



A Small School with a BIG Heart

Ellingham C of E
Primary School

Headteacher's Monthly Update

Staffing

We are delighted that we have Josie Scott back with us in her role as School Cook. Huge thanks to Brenda Frier, Jo Lester and Eileen Duncan for their valued support in keeping the school kitchen running.

Miss Emma Pringle has now started her maternity leave - we wish her a successful, happy pregnancy.

Our new teachers have all settled well and undertaken successful monitoring visits. They are all available to meet with you for parental consultations, so please make an appointment if you have not done so yet.

Sports:

From **Monday 30th October**, we will be able to run an after-school Badminton Club from 3-4pm.

Initially, this will be for pupils in years **2, 3 and 4**. Depending on uptake, we will either then run for a half-termly block for this age group, or extend it to include older pupils. Apologies for the short notice, but if you would like your child/children to attend, **please e-mail Kathy before Monday to confirm**.

Our Year 5 and 6 football team have got off to a very good start in the league. Despite an initial loss to Swansfield Park, they won their last two games convincingly. They have shown great resilience, enthusiasm and team spirit, even in defeat. Thank you to our supporters for attending, cheering the team on, providing some dazzling new football boots and helping with transport and pick-ups. Our last game, before a break until March, is next week (against St. Paul's) during school time, due to the darkening nights.

Digital Leaders:

Six of our 'Time Zone' pupils were chosen to represent our school at the 'Digital Leaders' launch day in Alnwick. The pupils will share their passion for technology and/or effective communication skills with others in order to promote the use of all things digital throughout the school. Being a 'Digital Leader' is a fantastic opportunity to take on responsibility and demonstrate leadership skills. I will carry-out some further training with this group so they are confident to share their skills with pupils and staff. They have enthusiastic plans to lead lunchtime clubs, provide staff support and produce information for our website. These leaders can then train fellow future leaders!

The Archbishop of York's Trust - Young Leaders Programme

I have just registered all of our Key Stage 2 pupils to take part in 'The Young Leaders Award Programme'. This is a unique active citizenship programme that empowers young people to make a difference in their local communities by developing their leadership skills and encouraging them to "be the change they want to see". The Awards have strong links to SMSC, British Values, PSHE, Character Education and Citizenship and are of cross curricular relevance too, including RE. This project is a perfect fit for our school ethos.

"It is clear there is hunger among educationalists, teachers and most importantly children for a new vision for education. I believe that nurturing the heart, soul and mind of our young people, helping them to join in our common purpose to 'love your neighbour as yourself', will enable us to inspire and commission dynamic ambassadors who can make a positive contribution and, as Mahatma Gandhi described it, 'be the change they want to see' in our world." The Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu.

The Award will be launched shortly and further information will be sent to Key Stage 2 pupils and their families.

Staff Training:

Currently, two of our Teaching Assistants are taking part in 'Metacognition' training, exploring how to support our pupils in becoming reflective, independent learners.

This half-term, all teachers will be attending 'Inference Training' (developing pupils' higher order reading/understanding skills) and Purple Mash computing training. Miss Baines and I will be attending Year 5 and 6 maths training in December. Mrs Stapleton will undertake training to become the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead and I will attend update training for my role as Designated Safeguarding Lead in school.

Harvest:

Thank you for your amazing turn-out and support for our Harvest Festival, especially on such a miserable evening. Our pupils from 3 to 11 all shared the important messages of stewardship, sharing and joy in creation, through readings, songs and poetry. All donations have been given to our local foodbank by Brenda Frier and are much appreciated.

Many thanks,

Diane Lakey October 2017