



Whittonstall and Broomley First Schools
Weekly Newsletter
8 October 2021



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Our overall attendance this week was

97.6 %

Well done everyone for a fantastic attendance record this week.

HEAD TEACHER'S MESSAGE:

Next Monday and Tuesday we will be holding our Autumn term Parent's Evenings between 3.30 - 6.00pm. Details on how to book your appointment were sent out by parentmail but if you have any issues please let the school office know and we can book an appointment on your behalf. We received such positive feedback last year regarding these meetings online, that we decided to keep the same format. The meetings will be an opportunity to discuss how your child has settled into the new academic year and also highlight areas of curriculum the class teacher will be focusing on. In the Spring Term we will offer follow up parents evenings where you will be able to come into school to view your child's work and reflect further on the progress that they have made.

Well done to all the children for their continued effort on the doodle learning platform. I have enjoyed talking to lots of children this week about how they are using doodle learning at home, especially the 10 minute a day rule. It is a great way to encourage your child to work independently and at their own individual appropriate level. If you haven't already, please download the doodle connect app for parents, it gives some excellent insight into your child's weekly development and also highlights strengths and areas for development. If you require a reminder of any login details please email into school and your child's class teacher will forward the information on. There are some useful hints and tips on the website that can be found here: <https://www.doodlelearning.com/>

Children of families in receipt of certain benefits may be eligible for the Free School Meal programme. When a child is eligible for FSM our schools can claim an additional grant from the government called a Pupil Premium Grant (PPG). This is a small additional payment given to school that is collected into a whole school fund every year, and varies depending on PP numbers in school. Each year we are required to look at how best to spend this fund to support our children and families that need it, we review barriers to academic and social achievement and strategically plan ways to support children to access all areas of their learning. Some years this has been significant enough to fund additional TA hours in school, to pay for specific interventions or train staff in wellbeing or support. We review each circumstance independently and support where we can. Even if you don't wish to take advantage of any additional support, Broomley and Whittonstall can still claim much-needed funding for those who are eligible. Under current rules the funding lasts for 6 years, even if your circumstances change in that time. If you have not already applied, or if your circumstances have changed recently, we would encourage you to check eligibility and apply online.

Please visit : https://online.northumberland.gov.uk/citizenportal/form.aspx?form=free_school_meals or contact the school office in confidence. Our procedures ensure that children who are entitled to means-tested Free School Meals (FSM) and Pupil Premium Grant (PPG) are not singled out at any time including lunchtimes.

AWARDS OF THE WEEK:



Kid Awesome - Stars of the Week:

Nursery Bucket filler of the week: Hunter Willis for super listening and sharing with others.

Reception: Olivia McGuiness for fantastic effort with letter formation this week.

Class 2: Frankie Reynauld for giving 100% effort in everything she does

Class 3: Leo Cowell for excellent engagement in lessons and a positive attitude

SCHOOL UPDATES



Fabulous French Day- Friday 8th October: the children and staff have really got into the spirit of our fabulous French Day today! Everyone looked amazing dressed in red, white and blue and the children have really enjoyed sampling some traditional French foods and learning about all things French in their lessons. Thank you everyone for your support.

Outdoor Toddler Group: we started our toddler group again on Thursday and it was lovely to welcome back old friends and new additions. Looking forward to our next session on Thursday 21st October when we will be focusing on all things linked to apples and pumpkins.

Please pop along to sample some fantastic Whittonstall Fresh Air, have a cup of hot chocolate and a chat in our fantastic field.





Considerate Parking: Unfortunately we have received a complaint from a local resident that their drive has been blocked on more than one occasion this term by parents collecting children from school. On one of these occasions they did need to leave the house quite urgently and so were greatly inconvenienced. Please could you ensure that you park safely and within the rules of the highway code, and with consideration for our local residents.



Walk from School: One of our parents Christina Quigley has asked us to let you know about a weekly walk she is organising for parents and carers each Friday from school. Starting **today, Friday 8th October at 2pm**, any parents, carers who would like to join together to go for a walk can meet outside the school gates at 2pm. They will need sturdy, waterproof footwear and suitable clothes to walk down tracks and woods around school. She hopes it will be a great way for parents to get to know each other and explore the amazing countryside on our doorstep. She may then lead a monthly walk with parents and children on a Friday each month after school, 3.15-4pm. If anyone would like more details or to have a chat about it please

contact Christine on 07836323022. It sounds to us like a brilliant way to get out and about and get to know other parents and carers.

Salto School Uniform: attached to this newsletter is a letter from our uniform supplier Salto, with an update on ordering in the current climate. Whittonstall uniform can be viewed on their website by following the link [Whittonstall First](#)



School Photographs: Each family should now have received a parentmail with a link and two codes to access your school photos - one for your child's class and one for your child's images. If you have more than one child in school the images of all your children will be under the youngest child's class and name. We hope you have had chance to log in and view your child's pictures. Payments on the website are by Paypal, however if you select 'checkout as a guest' you may also pay by card as well as paypal.



Morrisons Good to Grow: FREE gardening equipment for our school. We have registered for the Morrisons Good to Grow scheme. For every £10 you spend (in store or online) at Morrisons, you'll get a Grow Token to help our school get everything we need to get growing. Download the MyMorrisons app today to start collecting Grow Tokens and you can donate them to our school. We will be able to exchange any Grow Tokens donated for FREE gardening equipment to get our kids growing

Things to do:

Prudhoe & Stocksfield Churches Holiday Club **Wed 27th-Fri 29th Oct 2021, 10am-12.30pm:**

Prudhoe Methodist church Postponed from Summer 2021, kids can enjoy THREE action-packed mornings of fun this October half-term. Holiday Club is FREE to attend! The main programme is for kids aged 5-11 [years 1-6]. For those in Reception or below, there's also a Pre-School Drop-In located in the Parish Hall. The children will enjoy a range of activities including energetic games, challenging craft projects, Bible discovery adventures, funny dramas and much more! To register please visit:
www.tinyurl.com/PrudhoeStocksfieldHolidayClub or find us on Facebook
@PrudhoeStocksfieldHolidayClub.





Drum Camp!

This October half term we will be holding a 5 day drum kit training camp at Hexham's Masonic Hall. Tutors will include Tom Furniss from Newcastle School of Drums for the beginners and the legend that is Master Drum Educator Geoff Hutchinson for the Intermediates. Please contact Amanda if you/your child would like a place, this is free to attend and we can supply lunch to those who would normally have a free school meal.

Percussion Ensemble – every Saturday morning 0945-1145

We have teamed up with Prudhoe Community Band to form a percussion section within the band. This is a great opportunity to learn tuned percussion, everything from a triangle to timpani to

chime bars to xylophone. Under the tutelage of Mark Edwards you will have an hours section practice followed by an hour with the band. We need members who can commit to rehearsal times throughout term time and join the band for their upcoming concerts. We are covering the cost of Mark's expertise so this is free to join every Saturday morning. Please contact Amanda if interested, we will be starting up after Christmas with rehearsals at Highfield School Prudhoe.

DIARY DATES

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| • <u>w/c 11 October</u> | Virtual Parents' Evenings - appointments now available |
| • <u>Thursday 21st October</u> | Halloween Non Uniform Day - more information to follow |
| • <u>Friday 22nd October</u> | Teacher Training Day |
| • <u>Mon 25th - Fri 29th October</u> | Half Term |
| • <u>Monday 1st November</u> | Return to school for Autumn 2 |
| • <u>Friday 5th November</u> | Bonfire Night Outdoor Day - more information to follow |
| • <u>w/c 29th November</u> | Interfaith week - more info about planned activities and trips to follow |
| • <u>Thursday 2nd December</u> | Flu Vaccinations in school - where parental consent has been given |
| • <u>Friday 10th December</u> | Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children |
| • <u>Friday 17th December</u> | Class Christmas Party Afternoon |

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

Mrs Barker

Executive Head Teacher