



## Encourage the development of wisdom

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2019

### **AUTUMN HALF TERM 1 – NEWSLETTER**

Welcome back! We hope you had a lovely summer holidays, and that all the children are back to school refreshed and raring to go. We have been very busy over the holidays, sorting out the school and getting it ready for the new term. We have had the builders in providing us with an entrance foyer, cupboards in the hall and have had new fire doors into the hall fitted. Starfish classroom has had the flooring replaced and a lick of paint.

I would like to welcome Mrs Dawn Gabriele to the school staff. She is a very experienced TA, who has carried out a range of roles in a number of different local schools. She is really looking forward to becoming a key member of our school community, and I know that you will make her feel very welcome.

#### **Start and End of Day Routines**

Due to the change in the entrance area, and increase in numbers, we have had to work out a plan to minimise congestion when children are coming in and leaving. At the start of the day we request that only nursery parents come beyond the internal security doors to help their children take off coats, hang up bags etc. All other children are more than capable of coming in and sorting themselves out without any help from adults. Please stay outside the school front door unless you need to speak to Melissa, who is available on Monday, Tuesday and Friday mornings.

At the end of the day all Starfish children will be released through their outside space. Staff will bring them to the gate to hand over to parents. All other children will be released through the school front door. If parents of children being released from both doors stay by the wall to the field we will all be able to see you!

#### **Classroom Organisation and Routines - Orcas**

Miss Thompson will continue to teach Orcas this year. She will be supported by Mrs Brealey every morning. Mrs Brealey will also be working with the class on Wednesday and Friday afternoons.

All Orcas will learn the pocket trumpet on Wednesday afternoons (my ear plugs are ready!)

At the High School all Year 7s do half a year of French and half a year of Spanish, before deciding which language to carry on with in year 8. As a result we have taken the decision to teach 2 years of Spanish and 2 years of French to every KS2 child. I have dusted off my A-level French, and will be teaching the children on alternate Mondays.

All the Orcas will go to Willowburn each week on Thursday for swimming. Please ensure that children wear school uniform but bring in swimming costumes, towels and a water bottle on a Thursday.

Mrs Threlfall: Head Teacher

Embleton Vincent Edwards C of E Aided Primary School, Embleton, Alnwick Northumberland NE66 3XR

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### **Classroom Organisation and Routines - Puffins**

Miss Murray will continue to teach Puffins this year. She will be supported by Mrs Gabriele every morning. I will be responsible for the class on Thursday afternoons and Fridays. Mrs Gabriele will also be supporting the class on a Thursday afternoon.

All the Puffins will go to Willowburn each week on Thursday for swimming. Please ensure that children wear school uniform but bring in swimming costumes, towels and a water bottle on a Thursday.

### **Classroom Organisation and Routines - Starfish**

Mrs Popay will continue to teach Starfish this year. She will be supported by Mrs Cotton. Mrs Gabriele will also be working with Starfish on Fridays at the beach. I will be working in the classroom on Tuesday afternoons when Mrs Popay has her planning time.

### **Beach School**

We will be continuing to attend Beach School every Friday. Please ensure that children wear school PE kit to come to school. As the weather is becoming more changeable please ensure that warm, waterproof coats, hats, waterproof trousers, and gloves (preferably waterproof) are available every week. Please also ensure your child has a water bottle. We will be doing PE lessons on the beach, so please make sure that both wellies and trainers are also in school.

### **Maths Fluency - Puffins and Orcas**

One of the main ways to achieve fluency in maths is through the quick recall of times tables. In school we have bought access to Times Table Rockstars to support this. Your children will have log-in information inside their reading record. We would really appreciate it if your child went on the website during the week (you can do so on any device that can access the internet). Sometimes homework will be to go on the website for a set period of time, although we encourage you to use it at least 3 times a week. As staff we can see when children have accessed the site and how they are doing. Children will receive certificates for specific achievements in Parent Worship. All children have been reset to enable them to take the baseline. This is called 'Gig'. It will ask children questions on progressively more complex tables for a set period of time. This will ensure that the tables are targeted appropriately. It goes without saying that the children need to complete this without support from parents!

### **Reading Eggs - Y1 and Reception**

All Y1 and Reception children will have access to Reading Eggs, which can be played on any device that can access the internet. Please use this at home to help support both reading and letter formation. Try and encourage your children to progress through the levels, rather than just playing the games. Your children will have log-in information inside their reading record. Sometimes homework will be to go on the website for a set period of time, although we encourage you to use it at least 3 times a week. As staff we can see when children have accessed the site and how they are doing. Children will receive certificates for specific achievements in Parent Worship.

### **School Library**

All children will be able to borrow books from the library in their classroom. The library will be open each Wednesday. Please note that books not returned within a month will result in an individual having to replace the book.

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### **School Dinners**

Due to ever-rising costs, we have had to increase the cost of school dinners for children. This is the first increase in over 3 years, and still represents excellent value for money. School dinners will now cost £2.20 for KS2 children, and £1.20 for nursery children. Parent lunches for £3.50. KS1 and Reception children will continue to have their lunches funded by the government.

### **Wraparound**

We continue to offer wraparound care from 7.30 am, and until 5.30 pm. Please speak to Melissa if you would like to book any sessions. We prefer bookings in advance, although can take additional children on a short notice basis if you are stuck.

### **School Uniform**

The school uniform list is on the website, and in Year 6 planners. Please ensure that it is adhered to. Please note that whilst a school tie is available for those KS2 children that want to wear them, there is no requirement to do so – a white shirt and school jumper is fine. Please note that the wearing of jewellery, with the exception of a watch, is not allowed. This includes earrings, as there is a danger of them being ripped out during playground activities or lost. Children with long hair are asked to have it tied back. If there are any specific religious or cultural reasons that conflict with the school uniform policy please make an appointment to speak to me about it.

### **Communication**

Important information, newsletters, diary dates, class pages and weekly school and class blogs are on the school website at [www.embletonprimaryschool.com](http://www.embletonprimaryschool.com). Please use this as your first port of call for finding the information you need. If there is anything else you would like to see on the website please let us know. We will continue to send out information via email, texts and in book bags. Please make sure that if you change your email address or phone number, you let us know. If you would like to speak to a member of staff please either catch us at the beginning or end of day, email us ([admin@vincentedwards.northumberland.sch.uk](mailto:admin@vincentedwards.northumberland.sch.uk)) or give us a call.

### **Payments to School**

Please ensure payments to school are made promptly. This is particularly important for lunch money. Lunch money is due on the Monday for that week or you may pay a half term ahead. The school can accept cash or cheques.

### **PFA**

The PFA continues to provide a wide range of fun fundraising activities that pay for school trips, and allows us to buy in additional resources and activities that enhance the children's learning experiences. They are always on the lookout for additional fundraising ideas and support to plan events, as well as help on the day. Please come along to the first meeting, or let us know how you are able to support the school.

### **And finally...**

Thank you for your continued support to the school team. We are really looking forward to the new school year

Kind Regards

Nicola Threlfall  
Head Teacher

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**Diary Dates – Autumn Half Term 1**

Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	Autumn Term Begins
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> September	EY & KS1 Reading Workshop – 3pm
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> September	Parent Worship – 8:45am
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> September	KS2 Pearl of Africa Workshop - PM
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> September	Parent Drop In – Settling Issues
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> September	Parent Lunch - Midday
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> September	KS2 Be Internet Legends Assembly – 2pm (parents welcome to attend)
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> September	Parent Worship – 8:45am
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> October	KS2 Trip to Hancock Museum
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> October	Parent Lunch
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> October	KS2 Maths Workshop – 3pm
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> October	Parent Worship – 8:45am
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> October	Book People Bus - AM
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	Parent Lunch
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October	Parent Worship – 8:45am
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October	End of Half Term – 3pm
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> November	School Resumes for Autumn Half Term 2

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