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| **C:\Users\2000xx31\Desktop\Dinnington First School Logo.jpgParent’s Newsletter**  **Issue 2 20th November 2019** |
| Dear Parents/Carers and Friends,  There has been much to celebrate since the start of the school year and we have already had a great start to this half term.  In my first half term as Head Teacher I have been particularly struck by how friendly, polite and hard-working children are and what a lovely community feel there is to the school.  Thank you so much for the great response to the questionnaire. Your responses highlighted that overall you are very happy with the care and education your children are receiving but that you would like to see a wider variety of school clubs and would like to know more about how the school is led and managed. In response to this we are looking to extend our provision of clubs and are looking at ways to keep you informed of how Governors and leaders are working to continually improve the way school is run.  Please do not hesitate to come and see me if you have any queries or suggestions.  I look forward to seeing you all at our Christmas productions and the Carol Concert.  Caroline Ash  Head Teacher |
| **STAFFING and EXPANSION** |
| Due to the expansion of housing in the local area Governors and the Local Authority made the decision to expand school earlier than anticipated. We now have further spaces in reception and in Year 1. Due to this we are delighted to welcome two new teachers. Mr Wright, who is working alongside Mrs McKenzie and Miss Donnelly who will be working alongside Mrs Parker within Early Years whilst she completes her first year of teaching.  The current children will not be moving to a new class or to a new teacher this year. However, the class sizes have increased slightly and are benefitting from an extra teacher and a support assistant.  In September we will continue to expand by welcoming two new classes to reception. |
| **CHARITY EVENTS** |
| A huge thank you for all your donations towards the McMillan Coffee Morning which raised £ sdfd  and Children in Need which raised £ KFLK  Throughout December the children will be collecting donations for a local foodbank and will have a box in each of their classrooms which will be picked up before Christmas. Any donations will be gratefully received. Thank you. |
| **PREMIER LEAGUE CUP** |
| We were delighted to be the recipients of a prize to host the Premier League Trophy last half term thanks to the Uncle of one of our children. Our huge thanks to them as it was a brilliant day for everyone. The children learnt all about the trophy from the Premier League team and were lucky enough to have the Newcastle United Mascot join us for the morning too.  Sport is important to us at Dinnington First School and we have lots of other sporting events planned throughout the year. |
| **ATTENDANCE AND HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME** |
| Pupils are expected to attend school each day unless ill. If your child is absent due to illness you need to inform the school office immediately.  Please note that the school keeps strictly to the National and Newcastle upon Tyne Policies regarding extended holidays. Leave will only be granted in exceptional circumstances and a request form from the school office must be completed.  Children who are marginally late to reception / nursery after dropping off siblings in the upper school will not be marked absent.  Children with 96% + attendance will be entered into our termly prize draw with the chance to win a family pass to 7 stories and Tesco vouchers. The class with the highest attendance each week will also win the attendance trophy and an extra playtime. |
| **READING** |
| We know that being able to read well and reading for pleasure has an enormous impact on life outcomes. In order to ensure all of our children read well and enjoy reading we are making adjustments to our curriculum. This includes:   * A new systematic phonics programme ‘Read Write Inc’ - more information can be found here <https://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/find-out-more/parents/> * Using quality non-fiction books across the wider curriculum. * Developing the school library to include a wider range of books for children to enjoy   A huge thank you to PARENTS & FRIENDS for supporting us with £3000 towards this.   * Daily story telling in class * Working in partnership with 7 Stories |
| **CLUBS** |
| A reminder that the final week of clubs for this term is week commencing 25th November. There will be a short performance for parents of children at dance club at the last session at 3.45pm.  New clubs will commence in January. |
| **CALENDAR REMINDERS** |
| Wed 27th November Y1 Phonics Meeting 9.00-9.30am  Y2 Parents Consultations  Wed 4th December Anti-Bullying day  Tues 10th December Early Years Nativity 9.30-10.30am  Y1-Y4 Nativity 13.30 – 14.30pm  Wed 11th December Early Years Nativity 9.30-10.30am  Y1-Y4 Nativity 15.30 – 16.30pm  Thur 12th December Christmas Lunch  Frid 13th December Nursery Open Morning  Mon 16th December Early Years Christmas party 9.30-11am  Y1-2 Christmas party 1-3pm  Tue 17th December Y3-4 Christmas party 1-3pm  Wed 18th December 1.30-2.30pm Carol Service at St Matthew’s  2.30pm Refreshments for all back at school |
| **BUILDING & PARKING** |
| Thank you for your continued patience with the building work. The Early Years hill and slide are now complete and the children were thrilled to finally get to explore it. The area is now being completed with lots of other areas such as a mud kitchen, bike/scooter track, sand pit, building areas and a stage.  Newcastle Council have now opened the new drop off area behind the back of school where you can then walk along the path to the back gate. We have noticed that this path is sometimes waterlogged and have been in touch with the council to address this.  Please ensure that children use the pathways at the front of school and do not take short cuts through the carpark as this is a safeguarding concern.  A reminder that the staff carpark is for **staff use only**. Staff reverse park into their spaces and we have stringent procedures in place to keep your children safe. **Other vehicles must not enter the premises without permission.** |
| **CELEBRATION ASSEMBLIES** |
| Our new celebration assemblies will take place every Friday at 2.30pm in the main hall. Each week teachers will choose children who have shown one of our Dinnington Values. This week we are celebrating ‘Kindness’. If your child is receiving an award you will be notified the previous week and invited to join us.  If your child receives an award for something they have taken part in outside of school please let us know and we can share this alongside our other celebrations. |
| **AFTER SCHOOL CLUB** |
| Dinnington First School offers a before and after school club. This provides children with a safe and happy environment beyond school hours. The sessions are structured and supported with trained staff who provide opportunities to play, support, listen, talk with the children.  Further Information  For further information please contact admin@dinnington.newcastle.sch.uk |
| **PARENTS AND FRIENDS OF DINNINGTON FIRST SCHOOL** |
| The Parents and Friends of Dinnington First School work together to support the school and raise funds to improve educational outcomes and enjoyment of school for all our children. Throughout the year they hold meetings and fundraising events. They are always keen for new people to join them and would offer you a warm welcome. The first meeting this year is on Monday morning at 9am in the small school hall. Everyone welcome. If you would like more information please the school office. |
| **ADMISSIONS / REGISTERING A CHILD** |
| We have had many parents looking around our lovely new premises with view to starting their children in reception September 2020.  Applications for Reception are still open. Closing date: Reception 12.00 noon 15th January 2020  It is important to note that parents must apply through the local authority that they live in (pay council tax to). Applications sent to the wrong local authority are not considered to be valid applications. |
| **POLICY FOR PROMOTING POSITIVE ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIOUR** |
| School leaders and Governors have agreed a new policy for promoting positive attitudes and behaviour in school which we are now introducing. Children will be rewarded using ‘Class Dojo’. More information will follow on this.  Find a short guide here - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rzzb5cmNoc0>  The new policy is now available on our website. |
| **SCHOOL LUNCHES** |
| School lunches continue to be free for Reception to Year 2. We would encourage all children to enjoy a school dinner and the menu is displayed near the kitchen and on the website. |

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| **CONTACT US**  **Dinnington First School, Sycamore Road, Dinnington, NE13 7JY**  **Head teacher: Caroline Ash**  Email: admin@dinnington.newcastle.sch.uk  Tel: 01661 822457  Website: <https://www.dinnington.newcastle.sch.uk/web>  Twitter: |
| This newsletter will also be available on the school website. |















