

Autumn Term 2018 Newsletter 1



Welcome back to the new school year and especially to our new starters.

From this year our Creative Curriculum is split into year groups and will be as follows

Splash (EYFS) Kingdoms and Communities

Space Base (Y1/2) On our Doorstep
Earth Works (Y3/4) Victorious Vikings
Timezone (Y5/6) Primitive People

We are delighted with the enthusiastic start that all of our new pupils have made to this exciting, new school year. We want you to feel part of our school community, so please let us know how we can be of help.

Thank you for your support in sending your children smartly dressed in their uniforms and well prepared to learn.

A warm welcome to our new parents throughout the school. Please ask us if anything is unclear. Queries can be dealt with quickly by Kathy in the office or an appointment can be made if you would like to see a teacher. We have an open door policy and are always happy to help.

All new parents will have been sent an invitation by text to sign up to PMX Parentmail. We urge you to do this as soon as possible. All newsletters and important texts are sent out via this method. We do not have access to your information so you must remember to keep it up to date. Our Facebook page is used for reminders and links to our web site. If you have not already signed up for the closed group, please do so as soon as possible, Ellingham School PTA - FACES.

Please remember we start school at 8.55am, the door will lock and registers will close at 9.00am and the first lesson will start then. Please don't bring children before 8.30am.

We don't allow mobile phones in school. If your child needs to bring in their phone to receive an important message they must leave it in the school office. We are always happy to pass on messages and this would be a better option. Please don't allow the children to bring in Fitbits or other expensive items we cannot be held responsible for their safe keeping.

All money needs to be sent in to school on a Monday morning in a clearly marked envelope detailing what you are paying – please do not send in loose cash with a child who has just been told 'give it to Kathy', or cheques that have no indication of what they are paying! All cheques, unless advised otherwise, need to be payable to Northumberland County Council.

You are able to pay in school or over the phone with your credit or debit card. This facility is only available on a Tuesday.

R - Y2 continue to have free school meals as part of the government initiative.

Lunch costs this term are £2.30 per day for Y3/4 and Early Years and, £2.60 per day for Y5 and 6 (this includes a piece of fruit at breaktime)

For Y3, Y4 and Early Years, the cost is £11.50 per week. £87.40 for the first half of the term, £78.20 for the second half and £165.60 for the whole term.

For Y5 and Y6, the cost is £13.00 per week. £98.80 for the first half of the term, £88.40 for the second half and £187.20 for the whole term.

Please pay milk money (YR - Y4), £13.00 per child, on Monday if you have not already done so. Milk remains free for all the children who are under 5 and is available to all children who have school lunch, as an alternative to water.



Please have a PE kit in school. Always bring a coat. Don't forget your kit if you are swimming on Thursdays. Please stay away from school for 48 hours if you have been sick or have diarrhoea.



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Y1-4 are swimming this term. There will be a total of 14 swimming lessons this term at a cost of £4.00 per session. We are now subsidising swimming ourselves. We are very grateful to those parents who pay on a regular basis and would ask those parents that are struggling, to at least make a donation. No earrings are permitted for PE or swimming. Please make sure your child can take their earrings out themselves. If they have only just been pierced please speak to Kathy if you have not already done so.



It is extremely helpful if <u>EVERY</u> piece of clothing is named (<u>including pants</u>, <u>socks and shoes</u>) and that the younger girls are not wearing tights. It is very difficult to help the children get dressed quickly after the lesson if they can't remember what they were wearing and nothing is named!

The Fairtrade healthy tuck shop is open on Thursday lunchtimes, so that snacks and drinks can be purchased to eat after swimming. Geobars cost 50p and fruit juice 50p

We continue to be able to donate the proceeds to our linked school Kazinga in Uganda. The Y5 and 6's will be responsible for running it.

For those children bringing a packed lunch from home please remember we have Healthy School status. Please try and make the lunch as healthy as possible. No fried snacks, fizzy drinks or sweets will be allowed. Please get in touch if you are not sure what you can send.

WE ARE A NUT FREE SCHOOL and also have a child in Key Stage 1 with a severe egg allergy. If you are considering sending in a birthday cake, please speak to Kathy first.

Our After School club and our Sports clubs have got off to a good start. We now offer after school care until $5.00 \, \text{pm}$ ($5.30 \, \text{if}$ necessary) at £5.00 an hour. Please speak to Kathy for a booking form.



If you have signed your child up for any of the after school Sports clubs please remember there is a charge of £2.50 per session.

10 sessions of Badminton, (£25.00)

12 sessions of Miss Baines' sports club (£30.00)

13 sessions of cricket (£32.50)

13 sessions of Gymnastics. (£32.50) Each session can be paid individually or up front. Any sessions not paid for will be invoiced towards the end of the term.

Your child's access to all of our online resources, eg. Active Learn and School 360, is all done now by one username and password. This is usually username: first name . surname, passwords start with a capital letter and

end in 1. Your child will be given a reminder card in the next couple of weeks.

F.Y.I.

We will be holding our Harvest Festival Service at Ellingham Church at 6.00pm on Friday 12th October. We hope to welcome as many of you as possible.

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