

Head of School Newsletter

Autumn Term 1

Welcome - I cannot believe we are now in week 8, your children have been wonderful. They are hard-working, very eager and above all extremely happy. I have had the pleasure to share the learning that takes place through 'Learning Walks' with other teachers, parents, governors and even an Ofsted inspector and they have all commented on what a lovely, purposeful atmosphere there is in school. I couldn't agree more, if I could bottle it I'd be a very wealthy woman! I've included some feedback we received from Mr Graham Fitzgerald, our Chair of Governors...

I enjoyed seeing all of the classes and I thought the atmosphere around the school was fantastic. The engagement between all staff and children was great.

Assemblies - Every Monday morning at 9 o'clock all the children meet for an assembly. This is a lovely time to meet up after the weekend and to learn about topical issues or to learn some important life messages. I thought I'd share the assemblies that myself and Mrs Graham have been leading:

Date	Title	Aims	Religious and citizenship links	British Fundamental Values
Wednesday 3 rd September	Firm Foundations	To set firm Foundations for the year ahead	The wise and foolish builder	To hear a Christian story and help them to prepare for the year ahead
Monday 8 th September	Good Manners	To establish expectations	To develop an understanding of individual and collective rights and responsibilities in a democratic society	To provide clear guidance on what is right and what is wrong
Monday 15 th September	The Big Vote in Scotland	To consider why we make decisions	What characteristics make a good citizen	To promote fundamental British values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect
Monday 22 nd September	Be inspired	To gain an understanding of determination and perseverance	Inspirational figures in British history	To promote respect for inspirational figures in British History
Monday 29 th September	School Council launch	To gain an understanding of democracy	To participate in democratic politics	To promote fundamental British values of democracy and to prepare them for life in modern Britain
Monday 6 th October	The prodigal son	To understand forgiveness	To understand different viewpoints	To learn about tolerance of others
Monday 13 th October	What's in a name?	Why we need a name	To work co-operatively with others	
Monday 20 th October	A Harvest You Can Count On	To consider generosity	The parable of the sower	To engage pupils in activities to help their local community

Information Evenings - Thank you to those of you who were able to support the events. We hope you found the information evenings helpful and your suggestions were well received. We will be hosting the parents evening in November (**Tuesday 11th and Wednesday 12th**) and this will be an opportunity to discuss how your child has settled in and how well they are learning. I look forward to welcoming you then.

I am aware that communication between home and school was not as good as it could be and I really do hope you feel better informed. We will continue to share information via letters, text alerts, newsletters and verbally (next time we meet I will let you know the dates of forthcoming events). Our website is an obvious forum to share information and this is a priority that we are working on at present.

School Council

Wow! What a busy start to our autumn term with the children preparing for our school council elections. It all began with the children sharing thoughts within their class - **What makes a good school council?** We followed with a whole school assembly, looking at the election process and past representatives views too! Thank you and well done to Kimi Bishop and Oli Clarke for bravely stepping forward.



First we had to nominate within our classes, produce fabulous manifestos (thank you to all who helped support the children with this) before finally electing on Tuesday 21st October.

On the day, children very excitedly took their turn to vote. We had our very own secret electing booth and ballot box, kindly on loan from a local council. The votes were counted and verified and I'm proud to announce that our new school council representatives are:



Well done!

Year 1 - Edward Ranson and Austin Stockdale

Year 2 - Zara Jones and Ben Matthias

Year 3 - Jessie Walker and Jessica Diver

Year 4 - Freddie Walker and Eve Banham

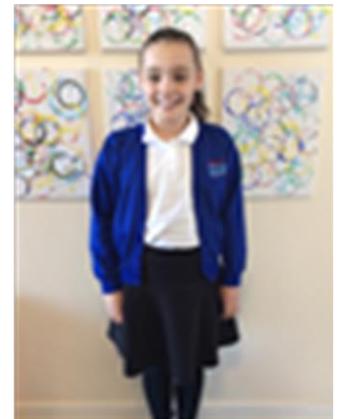
Year 5 - Gregor Hutchinson and Maisie Penteney

Year 6 - Ethan Hardcastle and Faith Lawley

Now the work begins! Watch this space for further updates from our school councillors.

School Council Lead

Miss Williamson



PTA - The PTA decided to hold a poster competition to advertise our School Fair which will take place on **Friday 14th November** straight after school at **3.15 pm**. Thank you so much for all your support with these. The PTA were very impressed and the decision was not easy at all! The winners are:



From left to right:

Daisy Paylor - Foundation

Ella Jenkinson - Year 1

Fin Scarr - Year 2

Jessie Walker - Year 3

Lucy Ward - Year 4

Charlotte Curbeson - Year 5

Harvey Matthias - Year 6

Hurworth's Got Talent! - Forget about Britain's Got Talent and X-Factor we certainly do have talent at Hurworth. Mrs Coates has been very busy with auditions for our show on December 3rd at 6 o'clock. There will be singing, dancing, magic and much, much more.



Here are our semi-finalists.

Sporting achievements - It has been another fantastic term for our school in sport competitions. Firstly, we took part in our first ever Table Tennis competition at Longfield School. Our girls finished a very respectful 3rd with the boys taking gold (they did not lose a single game throughout the tournament). Secondly, the Tag Rugby team took part in the schools' cluster tournament at the Mowden Arena. Another fantastic display of teamwork, skill and respect saw them go undefeated to take first place and gold! They will now travel to Middlesbrough in November to compete in the Tees Valley finals. Finally and 'hot off the press', James Wilson and the Year 6 boys won gold at the Cross-Country event which took place at Eastbourne Sports Complex. To conclude we are delighted to announce Hurworth Primary School has now won the Town finals for the last six years, we are so proud! Mr Hollis, PE Domain



Extra-curricular activities - The staff have worked extremely hard in researching into appropriate clubs. This proved more difficult than we first anticipated as many providers were already booked. However, I am delighted to announce that we will be providing the following clubs next half term:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Meeting place	Pick-up (Teachers will hand over)
Zumba			3.20 – 4.15			Hall	Reception
Let's Get Cooking				3.20 – 4.30		Science and Technology Room	Reception
Choir	3.20 – 4.00					Hall	Reception
Tag Rugby	3.20 – 4.30					Hall	Delivery gates
Street Dance		3.20 – 4.30				Hall	Reception
Film club				3.20 – 4.30		Hall	Reception
Gardening				3.20 – 4.30		Year 4	Reception

Discussions are already taking place to run an art club (this will take place after Christmas), Early Phase Football and a music club. I have attached the timetable so you can see when the events will be taking place.

New Staff - We are pleased to welcome Miss Walker and Miss Dodsworth who are currently studying a teacher training course at Darlington College. Both teachers are spending two days in school. Miss Dodsworth is working in Foundation and Miss Walker is working in Middle Phase. Miss Knaggs is currently studying 'A' Levels and is spending Wednesday working with Later Phase. We will also be a host school for Durham University students: Miss Legge (Year 1), Miss Stanley (Year 2), Miss Mack-Thomson (Year 3), Miss Young (Year 4) and Miss Spellman (Year 6). These students will be with our school on a Thursday.

New families - We are delighted to welcome some new families who are joining us. The children have settled in very well and have had a wonderful time already.
 George Smith - Foundation
 Keisha Crang - Year 2
 Dylan McBride - Year 2
 Charlotte Ramsden - Year 4
 Bailey Exley-Leonard - Year 4

Special achievements

Lexie Knott - clear round in a riding competition

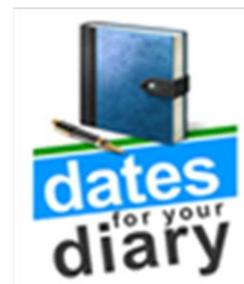


Huge well done! I can't imagine what it's like jumping on a pony (I struggle to stay put when it's just a walk and even then my heart is in my mouth!)

Special mentions - The next newsletter will show Emma Hughes who was awarded a distinction for her ballet exam and Isabella Wood who won an award in dance. If your child has achieved something special in an extra-curricular activity outside of school we'd love to hear about it.

Dates for your diary: School will reopen on Tuesday 4th November

Remembrance Assembly	Later Phase Parents	11.11.14	14.00 - 15.00
Parents' Evening	Whole School Parents	11.11.14	15.30 - 18.00
Parents' Evening	Whole School Parents	12.11.14	15.30 - 18.00
Christmas Fair	Whole school	14.11.14	15.15 - 17.00
Trip to Robinwood	Y4 children	19.11.14 -	21.11.14 (3days)
Judo	Y1,2,3 children	24.11.14	9.00 - 11.00
Judo	Y4,5,6 children	25.11.14	9.00 - 11.00
H Factor Final	Whole School	03.12.14	18.00 - 19.30 (approx)
Foundation reading workshop	Foundation Parents	04.12.14	17.00 - 18.00
Early Phase Performance	Early Phase Parents	08.12.14	14.00 - 15.00
Christmas Dinner	Whole school children	12.12.14	12.00 - 13.00
Christmas Pantomime	Whole school children	11.12.14	13.00 - 16.30
Christmas Party	Early Phase children	16.12.14	13.00 - 15.00
Carol Service	Whole School	17.12.14	10.00 - 11.00
Christmas Party	Later Phase children	17.12.14	13.00 - 15.00
PTA - Non Uniform Day	Whole School	19.12.14	All Day
Christmas Party	Middle Phase children	19.12.14	13.00 - 15.00



Fundraising - Thank you for your generosity in supporting the events below:

Coast to Coast - **£450** and we are still collecting!

Mitten Monday - To raise awareness of children with the condition Hemiplegia with your support we raised **£156**.

Finally - As you will know the children are ready for their half-term break! We hope you enjoy your time with them and fingers crossed we have some beautiful golden autumn days and we've said goodbye to hurricane Gonzola.

Happy Holidays