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Dear Parents and Carers,

A huge welcome back to the start of this new academic year! I hope you have all had a fabulous summer. We look forward to enjoying the outdoors as much as we possibly can this term and once again we are very grateful to The Burgage Holders of Alnmouth who have generously financially supported our beach schools over the last few years. I'm delighted to inform you that they are continuing their support, and, having experienced a beach school at first hand, I know how much well-being as well as learning takes place on these days. We are lucky to have such a fantastic resource on our doorstep and to have such support to enable them to take place on a regular basis.

#### Safeguarding online:

I want to stress once again, particularly for our new parents, our commitment to keeping our children safe when online. This is equally true at home as well as in the school environment. We are members of National Online Safety (NOS), the world's most comprehensive provider of online safety resources.

Our membership with NOS provides a wealth of accredited course and resources for staff and parents delivered through a whole school community approach.

To access and log into your parent account please follow the link: [NOS Parents' Enrol](#). There is also an app where you can download free guides and watch short videos to keep you up to date with the latest games, apps and technology to keep your children safe online.

#### Website:

We regularly send out to parents the Wake-Up Wednesday which is designed to be information on one single page. The website is regularly updated too with safeguarding information and please share any concerns or thoughts you may have around this subject. The website is

a huge and very useful resource - it is updated regularly and each class has its own area where you can access photographs, news and general information as well as useful links. Please take some time to explore the site and if you have any questions, get in touch.

#### Assemblies:

This term we will be having our Harvest Assemblies in school and we are looking forward to our class assemblies that we re-introduced last year. We will be sending you more information about dates and times so you are able to join us. Our very special Leavers Assembly in July for Year 6 was both memorable and we are thinking of our children who have moved on to Year 7.

#### School Council:

We will be voting soon on a new School Council for this year, so your child may be coming home and practising their speeches! The School Council is an important part of our school as well as instilling in the children the British Values that we weave into everyday life.

**Have a great half term!**

**Kevin Moloney, Headteacher**

## Some Upcoming Events

- ◆ Clubs this half term:  
Mondays, Trident Soccer, All Mondays, Hockey, Etal Breakfast Club, Every Day, All Tues/Weds Homework, All Tuesdays, Coding, Years Ford Tuesdays, Dance, Years 1-2 Weds, Guitar, Years 3-6 Thursdays, NUF Games, Ford Fridays, Lego, All
- ◆ Swimming Etal Wednesdays
- ◆ Bamburgh Outdoor Learning Day  
Friday 15th September
- ◆ Dunstanburgh Beach Day  
Monday 2nd October
- ◆ Bamburgh Beach Day  
Friday 13th October
- ◆ Parent Meetings  
Monday 16th & Wednesday 18th October, 3-7pm
- ◆ Ford Beach Day  
Friday 20th October
- ◆ Harvest Festival  
Monday 23rd & Wednesday 25th October - 9.15-9.45am
- ◆ Break up for half term  
Friday 27th October at 3.15pm
- ◆ Back to school  
Monday 6th November

Please keep checking the calendar on the school website for more events



## Good to know...

Our first newsletter of the new academic year is always a good time to remind everyone, new and old, of some of the general day to day things which (hopefully) make the school run smoothly and to give you important information, so here goes...

### ParentPay

ParentPay is our online payment system. Please activate your account if you have not done so already - remember you need to add each child if you have siblings in school. Payment items, such as lunches, clubs, swimming and lots more will appear in your account. We appreciate you keeping on top of payments as they become active. If your child is new to our school this September, you will be sent an activation code during the first week to enable you to set up your account.

A reminder that all pupils in reception through to year 2 receive universal free school meals. It can look a bit confusing on ParentPay as the meals are logged for our own recording purposes, but there is nothing to pay. Only children in preschool and years 3 and above pay for their lunches, unless you qualify in your own right for free school meals.

If you have any problems or you've misplaced your log-in details, please contact the school office and we'll do our best to help! Thank you.

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Our new catering provision is proving a hit with the pupils and we are very impressed with the quality of the food on offer and the massive reduction in waste at lunchtime. After some trial and error with the system and listening to pupils, our menu is well balanced with something which we hope appeals to everyone. The administration of the system has been a big learning curve but we now feel we are getting to grips with it better. We appreciate your help with advance ordering, which we will only aim to ask you to do once per half term.

There has been a small price increase in the cost of a school dinner - £2.60 from September 2023.



The weather should still be good for cycling and scooting to school this half term! Please dismount once you enter the school grounds and don't leave bikes and scooters on the school premises overnight - the grounds are not secure. Thank you.

#### Pupil Information Forms

Look out for the pink 23/24 forms going home during the first week of term. Please complete these and return to school as soon as possible so we can keep our records up to date.

We are a collection point for the Alnwick District Food Bank and you can drop off donations at any time. Simply pop items into the box in the front entrance porch at school. Thank you so much.

Please don't use the staff car park for dropping off and picking up or park in front of the school gates - there is plenty of parking in the football club car park just past the school. Thank you.

If your child needs any short-term medication, such as pain relief or antibiotics, please bring this to the office and fill out a form with all the details.

School opens at 8.45am for pupils (unless they are attending breakfast club at 8.15am). Registration is at 8.55am. If your child is going to be absent or late, please inform the school office by 9am - there is an option to leave a message when you ring or you can drop us an email at:  
[admin@hipsburn.northumberland.sch.uk](mailto:admin@hipsburn.northumberland.sch.uk)



A reminder that we have a small number of pupils in school with severe nut allergies. Exposure to nuts and nut products can cause a rapid and serious reaction for these individuals. We ask for your co-operation in not sending any nut product in to school, either as a snack or in packed lunches. Thank you.

**Our leavers...**

Year 6 had a wonderful time at The Plough in Alnwick, with other local schools, to celebrate coming to the end of primary school. They had a lovely meal and then danced the night away at the disco!



**London is the best...**

A great time was had by our year 6 pupils on yet another fantastic residential trip to the capital! We had wonderful weather and enjoyed so many sights and experiences.

Here they all are looking chilled on the London Eye.



And here are the year 6s sporting their fetching leavers' hoodies - they were determined to wear them even in the heat!



We are delighted to announce that Hipsburn Primary School has achieved the School Games Silver Mark Award for the 2022/23 academic year.

The School Games Mark is a government-led award scheme which rewards schools for their commitment to the development of competition across the school and into the community.

We are so pleased that the hard work of everyone at our school has been rewarded this year. We look forward to what may come in 2024 - we're definitely aiming for gold!



We wish them all the best as they take the next step on their academic journey in secondary education.

We'll miss you!

Celebration round-up...



Every Friday in school we have our celebration assembly, where we give out certificates and the headteacher's award and where we celebrate good attendance. We also use this time for children to tell us what they have been achieving outside of school. If you have anything which you think your child would like to share on a Friday assembly, please speak to their class teacher.

In the Spring term, Year 5 and 6 took part in a virtual STEM day with the RAF where they completed the glider challenge: to design, build and test three gliders, each being unique in their form, shape and constructed with different material. The children then worked on a national competition entry to design a sustainable aircraft for the future and we are very proud to announce that Jack and Charlie (year 6) were the regional winners for North East 2023 in the Road to RIAT Sustainability of Aerospace competition!

The boys worked extremely hard on their design and they attended the Royal International Air Tattoo (RIAT) at RAF Fairford where they joined all the other winners to take part in a special Road to RIAT STEM competition and be awarded with their certificate. Here they are standing next to Tim Peake!



Last term Molly O told us all about going to 10 Downing Street and meeting Larry the cat! Mum was being recognised for her charitable work towards Ukrainian citizens as part of the Sunflower Sisters organisation.



Archie C can be seen collecting his award from The Bailiffgate Museum - he and AJ won prizes in the Design a Book Cover Competition.



Superstar Finley W just goes from strength to strength in his Triathlon! Finley won the latest event of the regional junior triathlon series in Ponteland recently. He is ranked number one for age/ gender in the region! Finley also raced Junior Challenge Roth in Bavaria, Germany on Saturday. 200m swim - 5km cycle - 1km run. Finley is still 9. He was racing boys up to age 11, potentially over 18 months older. The field was large (over 30 in his age/ gender category) and included athletes from 6 or 7 different Nationalities. Remarkably Finley finished in second place, truly unexpected. He loved the event in a fabulous place experiencing another country's sporting culture. An incredible performance from Finley and hugely exciting and inspiring too.

### Alnwick Class to the castle...

A very apt final trip for **Alnwick Castle Class** to Alnwick Castle last term and what a wonderful adventure we had! The day began with a fun bus journey and we arrived at the castle for a morning of storytelling all about the infamous Harry Hotspur. We learnt about the most famous character to stay at the castle and had an interactive story that needed our help. We then followed it up with a craft workshop and got to make our very own very own clay shield and homemade soap - the fragrant smells were quite something!

We also enjoyed the historic environment of Artisan's Courtyard, where we tried out a range of medieval costumes, found out about medieval medicine and the armoury and some of us brave enough met the castle's resident dragon in Dragon Quest!

After our yummy lunches we got the treat of watching a falconry display and then had a tour around the State Rooms, Gun Terrace and the castle grounds.

There was so much to see, find out about and what a fun way to celebrate nearly a full year in Alnwick Castle Class. We were complimented so many times about our good manners - well done Alnwick Castle Class!



### Dunstanburgh to the beach...

Dunstanburgh had a brilliant final beach school in Year 5. Our focus this time was the animals that live in and around our beach. We created poems about the adaptations that creatures have to live in rockpools and carefully and respectfully looked at some of these creatures in their natural habitat. We then searched for life in the dunes, finding burnet moths and cinnabar caterpillars that thrive in such specialist conditions. It was a beautiful sunny day!

*More beach and outdoor learning days in our next newsletter...*

