



Windy News

Email: windynookprimaryschool@gateshead.gov.uk

Welcome to Futures Week!

Thank you to all parents and carers who have volunteered their time to come in this week and talk to the children about their jobs. During this week, children will think about their own future and the employment possibilities available to them.

In addition to this, they will have a dabble at entrepreneurship in trying to "grow" the £20 I have loaned each class as a starter fund for their own business venture/moneymaking ideas. Any profit will go to toward the school's purchase of more iPads. Internet Safety will also be amongst the things children are considering this week and there will be a theatre company working with children across KS2 to create our own production!

Parents' Evenings

You should already have had letters to organise meetings with your child's class teacher and these are being held this week.

Governors intend to run the tea trolley on Monday and Tuesday evenings.

This is always a much appreciated part of our welcome.

There are photos of Governors in the main reception area of school if you don't already recognise them.

Please look out for Governors during this week. They always welcome the opportunity to meet parents.

Changes to the Building

As part of our revised safeguarding procedures, an inner lobby will be fitted into the reception area of school. This will allow visitors to remain safely at the office counter until they are seen by the appropriate staff member.

The installation of the lobby will take place during half term week.

It is being designed to look complementary to the rest of the building and will add a further layer of security to our building.

Start of Parking Enforcement

Some time ago, the Council told us that they planned to bring in a camera car to help the issue of inappropriate parking around school. This vehicle will collect evidence to help the effectiveness of parking restrictions around school sites, particularly with regard to yellow zig-zag lines.

You will receive a separate letter giving you more detail of this initiative, but the project will start around our school in the week after half term (w/c 24th February).

The reason for this happening is to make the school environment safer for pupils, parents, carers and other road users.



Hays Attendance Competition

Once again, we are entering the above competition to try and help one of our pupils (and their family) to win a £500 voucher toward a family holiday.

Our school could also receive a voucher for £500 if it's a Windy Nook pupil that wins!

To be in with a chance your child must have 100% attendance between 24th February and 23rd May, must have been on time for school every day and not collected late.

Let's go for the record number of children to enter from a Gateshead school!

February 2014

What's happening?

- ◇ Dates for your diary
- ◇ Changes to Staff Team
- ◇ Governors' Column
- ◇ Feedback from Parental Questionnaire

Bikes and Scooters

Please remind your children that they should walk with their bike or scooter through the school grounds. This is to avoid the risk of injury to pedestrians.



Remember!

February half term holiday takes place starting on Monday 17th February and children return on Monday 24th February 2014.



Dates for your Diary

Please note that some dates may change due to circumstances beyond the school's control.

Windy Nook Primary School

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w/c 10th Feb	Parents' Evenings in school- crèche is open Mon/Tues, 3.15pm-5.30pm. Last admission 5.00pm
	Themed week -Futures Week (see overleaf)
Weds 12th Feb	2.30 p.m Internet Safety Talk for parents (please note this is a change of date)
w/c 17th Feb	Half term holiday-school is closed
Mon 24th Feb	School re-opens to pupils
Tues 1st Apr	9.45a.m. Easter Service of signed songs at St Albans' Church for KS2 pupils and parents. Decorated Easter Eggs can come into school to enter Egg Competition.
Thur 3rd Apr	Eggs will be returned home
Fri 4th Apr	3.15pm School closes to pupils for the Easter break.
Tues 22nd Apr	Children return to school for summer term.
w/c 6th May &	Important assessments take place for Y2 pupils for two weeks.
w/c 13th May	Y6 pupils will be taking their SATs. No authorised leave will be granted during these weeks. It is even more important than usual that all pupils are in school please.

More Information

Changes to the Staff Team

We are hoping to appoint a new care-taker to our team on Tuesday, although there may be a delay of several weeks before the successful candidate can take up their post.

In the meantime, Mr. Ridley is looking after the school and the site very well. Mrs Hocking gave birth to baby Fraser Robert Hocking on Monday 3rd February and he weighed 5lbs and 11oz. Mum and baby are both doing well.

In Mrs. Hocking's absence, the phase leaders, Mrs Hopkins, Mrs Ferry and Mrs Wong will help with any parental concerns if your child is in their part of school.

Basketball Event

Well done to our Y5 & Y6 pupils who took part in basketball training at Thomas Hepburn Academy and followed this up with a tournament. One of the teams came second, but all pupils received fab feedback about their good sporting attitude and their behaviour.

They were, as usual, a credit to our school. Well done Y5 & Y6!

Feedback from Parental Questionnaires

Thank you to the large number of parents who took the time to respond to our annual survey. This time 124 parents took part.

Once again, you have shown an overwhelming support for the work of our school.

A more detailed update will follow after half term, but it's a good time to share some of the headlines!

A full **100%** of those who responded felt that our school helps pupils develop good skills and **99%** felt well supported by school in helping their child to learn.

98% of those responding agreed that school keeps them well informed and keeps children safe.

In terms of children making good progress, being well looked after and being taught well, **97%** agreed that this was the case.

Of course part of the reason for seeking regular feedback is to help look at areas for improvement.

Although there were far more positive than negative comments to examine, there are some areas to look at as a staff to what improvements can be made.

We will be looking at these areas in a staff meeting soon.

KS2 Children Coming into School

Just a reminder that if you have children in both KS1 & KS2 and wish to see them both safely into school, KS2 pupils are allowed to follow the KS1 children in via the Infant entrance each morning. They just need to wait until the younger children are in.

For the rest of KS2 pupils, they should go onto the Junior yard and wait for their teacher to collect them. Parents are welcome to wait on the yard with them of course.

Governor Focus

Our recently reconstituted governing body are keen to take a regular spot in the newsletter. This is to help parents know who governors are and the job they do.

This month's contributing governor is Councillor Jim Turnbull.

"I'm Jim Turnbull and I have been a governor of Windy Nook School for over 20 years. I am also a councillor for Windy Nook & Whitehills on Gateshead Council.

I was chair of the Governing Body for a number of years.

I have witnessed many changes in my time as a governor, especially the introduction of OFSTED which in my opinion has raised standards in schools, although it created extra work for the head and teachers.

Governors work very closely with the head and the leadership team. We aim to make sure that the children are safe, enjoy school and are well behaved in order to help them get the best from their education and will in turn, help them and get the best possible start in life.

It is a joy to watch the children's journey through school. Some are very shy and timid when they start, but can leave confident and articulate ready to begin their journey through secondary school.

The children are a credit to the head and staff and as a governor gives me a great deal of satisfaction knowing I am part of the team.

You don't need any special skills to be a governor as training is given. If you have the time why not apply I'm sure you will enjoy it.

Regards
Jim Turnbull"