



# Stanhope Barrington Co E Primary School Newsletter

AUTUMN 2021



## Message from Mrs Cross

It has been fantastic to welcome our children and families back to school.

Relaxing some of our Covid restrictions has allowed the children to play together outside, to share lunchtime and to come together for Collective Worship. It has been a real joy to see older and younger children playing, exploring and learning together. We are very much mindful of the impact Covid has had (and is still having) on our children, families and staff team. Please be assured that a significant amount of work is being done in school to support everyone through this incredibly challenging time. This work includes: mental health training for our team, the training of a second Thrive Practitioner, whole school training in Thrive, use of Mindfulness within each Learning Zone, investment in books and resources to support children's mental health, events to support Mental Health Day, the establishment of a pupil voice Group called Happiness Heroes, establishment of two Mental Health Ambassadors among many more actions. As always, I am trying to take a reasonable line in deciding how we move forward taking account of such wide ranging views about Covid. Please be assured that every event and every decision is thoroughly thought through and has a detailed risk assessment written for it. I am trying very hard to make life as 'normal' as possible for everyone whilst keeping everyone safe. This is not an easy thing to achieve given some people are extremely anxious and others think that our remaining Covid restrictions are 'over the top'. I am confident that the approach we are taking is the right one and this seems to be borne out by the fact that during the whole pandemic we have only had to close 2 bubbles and at the current time of writing we have no positive cases in school.

If you have any concerns or would like more information about our risk assessments please do not hesitate to contact me.

Stay safe and thank you for your support.

Mrs Cross

Head Teacher

## **LETTERS & COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS**

Please make sure you check our website regularly as this is our main communication channel. All letters are posted on the website. When possible we will send a text to alert you to the fact that an important letter has been posted. Only letters which require a signature or form to be completed will be sent home as a paper copy.

Coming soon.....Stanhope Barrington Facebook page!!!!!!

## NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS



### MacMillan Cancer Coffee Morning

As a team we feel it is really important for us to support this essential charity as many of our families, staff and their families are affected by Cancer. We held a coffee morning on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September at 9am for parents, grandparents and members of our community and raised £313! Thank you to everyone who supported this event.

### Weardale Outdoor Education Centre Visits

Week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> October 2021, every child in the school will be visiting the Weardale Outdoor Education Centre. The activities have all been planned to reinforce and embed the super powers for each Learning Zone. Our trip in the Summer term was fantastic so we are all really excited about this trip too. Many thanks to the WAAP and our local businesses and organisations who have funded these amazing trips.



### Rap Music Workshops

Kema Kay, a renowned rapper, will be working with the Emerald Learning Zone over the course of a few weeks to deliver exciting and engaging music lessons.



### The Mad Scientists

Every Wednesday morning is Mad Scientist morning with our children coming together in their Year Groups rather than their Learning Zones. Each year group is being taught by a different teacher and the children and staff have really enjoyed this new way of teaching and learning. It has allowed children to work with a different group of friends and allowed our staff to widen their skills and subject knowledge of a different year group's curriculum.

### TAG RUGBY FESTIVAL

On 15<sup>th</sup> October, the Diamond Learning Zone will be taking part in our first Sporting Event for 18 months! They are off to a Tag Rugby Festival at Parkside and have been practising hard this half term.

### Twisted Tales for Terrible Children

On Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October we will be welcoming Gavin Cross into school. Gav is delivering a performance in the Church Hall that evening but will be spending the day delivering storytelling workshops across all Learning Zones.

### CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES

Our intention at the current time is to organise 3 separate Christmas Performances subject to covid risk assessments as follows:

OPAL & AMETHYST—TUESDAY 14 DEC 2PM

SAPPHIRE & RUBY—FRIDAY 10 DEC 2PM

EMERALD & DIAMOND WEDNESDAY 15 DEC 2PM

More details will be shared soon.

## WAR WEEK



Week commencing 8th November 2021 will be War Week across the school where all Learning Zones will be learning about the subject. This week also incorporates Remembrance Day.

## AFTER SCHOOL PROVISION

With the closure of SCAMPS, we have taken over the provision of both After School Childcare (£4 per session) and are also offering a wide range of After School Clubs (£6 per session). The clubs will change each half term and have already become very popular—please book early to ensure your child gets a place. We will be sharing our activities on the website.

## REQUEST FROM OUR NEIGHBOURS

One of our neighbours on Westcroft has asked us to request that parents please be respectful and mindful of the impact on local residents of leaving engines running and playing loud music right outside their houses.

Thank you for your co-operation.

## HALLOWEEN

On Friday 22nd October 2021 children can come into school dressed in Halloween fancy dress or non-uniform if they would prefer. Taylor Shaw are offering a Halloween Menu that day too. If your child is on packed lunch but would like a school lunch that day please contact the office.

## CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY FRIDAY 10TH DECEMBER



## BLACK HISTORY WEEK

Week commencing 18th October 2021, we are holding a Black History week which falls within the National Black History Month. All Learning Zones will be taking part in sessions, activities and events which will support this element of the curriculum.

## COLOUR BLINDNESS TRAINING FOR STAFF

You may already know that Malachi (Diamond) has written a book called Colour Blindness & Me to share his experience of the challenges he lives with. A copy of Malachi's book is being sent to every school in County Durham and every primary school in the Durham & Newcastle Diocese. The book is also available from retailers in Stanhope and from Waterstones. Malachi and his Mum have kindly donated income from the sale of his book to fund training for our staff team to raise awareness and support staff to spot the indicators of colour blindness in children. Our training takes place on 19th October 2021.

## THE NEW RSHE CURRICULUM

During lockdown the new RSHE (Relationships, Sex and Health education) curriculum was introduced and became effective from September 2020.

At that time there were numerous consultation documents on our website, along with the draft policy for parents to comment on. However I am very much aware that everyone had other things on their mind during March—July 2020. As such, I will be arranging briefing sessions for parents who would like to attend later in the Autumn term.

## HARVEST FESTIVAL

On Wednesday 6th October 2021, we held two Harvest Festival Services in the Methodist Chapel. It was a really poignant day for us as it was the first time in over 18 months that our parents, children, staff and community all came together. Both events were extremely well attended. Thank you to Rev Bruce & Rev Claire for facilitating the events and for ensuring that both events were as covid secure as possible.

We were touched by all the lovely comments from parents as they left the chapel.

## HOLIDAYS 2021/2022

Autumn half-term 2021	Friday 22 October 2021	Monday 01 November 2021
Christmas 2021	Friday 17 December 2021	Wednesday 05 January 2022
Spring half-term 2022	Friday 18 February 2022	Monday 28 February 2022
Easter 2022	Friday 08 April 2022	Monday 25 April 2022
May Day 2022	Friday 29 April 2022	Tuesday 03 May 2022
Summer half-term 2022	Friday 27 May 2022	Monday 06 June 2022
Summer 2022	Wednesday 20 July 2022	To be determined

**If your child will not be attending school, due to illness, medical appointments etc., please can you call the school office before 9.00 am to let us know the reason why? Any absence that is not reported will be recorded as 'Missing from Education' on your child's record. If they are 'Missing from Education' for more than 48 hours we are required to inform County Hall.**



**Don't forget ...**

**If you do need to take your child from school during term-time, for whatever reason, please complete a 'Leave of Absence' form which is available from the school office.**

**This form should be completed and returned to the school in advance of the absence.**

**Mrs D Cross, Head Teacher  
Tel: 01388 528218**