



# Wolsingham Primary Newsletter

21<sup>st</sup> January 2022

Volume 16

[www.wolsingham-pri.durham.sch.uk](http://www.wolsingham-pri.durham.sch.uk)

## Match Funding Confirmation

We have been notified that the raffle held as part of the Children's Christmas Fair has qualified for match funding of £1,000 through Barclays Bank, Consett. Once again, we would like to say a huge thank you to Ashleigh Britton for arranging and supporting the match funding and Friends of the School for organising the event.

## Cauliflower Cards

A big thank you from Friends of the School to all those who purchased Cauliflower Cards before Christmas. Friends received £269 commission from the event which will be added to the money raised from the Christmas Fair.

## NEU Competition Winners



At the start of the school year, Year 5 entered a competition with the NEU. They were asked to choose a landmark in County Durham and use this as inspiration to design and create a pentagon fit to feature on the NEU banner at the Durham Miners' Gala. Congratulations to Ava, Ricky Lexi and Joshua, whose designs were among the winning entries. The winners will hopefully work alongside an artist to recreate their image ready for the Miners' Gala in July.



## Climbing Frame Update

Our climbing frame has been out of action this academic year due to repairs required for health and safety purposes, not due to the pandemic. Annual inspections of the climbing frame flagged up a number of issues with the nets which made it unsafe for children to use. One of the nets has been replaced and the other two nets are due to be replaced soon. As seems to be the case at the moment, everything seems to take an extended period of time to be acquired. Once the repairs have been carried out, we will notify children and parents when the equipment is safe to use. Thank you for your patience with this matter.

## Reminder

Just a reminder for any parents wishing to send in sweets / cake for their child to share with their class when it is their birthday. We would be grateful if parents would ensure that sweets and cakes do not contain nuts of any kind and that cakes are pre-cut into pieces before it is sent in to school. Individual cakes or pre-cut tray bakes are ideal. Thank you.

## Reading Fluency

Over the next couple of weeks, some of our children in Reception and Key Stage 1 will be moving on to new reading levels. As they do, they will be sent home with a 'Reading at Home Booklet' which is designed to provide information for parents about how they can help their child with their reading at home. They will also be sent home with 2 reading books at a time – the 'Storybook' that they have been reading in the classroom as part of their Read Write Inc. lessons and a corresponding 'Book Bag Book'. Inside each book is a label asking parents to ensure their child keeps the book for a particular number of days and to re-read the books on each day. Reading the same book multiple times will help your child to develop fluency in their reading and it also offers opportunities to talk about the stories. Spending 10 minutes every day listening to your child read is a great way to help them to make good progress in their reading.

## Term Time Holidays

As we are sure all parents are aware, Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances (one off events that could never be repeated such as weddings, funerals etc.). As a school, we are very aware that the events of the last 22 months have massively impacted on the ability of families to go on holiday, however they have also massively impacted on children's learning and we are still in a period of catch up, working to enable children to progress as quickly as possible to meet their end of year expectations. Although parents may ensure that there are educational aspects to their holiday or consider their holiday to be a worthwhile experience for their child, any learning they may experience during their holiday does not mirror the learning that they are missing by not being in school. A child not being in school during term time means that they are missing essential building blocks of learning particularly in areas such as Maths and English that the other children in their class are experiencing and this impacts hugely on their ability to make good progress across the year. The school does not provide additional work for children to take away with them on holiday as this causes additional work for teachers who already have a huge workload. Please also note that we are aware that there are some parents who inform us that their child is ill rather than informing the school that they are on holiday. We are often made aware of this by the children who are excited about going or having been on holiday and/or their friends. Absences found to be due to a holiday rather than illness will be recorded as unauthorised.

## Changes to the Self-isolation Period for Those Who Test Positive for COVID-19

As you may already be aware, self-isolation rules have changed again recently. From Monday 17 January, people who are self-isolating with COVID-19 can **end their self-isolation after 5 full days** if they **test negative with a lateral flow device (LFD) test on both day 5 and day 6 and they do not have a temperature**. For example, if they test negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to their education or childcare setting immediately on day 6.

The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day. All test results should be [reported to NHS Test and Trace](#). If the result of either of their tests is positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFD tests on consecutive days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest.

Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests or anyone who continues to have a temperature will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation. Further [information on self-isolation for those with COVID-19](#) is available.

## Dates for your diary...

Year 1 Visit to Locomotion	Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February
Safer Internet Day	Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> February
School Closes	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> February
School Reopens	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> February
World Book Day	Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March

S. Kitching

Headteacher