

Yetholm Primary School

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End of October Newsletter

As the end of October disappears from sight we are full steam ahead with thinking about the term ahead. This month we have parent consultations and will be concentrating on our Christmas Panto.

As the days get darker, colder and often wetter can we remind parents/carers to ensure children are dressed suitably for the weather- a warm, waterproof jacket and appropriate outdoor shoes should be sent every day. Inside, can we remind everyone that if outdoor shoes this term are wellies then indoor shoes should also be suitable for PE lessons. As always, can we strongly encourage you to label everything possible with your child's name.

Staffing

Miss Hume is now settled into her role within our Nursery and has gotten to know the children well so far.

I also want to let you know that after just over 5 years with us Mrs Dyet will be heading off to pastures new by the end of the month. We will be sad to see her go- she covered for a long time when Mrs Luke was ill, then secured a further position with us supporting pupil needs. Mrs Dyet is off to follow her dream of working with animals and is starting in the vets as soon as she is done here. We wish her all the best in her new job (and in her new role as a granny to baby Olive!)

Active Schools

On the last day of term before the October holidays Primary 4/5 and Primary 6/7 took part in the Rugby and Hockey festivals in Kelso alongside the other primary schools from the cluster. They all played really well and won many of their games. Thank you to the coaches who came up to the school and took time to get everyone ready to take part.

Last week our squad team took part in the small schools netball competition at the Queens Centre in Gala. They played well, successfully coming 2nd in the tournament overall. Mrs Luke accompanied them and said that she was impressed with the standard. Thanks to Mr Sutton for helping us to get ready for this too during PE lessons.

Primary 7 were in Kelso at the ice rink last week to take part in a curling taster session. Despite a few looking like they were auditioning for dancing on ice and slipping over a few times, most did really well. If anyone is keen to learn more about curling there are sessions running on a Saturday morning- pay at the door. Contact the ice rink for further details.

After-school football has now finished on Thursday afternoons during the winter. Thanks, as always, to our coaches Ed and Finch for giving up their time to allow this to happen. Children played the first of the Kelso league matches before the holidays and are looking forward to the next round of the competition.

Chris Fraser, our Active Schools coordinator has secured some badminton sessions for our school which started on Tuesday after school this week. If anyone is keen to still take part please contact the office for more information.



Parent Council

Thank you to those who supported the Parent Council with their fundraising efforts at the Shepherd's Show recently. The chocolate donated for the tombola went down a treat again and kept many parents digging into their pockets for another £1 for their kids to play. We made £280 which will go back into supporting our pupils.

As our school roll drops it becomes naturally harder to recruit parents onto the Parent Council. Please remember that as a parent/carer you automatically are entitled to be a member but without coming to a meeting you have no right to vote and/or your voice won't be heard. As a school team, we feel that the Parent Council is a vital addition to our school and without it the pupils will not get the same experiences that they have had in the past.

- The Parent Council has paid for the bus to take our children to swimming lessons- without which it is unlikely that these could go ahead.
- They have sourced and paid for the sports tops and coats that our pupils wear when representing our school at sporting events.
- They have paid for resources such as the kitchen space in the shared room; one of the new smart boards and various items to support maths and numeracy.
- They bought the bench in memory of Mrs Potter (which should be in position later this year).

If you do not want your child missing out then please consider being part of this. There are generally 4 meetings a year (one per term) that last just over an hour.

Book Fair

The Scholastic Book fair will be in school on the week beginning Monday 18th November. Pupils will have the chance to look around the fair in groups during school time on the Monday. We will open the fair after school on Tuesday and Wednesday so that parents can also come and have a look and buy items. As Scholastics now run a cashless systems we will send more information out about this detailing how you and your child can buy items.

Bikes in the Playground

As part of our commitment to getting in right and keeping children safe we have relaunched our "walk it in" approach to bikes in the playground. We would like pupils to walk their bikes into and out of the playground. We would also encourage all children to wear a helmet when travelling to school or home again on their bike/scooter. The JRSO's will be coming around classes to talk about the importance of wearing a helmet too. We would really appreciate your help and support with this.

Website

The new school website was made live after we returned from the school holidays in October. We have tried to listen to your feedback on what you wanted on there. The website gives parents access to key information about how we operate in school and ways in which you can support your child's learning. As this is new we would welcome feedback- please let Mr Wilson know via the office if there is anything that you would like to see on there.



Diary Dates

Monday 2 December 2024 - St Andrew's Day (schools closed to pupils)

Tuesday 3 December 2024 – casual holiday (school closed to pupils)

Friday 20 December 2024 - Last day of term

Monday 23 December 2024 - Friday 3 January 2025- Christmas holidays

Monday 6 January 2025 - Term starts, all resume.

Friday 14 February 2025 - Last day of term for pupils

Monday 17 to Friday 21 February 2025 - Mid-term break

Monday 24 February 2025 - In service day for all (school closed to pupils)

Tuesday 25 February 2025 - All resume

Friday 4 April 2025 - Last day of term

Monday 7 April to Friday 18 April 2025 (Easter holidays)

Monday 21 April 2025 - Term starts.

Monday 5 May 2025 - May Day holiday, schools closed to all.

Tuesday 6 May 2025 - Staff resume, In service day (school closed to pupils)

Wednesday 7 May 2025 - Pupils resume

Wednesday 25 June 2025 - Last day of term

Important Dates:

- Thursday 14th- Pyjamas Day fundraiser for Children in Need
- Week beginning 18th November- Book Fair
- Wednesday 20th November- School photos (individuals and siblings)
- Wednesday 27th/ Thursday 28th November- Parents Consultations
- Wednesday 4th December- flu vaccines
- Monday 16th December- Church service (all welcome)
- Thursday 12th December- Christmas show performance
- Tuesday 17th December- Christmas party
- Wednesday 18th December- Primary 1-7 outdoor learning- Christmas Special
- Thursday 19th December- Christmas Lunch

