 16/01/2024

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| **Dear Parents,**  Happy New Year! Welcome to the latest newsletter. I would also like to welcome Bobby and George to our school. They both started in Nursery last week. We hope you will be very happy here at Newbrough. | |
| **Staffing Update**  I am very sad to let you know that Robert Watson, our caretaker, retired at the end of last term.  Robert has worked at the school for 7 years and, during that time, made a tremendous contribution to keeping the school clean, tidy and safe. We wish him all the very best! We will hopefully be recruiting a new caretaker shortly. | **Boxing sessions**  The children in Class 3 and 4 are taking part in some boxing sessions with Katie from Union Jab boxing this half term as part of our PE curriculum. They are very excited about it!  There will be a presentation at the end of the sessions at 2.30 pm on Tuesday 13th February where the children will be presented with a certificate. Parents are welcome to come into school for this. |
| **Christmas jumper swap shop**  Thank you to all of you who supported our Christmas jumper swap shop. The children loved having the opportunity to choose a jumper. We would like to run this again next year- so store those jumpers somewhere safe! | **Christmas bags for life**  Thank you to those of you who supported this, too. The children all wanted to buy their own bags so they didn’t end up being sold more widely- but we raised enough to cover our costs and I’m sure the bags are being used and appreciated! |
| **Music lessons**  We are really pleased that individual music lessons have started again in school. We are able to offer lessons in piano or guitar. If anyone would like to sign up for lessons, please let us know. Parents who had previously signed up for lessons should have been contacted directly by the company who offer the service. I apologise that it has taken a while to sort this out. | **School Council update**  Our school council representatives are going to be meeting with Carol, from Northumberland County Council’s road safety team,later this month.  They are going to be working to promote key road safety messages to the rest of the school later this term. |
| **Robot competition**  Our Year 5 and 6 children have been across to the Nissan factory in Sunderland with the robot that they have been building. They took part in workshops and driving competitions with 19 other schools from across the whole North -East. Miss Blake Darcy and Miss Harris were really impressed with the children’s team work and behaviour- and of course their robot construction skill and resilience in the face of some significant technical challenges! | |
| **Changes to Nursery Provision**  Following our consultation earlier in the year, we will be making some changes to our nursery provision. We will send out a letter with further details shortly. | **After School Clubs**  The R/Y1 and Y2 children had a brilliant first session of gymnastics club last week. After half term, the older children will get a chance to take part in gymnastics. Art club for KS2 starts next week and Ms Blake Darcy has some amazing ideas planned. |
| **Learning this half term**  **Class 4** are going to be investigating just why there are so many castles in Northumberland, and delving into the life of a Border Reiver. In English, they are travelling back to the Victorian times and reading extracts from Great Expectations. In Maths, they will be studying fractions and they will be using their scientific enquiry skills to investigate hypotheses using a variety of methods to record their results.  **Class 3** are reading Kensuke’s kingdom and comparing it to extracts from Robinson Crusoe. They are finishing their geography work on the Whin Sill and then finding out why it was important to the Romans. In science they will be investigating states of matter while in art, they will be focusing on sculpture.  **Class 2** are basing some of their literacy work on a beautiful book called ‘Lift’ and imagining what they might find when they open the lift doors. In maths, they are finishing off their work on shape before moving onto more work on place value. In history, they are finding out about Grace Darling; and in science, finishing off the work on human bodies before moving onto looking at animals that live in cold places.  **Class 1** are reading some amazing texts this half term as a stimulus for their learning. They are starting off with The Three Billy Goats Gruff, then moving onto Wolf’s Magnificent Master Plan. After that, Shh! We have a plan, There’s a Bear on my chair and Fair Shares. They will be finding out about Lunar New Year and also using the Spherobolts and starting to learn how to control and programme them.  PLUS: a reminder that the children in Reception should be wearing trainers/ shoes with Velcro. PLEASE NO Shoes or BOOTS WITH LACES!! | |
| **Attendance:**  **Did you know?**  Research shows that pupils who attend school regularly are more likely to do well in their future lives. | |
| **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** |  |
| **January** |  |
| Monday 22nd | Art club starts |
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| **February** |  |
| w/c 5th Feb | Art days |
| Friday 16 th Feb | School closes for half term |
| **Monday 26th Feb** | **Teacher training day** |
| Tuesday 27th Feb | School reopens for pupils |
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| **March** |  |
| w/c 4th March | *Book week* |
| w/c 18th March | DT days |
| **Thursday 28th March** | **School closes for Easter** |
| Monday 15th April | School re-opens |
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