



January Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

HAPPY NEW YEAR to you all. I hope that 2009 brings you health and happiness.

Nursery

Welcome to our new starters, Ryan, Jack and Jessica. We look forward to getting to know you.

Fundraising

As part of a bid to Playbuilder for a grant of £20,000 we need to get the views for 8 - 13 year olds about developing part of the school site to meet their leisure needs.

Consultation forms are available at school, in the garage or in the Stanegate. This is their chance to let us know what they want - please encourage them to do so.

RSPB - Big Birdwatch

You will have noticed all the bird feeders in the grounds. These are part of our participation in the RSPB Big Birdwatch. Year 1 and Year 2 will take part on Monday 19th and Tuesday 20th January. Children in Class 2 can wear tracksuits/comfortable trousers and their school sweatshirts and bring wellies on these days. If they would like to bring binoculars they may do so.

Homework Club

This got off to a flying start. Around 12 Year 3 and Year 4 pupils decided to get their homework out of the way before they went home! It encourages them to have a routine and to use their time well. It's not too late if your child would like to join - just let Mrs Young or Mrs Hall know.

Attendance

In December the attendances were :

Reception	91.8%
Class 2	96.1%
Class 3	93.3.%

Although this was short of our (very challenging) target of 97% we were hit by the flu bug so I think we can be pleased with our figures. Well done and keep up the good work.

Organic Garden

Once the weather improves we hope to get on with the development of the organic garden. Volunteers to help with the groundwork would be appreciated. Can you please contact Mrs Newson or Mr Liddle if you can help with this.

Pupil Council

David, Cavan, Nathan, Ben, Cameron, Yasmin, Megan, Rhys, Jonathan and Oliver were elected and held their first meeting this week. They discussed the difficulties of travelling to our school and agreed that we should encourage all pupils to use the most environmentally friendly means to get to school. As well as saving the planet, walking to school is good exercise and children arrive at school with well oxygenated brains, ready to work.

Education Sunday

To celebrate this we would like to invite you to join the congregation at St. Peter's Church on Sunday 1st February at 11.00 for their Family Service. Some of the children will perform the Prayer Dance they learned on our Christianity Day last summer. I know how much I enjoyed seeing so many families in church for the nativity. Rev. Thompson looks forward to welcoming you.

On the following day - Monday 2nd February - we will be joined by some of the congregation at 2.00 p.m. for a carousel of fun activities during our RE time. As always you are very welcome to join us.

If you have any queries or concerns don't hesitate to speak to me or any member of staff.

Regards,

Kath Halliday
Headteacher



February Newsletter

Class News

Nursery have been enjoying their topic about clothes and fastenings. They have made a new washing machine for their role play and had great fun doing the laundry. Long may it last! After half term they will learn about Animals.

Reception have now finished their topic on animals. They visited the vets at Orchard House in Hexham and learned about looking after their pets. They will move on to the topic of Weather - we've certainly had plenty of it.

Year 1 and 2 used their observation skills, recorded these by drawing, painting, data handling in maths, and non fiction texts during three weeks of bird watching. We now have a fieldfare and two waxwings on site which is very exciting. They also had a follow up visit to the South Tyne to see how conditions had changed since their last trip there in the Autumn term. They even found a Gruffalo!

Year 3 have been learning the recorder this half term with Mrs Aldred and are making great progress.

Year 3 and 4 are enjoying Homework Club which has been a great success.

Huge congratulations to Ben Jukes who has been awarded an Academic Scholarship to Dame Allen's School where he will start in September.

Website

Our new website is now launched. The address is www.newbroughfirstschool.org.uk/ We are in the process of inputting the content which will include this newsletter.

Clubs

The following clubs will be running after half term :

Day	Club	Contact
Monday	Dance	Tiff Hodkinson
Tuesday	Tennis	Simon McCleod
Wednesday	Craft Club	Mandy Perrie
Thursday	Violin	Bridie Fox
Friday	Choir	Alison Aldred

Attendance

There were problems again in January due to difficult weather conditions and illness :

Reception	93%
Class 2	95%
Class 3	96.2%

Well done Class 3!

I'm looking forward to seeing you at the Village Pantomime. Have a great half term. Children return to school on Monday 23rd February.

Regards,

Kathleen Halliday
Headteacher