

It has been another busy period since our last newsletter with children and staff involved in many exciting events and activities. We have the ever popular Halloween Disco to look forward to on the last day of the half term. More information will follow with some ways in which you may be able to help out. You don't need to be part of the PTFA to help and even the smallest contribution helps these events to go smoothly. We are also looking forward to our annual Health Week where the children will get involved with all manner of health related activities. Watch out for the return of Wake and Shake!

Sycamore Gap Project

Our Sycamore Gap project culminated with a full day event at The Sill last week where the children finally got to see all of their work professionally displayed. They really enjoyed a special performance from [Miscreations](#) Theatre group which was made especially for the event. You may have seen some of our pupils on the national news! Artwork is still on display at the Sill.



Sports Leaders

Some of our Year 6 Sport Leaders spent a day at Haltwhistle Leisure Centre learning new skills to help them lead activities for the younger children back in school. We look forward to them setting up some clubs and teaching new games to the other children soon.



Year 4 Football

Today, a team of Year 4 children have enjoyed a football festival at Corbridge Middle School organised by their Year 8 Sport Leaders. It was wonderful to see them in the school kit and giving the games their best.



Balance Bikes

School has successfully bid for £2000 to promote cycling skills with our youngest children. Miss Armstrong and Mr Rose attended a training course and school have taken delivery of 6 new balance bikes and helmets. They will soon be incorporating balance bikes into PE and clubs.

Extra Curricular Activities

Lots of extra activities happen at school outside of lesson times. Mrs Cleet runs a very popular mindfulness colouring club at lunchtime and she also supports our Peer Mentors who run a wellbeing club for younger children. Our gardeners have been busy harvesting their potatoes with Mr Rose this week and our gymnasts have been building up their skills on the high beam. Netball club has started and History club begins next week. Thank you to all of the volunteers who make this possible.



Middle / High School Applications

For parents of children in Year 6, please remember that you will need to apply for your child's next school through the admissions process: https://schadm.northumberland.gov.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE/en

The portal closes on 31st October.

When considering which school to apply for, it is worth noting that gaining a place at a middle school in Hexham does not guarantee you a place at QE High School in Year 9. If applying to a middle school, you will need to apply again to secure a place at QEHS. Last year, some children who attended feeder middle schools for QEHS did not gain a place there because they live outside the catchment area. Please refer to individual schools' admission policies if you need further clarification.

Dates For Your Diary

10th Oct	Yr5/6 Football Match
10th Oct	World Mental Health Day
11th Oct	Flu immunisations
16th Oct	Wicked Musical (Curlew)
17th Oct	Yr5/6 Tag Rugby Festival
25th Oct	Halloween Disco
21st Oct	Health Week
26th Oct	Half Term
7th Nov	Yr5/6 Football Match
12th Nov	Parents Evening
14th Nov	Parents Evening
21st Dec	Christmas Holidays

World Mental Health Day

Wear a yellow accessory if you have one and would like to. School uniform but add a touch of yellow such as a hair band, t-shirt or socks. We'll be talking about mental health issues during this day and doing some fun activities together.

Safer Parking around our school



Thank you to all families for getting involved with Walk To School Week. It was super to see so many of you parking in the village and enjoying a short walk in the fresh air to start your day.

Please remember to keep the bus bay clear in the mornings to help us keep the area safe. We had a few near misses last year which we

Christmas Cards

Christmas Cards designs will be coming home today. If you wish to order any items, please ensure that the artwork is returned to school by Tuesday so that we can send it off to the printers.



Macmillan Coffee Afternoon

Once again, a huge thank you to everyone who supported the Macmillan Coffee Afternoon. We had lots of lovely cakes donated and plenty of help organising, which made it so lovely. A fantastic £238 was raised.



Diversity Workshops

All of the children from Year 1—6 had a visit from diversity champion Anne de A'Echevarria this week. She talked to us about how we are all different and about how we can accept and celebrate each other for what we are. Some of the children have also been doing some follow up work in their PSHE lessons too.

National Poetry Day

On Wednesday we celebrated National Poetry Day. Many thanks to Mr White who enthused the children and encouraged them to read out a poem in front of the whole school. Meantime, some children were busy in the summer house at lunchtime writing their own poems to share back in class.



Packed Lunches

This is just a reminder that as a school we do try to promote a healthy lifestyle including exercise and diet for the wellbeing of all staff and pupils.

Please ensure that your child's water bottle only contains water, and try to avoid very high sugar items such as chocolate and sweets. Too much sugar does not set the children up well for a focussed and productive afternoon in lessons.

Thank you.



Attendance

Good attendance is fundamental to improving student progress, which is why it is such a high priority for school. The government are really clamping down on unauthorised absence as I am sure you have realised. You will all have received a letter from Northumberland County Council with more information about this.

We want to support families to ensure that children miss as little school during the year as possible. If you do need any help or guidance, please let us know.

Other than holidays during term time, one of our main concerns is a trend towards attempting to collect children early from school so that they can attend an after school club. This is not an authorised reason for absence. Early collections are disruptive to the class and take up valuable time for our office team.

To help you, we will always try to get classes outside to the yard as close to 3:30 as possible. If you need to get away quickly on any particular day, please speak to your child's class teacher so that they can ensure they are near the front of the line where possible.

