



## SCHOOL UPDATES & REMINDERS

### PARENT DROP-IN PHONE CALLS:

Thanks to all the parents who took part in the first round of drop-in phone calls this week. All went to plan in the majority of cases which was a huge positive.

Please note, for parents anticipating a phone call next week:

- We have managed to keep to timings really well thus far, so please be ready and available to take the call at the designated time (can be found on eschools if you are unsure).
- Please remember not to call back if you have a missed call – we will ring you. This will avoid clogging up our two phone lines which will both be in use at the same time. Please do not be offended if staff cancel an incoming call – they have been instructed to do so!
- If you do not receive a call as expected, do not panic. It may be that our contact details for you are not correct for whatever reason. Teachers will send an eschools message, and in this situation, will be able to offer an alternative appointment if required.
- If staff feel as though issues are raised which would require a more detailed conversation, they have been asked to take your details, and an alternative appointment will be made with the class teacher or a senior leader.

### CURRICULUM BOOKLETS:

All parents should have received their child's curriculum booklet. Please check eschools and have a good look through the booklet to see what's coming up this year and how you can help your child's ongoing progress.

### PUFFIN WORLD OF STORIES:

We are delighted to share that we are taking part in the *Puffin World of Stories* initiative: an exciting programme delivered by the National Literacy Trust and Puffin – the UK's leading children's publisher. As part of the scheme, we are due to receive 300 brand new books – at absolutely no cost – to reinvigorate our class libraries together with a range of audiobooks for use in school. Over the course of coming year, your child(ren) will benefit from access to these new titles as well as the specialist training that will be delivered to staff in school as part of the programme.

### Y6 PLAYGROUND SKILLS WITH BIKE-IT BEN:

Ben Tweedie will be in school on **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October** to work with pupils in Y6 on some playground biking and scooting skills. Pupils wishing to take part should come into school in their PE kit and must be able to bring their bike/scooter into school on the morning. If your child is cycling to and from school, please consider cycling with them and encouraging your child to wear a helmet and high visibility vest/clothing.

### Y2 GREAT FIRE OF LONDON VIRTUAL WORKSHOP:

On Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November, pupils in Y2 will be receiving a virtual workshop from *4Schools* at Durham University. As we are not presently taking pupils out of school on class trips, it is a great opportunity for the children to further their knowledge of the Great Fire – their current History topic – with this virtual offer. There will be no cost for pupils for the experience.

#### SCHOOL PHOTOS:

Please do not send any further photo orders in to school. All orders must now be made online following the instructions on the order form.

#### 'OPERATION SANTA PAWS':

We've been made aware of an opportunity for our children to design a poster for the 'Operation Santa Paws' campaign being championed by Northumbria Police in support of the RSPCA and their role in protecting animals from cruelty and neglect. Children can design a poster around the theme of: *The Prevention of Animal Cruelty and Neglect*. Entrants can send their final designs to Peter Baker at [3070@northumbria.pnn.police.uk](mailto:3070@northumbria.pnn.police.uk) and winning designs could earn top prizes such as an Xbox console and Android tablet.

#### REMINDER – PARISH GIFT FOR LIFE CALENDAR COMPETITION:

The Parish of Our Lady and St Philip Neri Gift for Life Group are currently running an exciting opportunity for budding photographers of any age. Photographs are invited under the theme of, "The Beautiful North East of England," and 12 images will feature in a calendar to be sold in aid of Gift for Life – which supports projects in Kenya, India and locally. For full details see the competition guidelines on our parish <http://www.theparish.org.uk> - but don't hang around – **entries required by 23<sup>rd</sup> October**.

#### OCTOBER HALF TERM:

School will close for October Half Term from 26<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> October. Pupils will return to school on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November.