



Whittonstall and Broomley First Schools
Weekly Newsletter
4th March 2022



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Website: www.broomley.northumberland.sch.uk/website



Our overall attendance this week was

95.9%

Well done everyone on a good week for attendance!

HEAD TEACHER'S MESSAGE: Firstly, I wanted to say a huge thank you for the effort that you and your children have put into World Book Day t-shirts and activities. It was great to welcome the children into school this morning to see some of the wonderful creations on display. The children have enjoyed a fun-filled day with lots of reading and book-based activities. The whole school quiz this afternoon has been a huge hit and I am sure that your encouragement and the activities planned by teachers will help to inspire a love of reading in our children.

The recent news has been dominated with awful stories and images of the recent Russian invasion of Ukraine. This is probably something that many of your children are asking questions about. At present we will not be formally discussing the current ongoing events in Ukraine, however we understand that families have different opinions and thoughts on the situation and that children will discuss things together when they interact at school. All of the staff have the knowledge and experience to deal with any conversations or interactions that occur on an individual basis and will continue to support all of the children in our care. If there is anything you wish to discuss further please contact Mrs Barker.

These are a selection of specialists websites and information pages that have been designed to help you to talk to your children about the current Ukraine/Russian crisis below if you wish to do so:

Supporting your child if they see upsetting content online about what is happening in Ukraine (Childnet)

Help for teachers and families to talk to pupils about Russia's invasion of Ukraine and how to help them avoid misinformation

(Department for Education)

<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2022/02/25/help-for-teachers-and-families-to-talk-to-pupils-about-russias-invasion-of-ukraine-and-how-to-help-them-avoid-misinformation/>

AWARDS OF THE WEEK:

Kid Awesome - Stars of the Week:



Headteacher's Awards:

- Nursery Bucket Filler of the Week - Jenson Broadhurst for super shape work!
- Reception - Parker Smith - for being a superstar!
- Class 2 - Isobel Palmer for fantastic effort with her handwriting
- Class 3 - Darcy Newsham- amazing effort in every lesson, all the time
Samuel Craig- fantastic literary skills and vocabulary

Mrs Robinson's Lunchtime Awards:

- Elspeth Barker for always looking out for her friends and having a lovely smile
- Matilda Amey for eating up her lunch and having lovely manners

SCHOOL UPDATES

STEM WEEK : Next week is our STEM (Science, Engineering, Technology and Mathematics) week and we have a busy week planned in school. The main theme of the week is 'Growth' and the children will be taking part in experiments including launching rockets, olfactory investigations and planting seeds in different media.

As you will be aware, the children are visiting Broomley First School on Wednesday next week to take part in a workshop with a company called 'Sublime Science'. **Please note the children will need to be dropped off at Broomley at 9.05am and collected at 3.00pm next Wednesday. Please can you try your very best to stick to these times, as we have staggered the times to avoid congestion with the Broomley parents who will also be dropping off and picking up. Can we ask if you could park in the cricket club car park and use the footpath adjacent to it to approach the school. Your child's class teacher will be there to greet you at the gate from the cricket club field. Thank you to those parents who have already completed the google form to let us know that you are able to transport and collect your child. if you have not already done so please could you complete the form [Broomley STEM visit](#)** Please let us know as soon as possible if you have any problems or queries.



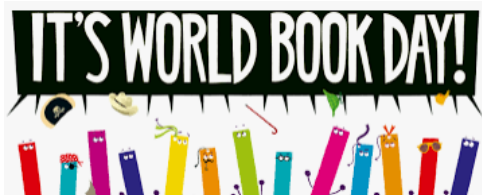
Mrs Robinson will prepare a school packed lunch to take to Broomley if your child would normally have a school lunch on a Wednesday. The children have chosen the type of sandwich they would like.

We are requesting a contribution of £5.00 per child to cover the cost of bringing Sublime Science into school and to provide resources for experiments. Payment may be made by Parentmail PMX, cash or cheque (payable to Tyne Community Learning Trust)

Parents Evening

PARENTS' EVENINGS: You will have been sent a link today via Parentmail to allow you to book your appointment for next week's parents' evenings. They will be held on Monday 7th and Tuesday 8th between 3.30 and 6.00 pm. If you have any problem booking your appointment

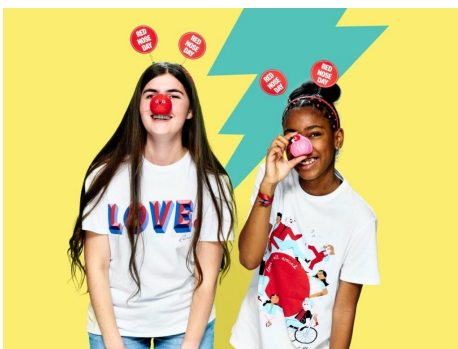
please contact the school office who will be happy to help. The parents' evening appointments are now back to face to face meetings so please come to the main front door and make your way to your child's class. We would ask that parents try to stick to the 10 minute appointment times to make the evenings run as smoothly as possible.



WORLD BOOK DAY - FRIDAY 4th MARCH: Wow - what a colourful and amazing day we have had today to celebrate world book day. The children were all very excited to show off their T-shirts and tell us all about their favourite books and characters which ranged from Supertato to Stickman to Roald Dahl and everything in between.

We have had a very special day, with a special book day assembly, bookmark making, Buddy Reading time and of course the much anticipated Big Book Swap - hopefully your child will come home with a new book that they are itching to read. Here are a few pictures of our day. The children will also be coming home with their £1 World Book Day book token, which is valid at most book shops.





COMIC RELIEF - RED NOSES FOR SALE: Red nose day is on Friday 18th March and we will be supporting it by selling red noses in school. If your child would like to buy a red nose then please send £1.50 cash in a named envelope marked 'red nose day'. The red noses are again 100% plastic free this year, so a better option for the environment too!

ADDITIONAL HOLIDAY DATE TO CELEBRATE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE - FRIDAY 22 JULY 2022:

As you may be aware, an extra bank holiday has been announced for 3 June 2022 for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. As on previous similar occasions (eg the 2012 Diamond Jubilee), the DfE has therefore amended the Education (School Day and School Year) (England) Regulations to reduce the school year 2021/22 for maintained schools to a minimum of 189 days, in order to allow schools to close that day or on another day. Where schools are on half term at the time of the bank holiday, the change to the Regulations will allow maintained schools to be able to close at another time to give staff and students an extra day off.

TCLT has decided to close their schools a day earlier than planned at the end of the summer term - we will therefore close for the summer on Thursday 21st July instead of Friday 22nd July as previously announced.

Job vacancies at Highfield Middle School: Our colleagues at Highfield Middle School have asked us to make you aware of the job vacancies below, should you or anyone you know be interested in applying.

<https://www.northeastjobs.org.uk/job/Cleaner/221524>

https://www.northeastjobs.org.uk/job/Lunchtime_Supervisory_Assistant/221525

THINGS TO DO:



Join in the magic in the grounds of Hexham Abbey on Friday 4th and Saturday 5th March from 6 - 9 pm, for a spellbinding, free outdoor event, blending spectacular projection, fire and music with a sprinkling of magic. Inspired by local stories and landscapes from across Newcastle, Northumberland and North Tyneside. No booking required, suitable for all ages. Find out more at www.undernorthtynestars.co.uk



Stocksfield Community Centre Annual Challenge Quiz: Friday 11th March 7.30 pm at the Community Centre. Come along as a team (max 6 people) or as an individual for a light hearted fun evening. Bring your own drinks. Tickets £4 per person - pay on the door. All are welcome.

DIARY DATES

- W/C 7th March STEM Week - more information to follow
- W/C 7th March Parents' Evenings - appointments available to book
- Friday 18th March Comic Relief Red Nose Day - more information to follow. We will be selling red noses in the run up to red nose day
- Mon 21st - Fri 25th March Neurodiversity Week - celebrating learning differences and the strengths and talents that come from thinking and perceiving the world differently
- Friday 8th April School closes for Easter holidays
- Monday 25th April School reopens for Summer term
- Thursday 21 July School Closes for Summer holidays
- Friday 22nd July Additional holiday for Queen's Platinum Jubilee
- Tuesday 6th September School Reopens for new school year

On behalf of staff and governors may I wish you all a lovely half term, take care and stay safe.

Mrs Barker

Executive Head Teacher