

### Homework:

Your child's planner, which they bring home each day with their reading book, is a key source of information for you. Please look through it to find help with reading, grammar terms, school's behaviour rewards and sanctions, school's house point system and useful school information. Please hear your child read daily if possible and record this in your child's planner to receive their house points for reading at home (1 per day).

It is important that children read aloud as often as possible (daily, if possible). When you hear your child read their school reading book, please sign their reading record which is in their school planner, to allow your child to receive their house points. Please try to discuss the text too – there are questions in the reading planners to help.

Your child will also have, in their book bags, a reading for pleasure book for them to read on their own.

Children should bring their book bags, with their reading books and planner in to school each day.

Support around reading, phonics, age milestones for speaking and listening can be found on the national literacy trust's parent's website: [wordsforlife.org.uk](http://wordsforlife.org.uk) (This includes support for early years, primary and secondary). There are some great games and ideas to help your child meet their age-related milestones.

Other homework is set for pupils on a Wednesday and is to be returned to school on a Monday or earlier.

A ping has been sent out to ask if pupils do not have a laptop or PC at home to access home-learning programs. A laptop can be loaned from school for this. Pupils can access a range of free home-learning programs such as DB primary, reading plus, gooseberry planet, my maths and times tables rockstars. Pupils receive their passwords and they can be found in their school planner.

School dinners are now catered for by the SLP catering. This has meant that the ingredients are carefully chosen and seems to be a success, as the children are enjoying their lunches.

### Covid update

Covid is again on the rise. If your child has symptoms of covid and a test shows they do, then they should isolate for 3 days.

# The Gossip

November

2022

From Annfield Plain Junior School Tel: 01207 234531

**SCHOOL WEBSITE:** [www.annfieldplain-jun.durham.sch.uk](http://www.annfieldplain-jun.durham.sch.uk)

## PARENTS' INFORMATION

### **Some important reminders:**

- Please update the school office with phone numbers, forms, school dinners, ping and parent pay. Please let us know of any changes to this information or if you need help, phone the school office on 01207 234531.
- **Apart from this newsletter all other information – important updates, changes to events, information from other providers, bumped heads - is communicated through the app ping. Please contact the school office if you are not on ping to organise setting it up on your phone or if you are having any issues with it. If possible, keep the app on your first screen as it will show if there is a message, if you haven't heard the ping.**
- If any parent/carer has had a change of circumstances and think they may now be entitled to Free School Meals contact school with the claimant's date of birth and their national insurance number. School can then undertake a quick check.
- Please put your child's name in all of their school clothes and P.E. kits on the labels (writing it in pen will help). It is then easy to find missing jumpers etc.
- All children need a filled water bottle each day, with their name on.
- Packed lunches should have names on.
- Children are allowed a bag in school to carry their P.E. kit, water bottle, packed lunches, reading book and reading record etc.
- P.E. kits will be transported in bags to and from school every day/week to allow you to wash kit and school to clean porches. Please ensure your child has their kit every day, as at times PE days can be changed if the hall is needed.
- Children are allowed to enter school from 8:30 a.m. until 8:45 a.m. in the morning. School starts at 8:45 a.m. and teachers begin teaching. School day ends at 3 p.m., with children exiting after this time.
- Unless phones are absolutely necessary e.g. for walking home alone, they should not be brought to school. If they are brought into school, they are switched off and handed in to be stored in the school office. Parent/carers must sign an agreement form for their child bringing a phone in to school.
- Fruit and milk money (20p each, per day) are handed to class teacher on entry. Sending a week's money will be helpful. Pupils on FSM are entitled to free milk.
- If your child has school dinner, a meal choice form should have been completed and returned to school. Your child can change this directly with the cook, for the next time this meal is offered, if they dislike it – the meals are on a three week rota.
- Junior pupils are allowed to access wrap around care at the Infant School (breakfast club & after school club 8am to 5pm). Please contact the infant school on 01207 234691 to book.

### After school clubs this half-term.

#### **After school clubs up to half-term 3:10-4:10pm:**

**Monday:** NUFC basketball, art club, singing club

**Wednesday:** shikkari karate

**Thursday:** book club, Christmas crafts club

### Activities in school this half-term:

#### **NOVEMBER**

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November, Life Skills Week:** Staying Safe.

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November: Karbon Homes safety around the home workshops.

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November: Durham Police safety in the community workshops.

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November: Hadrian's Training First Aid workshops.

**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November – Friday 2nd December:** "Enjoy and Achieve Week: Our Amazing Planet –protecting Earth's animals." Children will be reading the novel, "The Last Bear" by Hannah Gold and "Mr Elephant" by Sarah Glover.

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November: author, Sarah Glover, workshops.

#### **DECEMBER**

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December** – next event in our "Sporting Spirit" programme with Catchgate Primary School and Annfield Plain Infant School. Showcase of gymnastics routines at Catchgate Primary School with the same year groups.

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December:** Christmas jumper/hat/clothes/glasses day – wear any Christmas clothes and donate £1 to Metro Radio cash for kids. There is no need to buy new items just transform items you have. Children do not need to participate if they do not want to. This links with school's Christmas lunch on this day.

This is also Christmas lunch day and enterprise fundraising day for Miss Angus's, Mrs Taylor's and Mrs Marley's classes. The pupils will be holding their annual fundraising Christmas fayre with games, activities and competitions for all pupils.

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December:** 1:30pm in the school yard- Christmas nativity performance.

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December:** end of term treat for all pupils not in detention this term.

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December:** Christmas party day for all pupils. Pupils may dress in their party clothes for the whole day. During the day they will take part in Christmas activities, a party with games and school will provide a drink, snack and party bag.

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December: last day of term** – a Christmas film with hot chocolate and snacks.

### Dates for Parents

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November:** Stanley Learning Partnership Fireworks display at Greenland Primary School (more information to follow)

#### **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November, 1:30pm: Parent/Carers coffee afternoon and information carousel**

Parents are invited to join school staff for both a fundraising coffee afternoon (chocolate raffle, NUFC shirt to raffle) and an information carousel for e-safety, SEND, tables games, Karbon homes homework apps, wellbeing support. Following looking at the support stalls in the halls, you are able to collect your child and take part in the activities in upper school: have coffee, go to the library for a quiz/reading/activities and join in the Y6 activities on the yard. The raffle will take place at 2:30pm.

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December:** 1:30pm in the school yard- Christmas nativity performance.

#### **Other information:**

Howtown Outward Bound Residential 23<sup>rd</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> January, 2023 – a meeting will be arranged after Christmas for the parents/carers of pupils attending Howtown. You do not need to buy any specialist equipment such as walking boots or waterproofs, as Howtown provide them..

If you have any unused or no longer needed children's comics or annuals which are in good condition, school would appreciate donations to school, to be used in the school library or our reading for pleasure boxes.

Thankyou to parents/carers for supporting school with fundraising events. Funds raised support school in funding Christmas parties, end of term treats, visitors in school. All classes raise money for playtime equipment by completing an enterprise project: Hallowe'en fayre and Christmas fayre for all pupils.

Thankyou to parents/carers who have sent school uniform into school which is no longer used. If any parents are struggling to manage to buy new school uniform, we do have second-hand uniform spare and we can also put in a referral to the Salvation Army