

Dear Parents

I hope you had a lovely half term and the children are well rested for what is traditionally a very busy but exciting half term.

The PTFA Halloween Disco was a great success. Many thanks to the PTFA members for organising, running and tidying up after the event.

The Christmas card designs were collected and we have received confirmation of receipt and that the orders are in progress. We hope to receive these in a few weeks time.

I know that the parking outside school has been contentious; but please bear in mind that parking restrictions are there to keep all children and families safe when crossing the road.

Our school is in with a chance of winning a free archery day. Please follow / share the link below and vote for Allendale.

[School Christmas Competition \(independentadventure.co.uk\)](https://independentadventure.co.uk)

Wake and shake proved a popular addition to Health Week. We may be able to run this a certain days - watch this space!

School attendance is 95.99% for the first half term. Slightly above the national average but below our usual attendance before covid. It is very important that children attend school for so many reasons:

1. Academic Achievement - Evidence shows that children with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best results. Pupils who performed better both at the end of primary and secondary school missed fewer days than those who didn't perform as well.
2. Wellbeing and Development - Being in school is important to your child's achievement, wellbeing, and wider development. Regular school attendance patterns encourage the development of other responsible patterns of behaviour.
3. Community Connection - When children attend school consistently, they are more likely to build strong relationships and feel connected with the school community.
4. Future Prospects - Consistent school attendance demonstrates reliability, which can help prepare children for life beyond education and looks positive to future employers.
5. Legal Duty - Parents and carers have a legal duty to ensure your child gets a full-time education.

In addition, arriving at school on time is equally important as it sets a good routine and start to the day. If children are on time, it ensures a calm, orderly start for the class and learning is not disrupted.

As Christmas is fast approaching, some children may be receiving mobile / online devices. Just a reminder that the NSPCC provides advice and guidance on keeping children safe online, how to protect their mental health and how parents can set up parental controls.

[Keeping children safe online | NSPCC](#)

Unfortunately, there is content online that children should not have access to and once seen they cannot unsee. We have had children who have seen scary videos at home on sites such as YouTube which have frightened and upset them, so we know the harm that can be done. At school we have robust filtering and monitoring systems so we are confident that children cannot access inappropriate content and we know exactly what sites have been accessed.

For parents who are new to school, a brief explanation of some of the Christmas events listed below which may not be obvious from the title:

Elf Shop - Children will be able to buy a gift at school for a member of their family / friend or pet and the elves help the children to wrap and label the gift.

Donation day - This is on pyjama day, (my favourite day!). Children can come to school in their pyjamas or onesie. They are asked to bring a donation of something chocolate or in a bottle, which can be used at the PTFA coffee afternoon.

Christmas Jumper day - Children can wear a christmas jumper instead of their uniform in return for a small donation which goes to charity. Last year we supported Daft as a Brush and the Great North Air Ambulance. We also have school Christmas dinner on this day.

Christingle - The local Christingle service is held at St Cuthbert's church. We encourage as many pupils as possible to attend and participate in the school song. Some of our older pupils are also asked to do readings.

Date so far:

Thursday 9th November - Lapwing Class Allendale Library Visit

Friday 10th November - Tracy Aitken from Northumberland Sustainable Travel team delivering assembly to celebrate our Modeshift Stars Platinum Award,

Monday 13th November - Anti Bullying Week - Make a noise about bullying

Monday 13th November - Skylark visit to St Cuthbert's Church

Tuesday 14th November - Open the Book assembly

Thursday 16th November - Skylark Class Allendale Library Visit

Thursday 23rd November - Kestrel Class Science workshop 2

Thursday 23rd November - Pipit Class Allendale Library Visit

Tuesday 28th November - Open the Book assembly

Thursday 30th November - Kestrel Class Science workshop 3

Thursday 30th November - Pyjama day / Donations / PTFA film night

Sunday 3rd December - Christingle Service 3pm St Cuthbert's Church

Monday 4th December - Elf Shop opens

Tuesday 5th December - Open the Book assembly

Tuesday 5th December - PTFA coffee afternoon

Thursday 7th December - Kestrel Class Science Trip - Life Centre

Friday 8th December - Nativity dress rehearsal

Tuesday 12th December - Nativity Performance 1.45pm

Wednesday 13th December - Christmas Jumper day / Christmas Lunch

Thursday 14th December - Nativity Performance 1.45pm

Thursday 21st December - Theatre Company, (funded by the PTFA) Sinbad the Sailor

More information about the events above will be sent nearer the time or posted on the individual class's facebook page.

As always, if there is anything you want to ask or discuss with your child's class teacher, no matter if you think it's trivial, please don't hesitate to do so. All we ask is that you speak to them at the end of school as they are welcoming and settling their class in the morning. Obviously, if it is an urgent matter we need to know about, please come and see me or Mrs Clarke in the office.

Regards
Mrs Alison Hawkins
Headteacher