

Spring Term 2009 Allendale First School Newsletter

We are again taking part in World Maths Day. This year it is on March 4th 2009. The children are all registered on the site and will have brought home a card today stating their user name and password. You can access the site at:

www.worldmathsday.com

and begin taking part immediately. I would highly recommend this activity. Last year it not only proved very popular with the children but did improve their mental maths skills. If you do not have access to the internet at home, the children can still take part in World Maths Day at school.

As you are aware, school was closed for 2 days last week due to the adverse weather. The decision to close school is not taken lightly and consideration for the safety of pupils and staff is the most important factor. If snow falls overnight the decision to close will be taken at 6.00am and radio stations, transport and County are notified immediately. Please listen to local radio or look on the County website for updated information.

If it snows during the day and the transport has to come to collect the children, it is vital that school has up to date contact details. Please let Mrs Aitchison know if your address or telephone changes.

Thank you to the PTFA for funding an Anglo Saxon pottery workshop for class 3. It was a very enjoyable and educational day for the children. The PTFA have also agreed to pay for a number of forthcoming events and trips for all classes and I would like to thank the committee and all parents who support their events, as they provide valuable extras for the children.

Years 3 and 4 are enjoying ukulele tuition every Friday morning during the Spring Term. This is part of the Governments initiative to fund music activities for KS2 children.

As some parents will know there have been a few problems on the Allenheads bus. School will always look into any incidents involving our children but County policy states that "parents and children themselves are responsible for their behaviour on the bus." All parents of children eligible to travel on this bus, will shortly receive a letter from County outlining their position on this matter.

Can I ask all parents to ensure that staff are aware of any change to your child's hometime arrangements. A letter should be sent to your child's class teacher stating who is collecting your child. If they are travelling on school transport and have invited a friend home, parents must ensure that the bus driver is aware of their arrangements and that there is space on the bus. We have had a couple of incidents where children have not been collected and become very upset at the end of the day and staff have not been informed of the change in arrangements.

Any parents who are interested in finding out more about their children's maths may be interested in a free course being run at Station Court, Haltwhistle. Transport and childcare can be provided free. Please ring 322809 or 220797 for further information and reserve your place.

For the second half of the Spring Term only, Miss Guttridge will be teaching Class 3 for 4 days a week and I shall teach on a Friday only. Mrs Ratcliff has been appointed Deputy Headteacher and is teaching in Class 4 full time. Miss Armstrong continues in Reception and Miss White in Class 2.

The parents of the Nursery children will shortly receive a letter about Early Years provision after Easter.

Miss White has 2 student teachers, Mr Henderson and Miss Linkie, from St Martin's College, University of Cumbria, completing their second teaching practice. Miss Armstrong has another student teacher, Miss Ryan, starting in March for 5 weeks.

Dates for your diary, (so far)

Monday 9 th February	Rev Sarah Charlton	Assembly
Monday 16 th February	Half Term Week	
Friday 27 th February	PTFA Disco 3.30 - 5.30pm	
Monday 2 nd March	Rev Sarah Charlton	Assembly
Tuesday 17 th March	Class 4 visiting Hexham Abbey	
Thursday 19 th March	Venture Theatre Company, Healthy Eating and Exercise performance Whole School	
Monday 23 rd March	Multi-Cultural Week, each class will learn about a different country and Culture. Further details will follow. During this week Sylvia Robertson, our artist in residence will work for 2 days in school, running Japanese Kite making workshops.	
Wednesday 1 st April	Open Afternoon and Parents Evening	
Thursday 2 nd April	Parents Evening	
Friday 3 rd April	Finish for 2 weeks Easter holidays	
Wednesday 22 nd April	Class 3 visit to Bede's World in Jarrow, (Anglo Saxon working museum)	
Wednesday 29 th April	Class 4 visit to Hexham Library for Book Festival	
Thursday 7 th May	Bags2School collection	
Wednesday 13 th - Friday 15 th	Ford Castle. Details will follow for Y4 parents.	
Monday 25 th May	Half Term Week	
Tuesday 2 nd June	Steve the Weave working with Classes 3 and 4	
Wednesday 3 rd June	Steve the Weave working with Classes 1 and 2	
Wednesday 4 th June	Victorian Workshop for Class 3 and Class 4	
Wednesday 17 th June	Classes 2, 3 and 4 visit to Bowlees	

July, dates to be arranged Whole School musical show