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Our **Value of the Month** for October is **POSITIVITY**



## Newsletter – October 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Photos – Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October



Just a reminder that our school photographer will be in on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October. Family photos will be taken from 8.30am in the main hall. This tends to be popular so your patience with this is always appreciated. Class, team and individual photos will be taken in school across the morning.

### Phonics workshop for Reception Parents/Carers



Just a reminder Mrs Martindale is presenting a reading workshop this Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October at 9.00am for parents of our new Reception children. We hope you are able to come along and find out about how reading is taught in Early Years and ideas to help at home.

### Bonfire Night Disco – Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November



This term our school disco will be held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November. As usual the infants will have their disco in school time during the afternoon to allow the music to be a little quieter! The Junior disco is straight after school at 3.15pm until 4.30pm when children need to be collected by an adult. All children are able to wear non-uniform on the day – bright colours are very welcome as it is just after bonfire night and the colourful fireworks. There is no charge for the disco but we ask that if your Junior child is not able to attend after school, then you let the office know in advance. Please note there will be no after school clubs on this date.

### Our Elected Groups



We are pleased to announce that school councillors have been voted for and had their first meeting last Friday. Previous school councillors have had many great ideas on how to improve our school so we can't wait to see what they achieve across this academic year. Also we are voting for our school nutrition action group this week (SNAG). This group of children get a chance to work with a representative from Taylor Shaw, who provide our school meals, to give feedback and comments.

### Football Team News



Our football have had a great start to the season with some excellent scores. Mr Dent and Mr Seaton report they are committed to improving and getting the best results. One example of this was a recent match where they won 7-0! The team are a credit to our school and their team spirit prevails, regardless of the final score. Many thanks to the parents/carers who offer such amazing support at each match.



### Bikeability Sessions for Year 5

Bikeability sessions for Year 5 will begin on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October and run for 4 weeks until Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November. During these sessions pupils will work with qualified instructors from Durham County Council to learn valuable safety skills when riding their bike. A letter about this will follow in due course with more details for Year 5 pupils.



### Police Christmas Card Competition

We have had some excellent entries for the Durham Constabulary Christmas Card design competition. This competition is set by Chief Constable Mike Barton to allow the Durham Police Force's Christmas card to be designed by a local child. The closing date for the A4 designs is Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November and it needs to incorporate the theme of Christmas and police. Good luck to all our pupils with this as the winner receives a mountain bike.



### Music Works Demonstration

On Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September children were able to enjoy a music concert given by staff from Music Works. The aim of this was to allow children to experience music in school and find out more about how they can get lessons themselves if they would like to learn either guitar or keyboard. A flyer was sent out that day to children in Year 2 to Year 6 which gave the contact details and costs involved. If you didn't receive the information, please contact the school office.



### Many Thanks to our Local Youth Worker

We would like to wish Mark Brown, our local youth worker, the best of luck with his forthcoming relocation. He is moving out of the locality and will be a miss in our school. Mark provides assemblies in school, has been very keen to DJ at our school discos and also offers curriculum support with our RE lessons through church visits. We wish Mark and his family all the very best.



### Mixed Age Evening – Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October

Just a reminder for parents/carers of children in Year 3/4 and Year 4/5 that on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October at 4pm we are holding an open evening about how we teach mixed age classes. If you are attending this and are unable to sort out child care, please note that staff will be on hand to provide a free film club.



### Class 4/5 Assembly – Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October

Just a reminder to parents/carers of children in Mr Seaton's Year 4/5 class, you are invited along to their class assembly on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October at 9.00am. We look forward to seeing you then.

**SCHOOL IS CLOSED FOR HALF TERM ON FRIDAY 21<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER AND PUPILS RETURN ON MONDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER**

Yours sincerely, Mrs L A Snowdon, Headteacher