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NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS & CARERS: JULY 2024 (PART 1!)



Summer Collages by Reception Pupils

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach the end of the academic year I have decided to send our July newsletter out in two parts as we have so much happening!

Information from the half term so far is below plus reminders about further dates and events before the Summer holidays.

I will send out Part 2 on our last day of term,

Best wishes,

Mrs Lavelle

KS1 Visit to Beamish

Years 1 and 2 had a fabulous trip to Beamish on Monday. They were very lucky with the weather and really enjoyed all aspects of the visit. Lots of visitors complimented the children for both their outfits and behaviour. A lovely day which brought their recent History topic to life for the children.

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CLIMATE FRIENDLY SCHOOLS AWARD

Please see news below about a project some of our school council members have been involved in as part of our work to make our school and community more climate friendly.



The Rights of the Child, Article 12: You have the right to give your opinion and for adults to listen and take it seriously

Hello readers,

On the 19th of June, two visitors from Eat Smart/ Refuse café in Chester-le street visited our school and talked about how much food is wasted in schools. During their visit, they helped us to investigate how much food we waste each week to help us find ways to waste less. We found out that our school wastes approximately 77kg of food every week which is equivalent to the weight of 3 x year 3 children in our school!

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We were shocked to find out that each year our school wastes around £28,000 in food! Year 6 were surprised that their year group wasted the most food each week and year 1 had wasted the least food.

Our Top Tips to Help Reduce Food Waste in School

We have shared these with Mrs Lavelle and Miss Quinn, our School Cook

- Leave skin on carrots
- Have more time to eat
- Have smaller portion on request
- Have sauces (curry, bolognese etc) next to rice or chips so we can see all the food on our plate instead of covering it.
- Use pictures of meals to help us choose when new menus come out.
- Eating the crust with the sandwich or pizza instead of leaving it for the end by itself.
- Compost all the food that is wasted.

We will let you know if we managed to reduce food waste at our school in part 2 of the July newsletter!

Written by Emmy and Daniel, Year 6



Our Waste Warriors!

Class Attendance

For June, the overall attendance figure for the school was **93%** which is the lowest figure we have had so far this year and is mainly as the result of parents/carers taking children on holidays during term time. In addition to the disruption this causes to children's education, there is also an impact on parents/carers as, unfortunately, we have had to issue a number of Fixed Penalty Notices for absences. Please see the sheet attached from Durham County

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Council which gives information and guidance about this area. From September, we will have some exciting new initiatives to further promote and reward good attendance.



Attendance in each class for June was as follows:

Reception: 91%

Mrs Exley's Class: 97%

Mrs Baum's Class: 95.1%

Mrs Dadswell's Class: 93.5%

Miss Stebbings Class: 91.4%

Mr Walsh's Class: 95%

Miss Allen's Class: 89.3%

Mr Storrar's Class: 93.8%

Mrs Exley's class are the Ouston Attendance Bear Winners for June and will be looking after the bear until the end of term.

Year 6 Residential Visit to Ford Castle, Northumberland

Year 6 pupils enjoyed a wide range of activities including zip wire, bridge abseil and Trapeze/Leap of Faith at their recent visit to this PGL centre. We were so impressed with their enthusiasm, resilience and team work during our stay and the PGL staff complimented them on these skills too.



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Parent/Carer Survey

Parents/Carers will be sent a link via Class Dojo and email this week to complete our annual survey. We really appreciate your feedback and views and will share a summary of this with you all in September.

Dates for the Diary

17th July: Year 3 Visit to the Laing Gallery and Angel of the North

17TH July: Reception visit to the Hancock Museum

18th July: Year 6 Bowling Trip

18th July: Ouston Art Gallery from 3pm - Year 2, Year 4 and Year 6 art work will be displayed in the hall if you would like to pop in for a look before the Summer Fair and Family Picnic.

18th July: Summer Fair and Family picnic, 3.20pm to 5pm

22nd July: Reports to Parents/Carers

22nd July: Reception Teddy Bears picnic pm (parents/carers invited)

22nd July: Year 5/6 Disco 4.45pm to 6pm

23rd July: Year 6 Leavers Assembly at 2pm

23rd July: End of Term



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