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20th November 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

RE: Dates & Events

As we approach the lead up to Christmas, we want to make you aware of what we have going on in school. Please remember that these dates are on the calendar on the school app (Our Schools App) and that notifications need to be enabled on this to ensure that you receive a reminder about these the day before. Although there has been an issue with some Android devices, we received an update on 15th November to explain that this was now fixed!

Reception and Year 1 Phonics sessions

Class teachers are inviting parents of Reception and Year 1 in to observe their phonics lesson to support children with their reading at home. In Reception, this is to prepare you to support with your child's reading once they start to bring home a book that they can read independently. In Year 1, with the Phonics Screening Check later this year, this is to also offer support and share some fun games and activities that you can play together at home! Sessions should last between 30-40minutes, both starting at 9:15. Reception Phonics will take place on Monday 2nd December 2019 Year 1 Phonics on Tuesday 3rd December. We hope that you will support us in raising the profile of reading with our very youngest children so that they become successful readers!

Library Visits

Library visits are continuing on rotation across school from Year 1-Year 6. In the New Year, we may need to look at walking both routes to the library as contributions from some classes have been minimal. We ask that you please provide £1.20 to cover the cost of the bus fare to Consett. Children enjoy these visits and it offers a much wider range of books to develop reading for pleasure.

Reading

School Councillors have been liaising with pupils who have requested a Reading Club at breaks and lunch times. This is going to be put in place at break times at children's request. Children will simply take their book along to the designated class for the day and sit and silently read across break times. We are impressed that children have requested this time, with most explaining that it's because they don't have time to read as much of their library book or Page Turner as they'd like! We hope that this will continue to support the school's drive to boost reading to enable success and confidence across the curriculum.

Pencil Cases

Can we please remind you all that pencil cases are not permitted in school. If they are brought in, they will be taken to the school office to collect at the end of the day.

Colds!

At this time of year, runny noses and colds are everywhere! Any donations of tissues (and wipes for Early Years) are much appreciated.

Junk modelling

The EYFS team have requested donations of materials to use in their creative areas. These include things like: kitchen roll tubes, empty plastic bottles and pieces of cardboard etc.

Top 25 Treat

Our Top 25 Treat at Christmas is an inflatables session at Consett Leisure centre on Monday 9th December 2019 to reward chosen children from across school for their hard work and commitment to school life. If your child has been chosen, you will receive information about this and what to wear the week before.

Christmas Film Night

Between 4:30-6pm on Wednesday 4th December, children are welcome to join us for a Christmas Film Night! We would like you to attend in your pyjamas/onesie and settle down in the hall with snacks and hot chocolate to watch The Grinch (2018 animated version). You are welcome to bring a blanket/pillow if you want to get cosy! Tickets are priced at £2.50 per child and can be purchased from ParentPay.

Christmas Jumper Day

Christmas Jumper Day will take place on Friday 13th December. On this day, children are welcome to wear a Christmas Jumper with their Fantastic Friday clothes to celebrate the event.

Whole School Trip

Everyone from Reception-Year 6 will be visiting the Discovery Museum in Newcastle on Monday 16th December 2019. All classes will participate in activities linked to their science curriculum for the forthcoming term. Voluntary contributions are welcomed via Parent Pay and this is already available should you wish to pay it sooner. As always, in order for our visits to run, we need sufficient contributions from parents otherwise visits get too expensive for school to fund. If your child accesses a school lunch, they will have a packed lunch provided by school. We can't wait to explore science with the specialists!

EYFS Stay and Play

Parents/Carers of Nursery and Reception children are invited in from 9-11am on Tuesday 17th December for a Christmas-themed Stay & Play! We hope to see as many of you there as possible.

Christmas Parties

Please see below for the date of your child's Christmas party. Children can bring into school a change of clothes for their party ready for dancing and they will take part in games and activities before enjoying some party snacks!

Christmas Concert & Nativity Performances

We are holding a Christmas Concert led by Sensational Strings on Wednesday 18th December at 9:15 for the whole community to enjoy. This is a string group made up of professionals who will be performing some much-loved Christmas songs ahead of the EYFS & KS1 nativity performances! Tickets will be strictly limited to two per family for this morning given the limited space in the hall and they will be priced at £1 each. We are only able to seat 150 people in the hall, so unfortunately, some people will have to stand around the outsides to allow us to fit everyone in. Tickets can be purchased on Parent Pay and physical tickets can be collected from the school office after Monday 9th December once payment has been confirmed. We will release any **unsold** tickets the week beginning 9th December if we have spares available. You will need to present your ticket on entry to school on this day.

Dates for the last week of term:

	Monday 16 th Dec	Tuesday 17 th Dec	Wednesday 18 th Dec	Thursday 19 th Dec	Friday 20 th Dec
AM	Whole School Trip- Discovery Museum all day. Voluntary contributions to be made via ParentPay	9-11am EYFS Stay & Play Y1-Y6 Team Treat	9:15 Christmas Concert- Sensational Strings From 10:30 onwards- EYFS & KS1 Nativity	Santa	PD Day- SCHOOL CLOSED
PM		KS2 Christmas Party	Reception & KS1 Christmas Party	Carols Round the Tree	

As always, if you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Louise Templeton

Executive Headteacher