure that your child brings a coat every day! |
| **Online safety**  We know that lots of children in school- especially the older ones- use WhatsApp to talk to their friends. There is a really useful guide to new safety features produced by internet matters here:  [What is WhatsApp?: A safety how to guide for parents - Internet Matters](https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/whatsapp-safety-a-how-to-guide-for-parents/) | **Last clubs**  The last session for each of the clubs will be in the week commencing Monday 11th December. There will be NO clubs in the last week of term. Wrap around care will still be available in the last week of term. |
| **Village Pantomime**  The producers of the village pantomime have asked for the help of children in school. They are really keen that some of the children (Year 2 and above) take part in the pantomime this year. We will be running initial rehearsals in school for those who would like to take part but there will also be some rehearsals at weekends. I’m including the details below so that you know what is involved. There will be a letter coming out (probably in January) with further information and asking for interest.  *Sunday, Jan 28th - Full run through of show, 2pm-6pm (arrive at town hall at 1.45pm)*  *Sat/Sun Feb 2/3 - Dress rehearsals, 2pm-6pm (arrive at town hall from 1pm onwards for make-up and costumes)*  *Thurs/Fri/Sat - performances start at 7.30pm plus matinee on Saturday at 2pm. Arrive at town hall from 6pm (12.30 for matinee) for costumes and make up.*  *There is a room upstairs in the town hall which would be the children's 'base' when they are not on stage. That's for the performances only,* ***for the run through and dress rehearsals they will be in the hall but would need to be accompanied by an adult.*** | |
| **Attendance:** DID YOU KNOW? MISSING JUST 10 MINUTES OF A SCHOOL DAY IS THE SAME AS MISSING TWO WEEKS OVER THE YEAR! PLEASE TRY TO GET TO SCHOOL ON TIME FOR THE START OF THE DAY WHICH IS 8.45 AM. | |
| **Parking**  NCC traffic officers are now regularly patrolling outside our school. THIS IS TO TRY AND ENSURE THE SAFETY OF OUR CHILDREN. Please park responsibly and use the cricket club car park where possible rather than double-parking which causes an obstruction to other road users and reduces visibility for those trying to cross the road. I have received complaints from members of the community about the parking outside school.  Please help us to keep the children safe! | |
| Finally, if you have any questions, comments or concerns, please do get in touch or catch me before school. If I don’t know there’s a problem, I can’t sort it out!  Kind regards,  Mrs Trotter (Headteacher) | |
| **Dates for your diary** | |
| **November** | |
| Wednesday 29th | Street Scientists in school  Friends’ Wreath Making workshop |
| **December** | |
| Friday 1st | Non-uniform day- hamper donations  Raffle tickets home  Advent storytime starts |
| Monday 4th | Friends’ Wreath Making workshop |
| Tuesday 5th | Advent service in church  Film Night |
| Friday 8th | Santa Dash |
| Monday 11th | Bikeability Class 3  Last games club |
| Tuesday 12th | Bikeability Class 4 |
| Wednesday 13th | Bikeability Class 4  Last Forest School club |
| Thursday 14th | Christmas Lunch  Last Sports club |
| Friday 15th | Last Zumba |
| Monday 18th | Christmas Play dress rehearsal 10am  Christmas play performance 2pm |
| Tuesday 19th | Christmas play evening performance |
| Thursday 21st | Christmas party |
| Friday 22nd | Break for Christmas 3.15 pm |