

Welcome to our first newsletter of the year. I will aim to gather news and information to you each month in this format. You can find all previous newsletters on our website, which is the place to go if you want to find out about our curriculum, governors, policies and more. <https://www.allendaleprimary.northumberland.sch.uk/web/>

Talking of governors, we are still looking for two new governors to join our dedicated group of parents and community supporters. We meet each half term to offer support and challenge to the school in order to make it the best it can possibly be. If you are interested or know someone who might be, please pop into school to find out more. Thank you. *Mr Vincent*

Attendance

Good attendance is really important for ensuring that pupils meet their full potential. This is why we aim for 96% attendance or higher over the year.

Children who attend school regularly learn important habits for later life as well as giving themselves the best opportunity to engage with their friends, teachers and all the opportunities that school has to offer.

Whole school attendance is currently **97.4%**

Holidays

Headteachers are not permitted to authorise term-time holidays unless there are exceptional circumstances. Schools must report unauthorised absence to the Educational Welfare Officer when 10 sessions (5 days) of unauthorised absence have occurred. This may lead to a penalty notice. Schools do not receive any money from penalty notices served.

Year	Attendance
Reception	99.1%
Year 1	97.4%
Year 2	98.4%
Year 3	97.3%
Year 4	96.6%
Year 5	96.3%
Year 6	98.9%

PE Reminders

A reminder to everyone that no jewellery is permitted to be worn during PE. We follow guidance from the Association for Physical Education in this regard. Children wearing earrings need to be able to remove them by themselves or should not wear them into school on PE days. Taping over earrings is not an alternative. No watches, necklaces or bangles may be worn.

Children with long hair should also have this tied back.

Thank you for your support.



Communication Friendly School

We are proud to announce that we are now accredited as an Elklan Communication Friendly School.

Jodie has undertaken nationally recognised training in order to support children's speech, language and communication skills.

Nationally accredited by Elklan and OCN London



Photography and Use of Images

We have recently updated our Photography and Use of Images Policy to reflect the growing concern over deep fake and AI generated images. As part of our review, we have decided to avoid posting high definition, close up images of children's faces on our website and social media. We will continue to keep you updated on our activities with photos of groups or more distant shots that will give a full flavour of our offer. We would also encourage families to do the same, in order to protect the children from potential abuse.

If you would like to know more about this topic, [this article](#) explains more about the potential dangers.

The new policy can be found on our website [here](#).

Dodgeball @ Wentworth Leisure Centre

Last week, all of our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils headed off to the Wentworth Leisure Centre for a fun filled morning of dodgeball games and activities. 120 children from local schools attended and were superbly looked after by the Ovingham Middle School Sports Leaders who ran the event.



In other news, this year we have welcomed representatives from parliament to talk to our older pupils about democracy, a visitor to talk to the children about the Allen Valleys Audio Trail and School Council have been busy planning fundraising for our tree carving project. Next half term we will be looking forward to the Hexham Book Festival, a visit to the Hancock Museum and some sporting competitions. We can't wait!

Coffee and Chat

Coffee & Chat continues on the following Monday afternoons in the sports hall foyer. All are welcome to come and meet informally with Mr Vincent and/or Mrs Cleet. Come along to ask questions you have about life at school or to make suggestions. We are all ears!



Mon 5th Oct	Mrs Cleet
Mon 19th Oct	Mr Vincent
Mon 9th Nov	Mr Vincent & Mrs Cleet

Allstars

Our before and after school club, Allstars, runs from 8am in the morning and after school until 5:30 (6pm by arrangement).

Children get a planned programme of activities and can socialise and wind down after their school day. The adults are more than happy to help with homework tasks too!

The cost is £6 per hour.



New Classroom Names

Our ICT Suite is now being used as a classroom and has been re-named Kingfisher Class by Skye. Our new sensory room will be called Goldfinch Room thanks to Eli. A big well done to everyone who entered the competition. Your drawings and reasons were super.



Free School Meals

The eligibility criteria for free school meals has changed this year. Any family in receipt of universal credit is now able to claim free school meals.

If you think you might be eligible, please use this link to check and apply: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

Safeguarding and Online Safety

One of the biggest safeguarding issues for our children is that of online interactions. Games now include messaging, voice chat, purchases and interaction with people they do not know offline.

Many children enjoy gaming, but parents aren't always aware of how to help them stay safe whilst gaming. This article explains more:

[Staying Safe While Gaming](#)

Please be aware that if you have any safeguarding issues that you need to talk to somebody about, Mr Vincent is the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), Mrs Cleet and Mrs Newman are the school's Deputy DSLs. Mrs Litster-Smith (Chair of Governors) is our safeguarding governor.

Report online safety concerns here:



International Walk to School Month

October is Walk to School month. The children will receive a Walk to School diary activity during one of the weeks to record how they travel to school and to get them thinking about the benefits of active travel.

If you usually drop off outside the school gates, why not try parking in the village and walking? It only takes a few extra minutes and you will avoid the risk of a parking ticket!



Thank you to everyone for keeping the bus bay clear during morning and afternoon pick-ups. It's really helpful in keeping everyone safe, especially as quite a lot of pedestrians use the area, including our children who come to school on the bus or taxi.



Macmillan Coffee Afternoon

A huge thank you to everyone who attended, donated, baked, washed up or helped in any other way at our coffee afternoon.

The school hall was packed, which was great to see.

We raised a fantastic £419 which will be sent off to Macmillan to support their continued work with cancer patient care.



Sports Hall Letting

The sports hall is available to hire outside of school hours for a very reasonable £18 per hour.

Sports equipment and kitchen facilities are included in this price. It's ideal for parties or for a last minute wet weather activity at weekends and in the holidays.

To book, please visit the website:

Allendale Sports Hall



Home-School Agreement

Attached along with this newsletter you will find our home-school agreement. It sets out our expectations of staff, parents/carers and pupils that are part of our very special community.

Please take time to look through it and talk to your child about the expectations. Many thanks.

Homework Club

Homework club has started again on Wednesday mornings again. Come into school from 8:30 and Mr Vincent will be on hand to support all year groups.



Whether you are completing a written task or practising your times tables, you'll get a quiet space and all the support you need.

Workshops

Children have been taking part in creative workshops already this half term. Y5 & Y6 have worked with Mike Duggen to create artistic wolf banner for the folk festival. Hopefully you saw them last weekend.

Y3 have been working with Miscreations Theatre company using movement and video to support a future production in school. This week, Y4 will be working with Miscreations on audio for the same production.



Dates For Your Diary

- Mon 5th Oct Bikeability Y5 & Y6
- Mon 5th Oct Christmas Card deadline
- **Fri 23rd Oct** **Half Term Hols**
- Mon 2nd Nov Health Week
- Tues 10th Nov Parents' Evening
- Wed 11th Nov Remembrance Event Y5 & Y6
- Thurs 12th Nov Parents' Evening
- Tues 17th Nov Theatre Performance Y4-Y6
- Wed 18th Nov Theatre Performance R-Y3
- Wed 18th Nov Racecourse Y5 & Y6