

Welcome to our Autumn 2 school newsletter. In these pages you will find lots of information about just some of the learning and activities that the children have enjoyed this half term. Also in the newsletter are important reminders and updates so please take some time to look through the newsletter over the Christmas Holidays. Everyone at Wooler First School would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Year 1 and Year 2 PE

Cedar and Cherry class have been enjoying and developing their PE skills this half term with Kate. We have been learning different ball skills and practising our throwing and catching.



Cedar Trip to The Hirsell

Cedar Class had a fantastic day out at The Hirsell. We learnt about different crops that are grown on a farm and the foods they produce. We went through a corn maze and we all loved making apple scones too!



Swimming

Please can you make sure that all children wear a swimming hat for swimming. Unwanted hair clogs up the filtration system of the pool!

If you do not have a swimming hat you can purchase them from the office for £1.50.

Assemblies

Fri 7 Feb at 3:00pm —Cedar Yr2
 Fri 27 March at 3:00pm —Maple Yr4
 Fri 15 May at 3:00pm —Cherry Yr1
 Mon 15 June at 9:30am, followed by Summer Stay & Play— Oak Reception

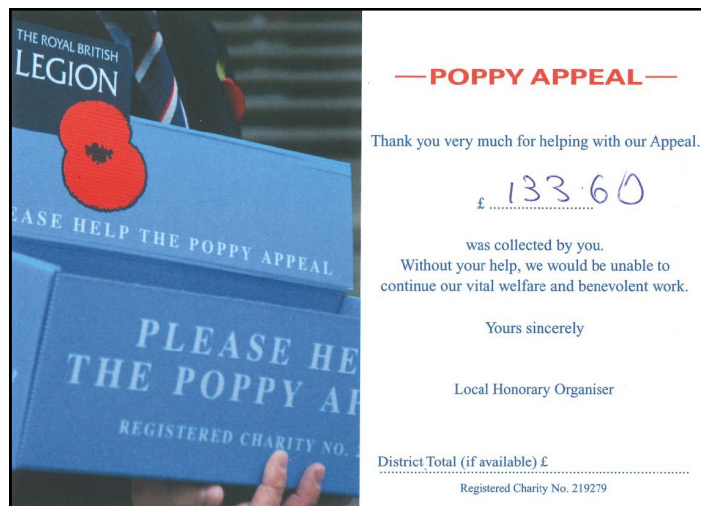
PTA Quiz Night

The PTA Quiz Night was a great evening enjoyed by all who came along. It raised a fantastic £379.00. Thank you to those who supported this event.



Willow Class Assembly

Willow Class were very excited to show everyone what they had been learning so far this year. There was lots to share—everyone particularly enjoyed seeing their model woolly mammoths. Well done Willow Class!



Little Acorns

Nursery have been making Christmas Cakes to raise money for the PTA this half term.



NHS Child Health APP

A handy NHS app for mobile phones allows parents and carers to access advice and information to help look after their children's health. The free app is designed for parents and carers of children aged 0-5 years and is available for download on mobile phones on **Google Play or Apple's App Store under 'NHS child health'**. This useful app offers easy to understand guidance on childhood illnesses, recognising when your child is unwell, and advice on when and where to seek further treatment.

Dressing the Christmas Tree

The Christmas season in school was signalled with the arrival of the school Christmas Tree, kindly donated by College Valley Estates. Mr Pearse and Mr Lowery wove their magic putting the tree up in the school hall and a group of Glendale Year 8 students came and helped the children to decorate it. The tree looks magnificent – thank you to our Glendale Year 8s for their help with our younger children.



Water in school

As I am sure you already know keeping hydrated is a very important part of keeping healthy and being ready and able to learn. In school we expect all children to have a water bottle to enable them to keep hydrated throughout the school day. We have found that many children are not bringing a suitable water bottle to school which means keeping them hydrated is at times challenging.

With nearly 250 children across the schools jugs and cups are not a practical or hygienic option. We have considered how we can best address this to ensure children can access water through the day, that we do not have spills in lessons that could ruin children's hard work (this can be a sticky problem with squash and juice) and of course to ensure good levels of hygiene.

At the start of the new term in January every child will receive a water bottle (red tops for Wooler First & blue tops for Glendale). Funds for these bottles have kindly been donated by the PTA and Friends groups. The bottles are made from recycled & recyclable plastic and have a space printed for children's names. Children are expected to have these bottle in school each day taking them home each evening to be cleaned and back into school each morning full of fresh water for the day ahead. Children are able to re-fill their bottles from the two water coolers in our cloakrooms.

Drinks at lunchtime will also be changing with cups and water on every table at lunchtime for both school meals and packed lunches. Children will not be permitted to bring other drinks into school such as squash or use other bottles for their water.

Thank you for supporting us with this important aspect of the children's healthy lives at school.



Year 4 Skipping Festival

Maple class have been practising their skipping skills this half term mastering techniques such as side skip, crossover and the pretzel, as well as inventing their own technique called the Flamingo! They went to Berwick Swan Centre to perform their new skills and their skip dance. Everyone enjoyed the trip very much and even won multiple medals for their individual skipping skills.



Creative Writing Workshop

At the start of term, Maple class went to a creative writing workshop and came up with hundreds of weird and wonderful ideas, including crazy characters, Meatball Man and Mr Stinger! As a class we created these complex characters and the world that they lived in that included burning trees and evil cats!



Everyone Loves a Baby!

Our nativity this year was fantastic! All of the children worked really hard and did two **brilliant** performances.



Save the Children
CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

It was Christmas jumper day on Friday 13th December. Children and staff across both schools raised £174 for Save the Children by wearing their fantastic Christmas jumpers. Thank you to everyone who supported this charity fundraising event.



Christmas Pantomime

A visiting pantomime came to school on Friday and we watched a fantastic performance of Aladdin. It was great fun. The children got to take part, sing songs and tell jokes. 'I liked the monkey, he was really funny!' - Charlie M



Christmas Fair

Thank you to all who came to support our PTA's efforts by donating prizes, having a stand, helping to set the Christmas Fair up and/or coming along in the evening. It was a very successful evening which raised £1927.51. The funds will help towards paying for school trips and non-curriculum materials and activities.



Civic Carols Service

Our year 4 children performed 'Mary did you know?' and the penny whistle group joined with the Middle School Ceilidh band to play Little Donkey and Jingle Bells in the Civic Carol Service at St Mary's church on Tuesday 10th December, all to rapturous applause from the packed church.

All of the children who took part did themselves and our schools proud. The readings and seasonal musical items were excellent drawing many positive comments from members of the congregation. Maisie and Dakota kicked off proceedings with a beautiful rendition of the first verse of Once in Royal David's city, inches away from the Duchess of Northumberland. The Scouts played the handbells brilliantly too. Well done to all of the children who were there. Performing in front of such a large audience is very daunting and they were all brilliant.

Special thanks go to staff members Mrs Humphreys, Mr Pearse and Mrs Simpson for attending, Susie Cochrane (musical maestro) and to families for supporting the children's participation in this important annual community event .

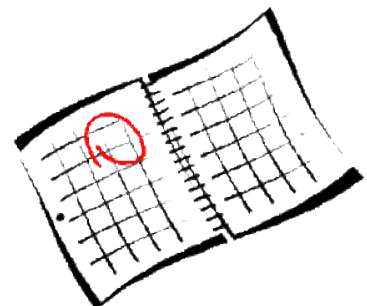


Important Dates for your Diary

Teacher Training Day	Monday 6 January	All day
Back to School	Tuesday 7 January	8:55am
Yr 3 & 4 Romans and Anglo Saxons	Tuesday 21 January	Lesson 3 and 4
Yr 2 Florence History	Thursday 23 January	AM
Yr 4 Operation Encompass	Wednesday 29 January	11:00 – 12:00 and after school drop-in
Yr 2 Assembly	Friday 7 February	15:00
Break-up for half term	Friday 14 February	At 15:35
Back to School	Monday 24 February	At 8:50
Sage Gateshead Year 4 and Year 7	Tuesday 25 February	11:30 – 15:50
Yr 3 Farm to fork	Monday 2 March	All day
Operation Encompass Yr group TBC	Thursday 26 March	AM drop-in session
Yr 4 Assembly	Friday 27 March	15:00
Break-up for Easter	Friday 3 April	At 15:35
Back to School	Monday 20 April	At 08:50
Robinwood Residential	From Monday 20 April	To Wednesday 22 April
May Day	Friday 8 May	All day
Yr 1 Assembly	Friday 15 May	15:00
Break-up for half-term	Friday 22 May	At 15:35
Back to School	Monday 1 June	At 8:50
Countryside Day Yr Group TBA	Thursday 4 June	All day
Oak and Little Acorn Assembly – Stay & Play	Monday 15 June	9:30
Break-up for Summer	Friday 17 July	At 15:35

For over 20 years the **Scottish Friendly Children's Book Tour** has been bringing the very best authors in the UK and beyond directly into classrooms to meet children. We think this is the best way to get children really excited about books and reading. We are very excited to be bringing the author **Alan Windram** to Wooler First School in the afternoon of **Thursday 23rd January.**

Please keep this afternoon free if you can as parents and carers are invited. More details to follow in the new year.





Academic Calendar 2019 - 2020



School Holiday
 Bank Holiday
 Pupil Day
 Training Day

September 2019							October 2019							November 2019							December 2019						
Mon		2	9	16	23	30	Mon		7	14	21	28		Mon		4	11	18	25		Mon		2	9	16	23	30
Tue		3	10	17	24		Tue	1	8	15	22	29		Tue		5	12	19	26		Tue		3	10	17	24	31
Wed		4	11	18	25		Wed	2	9	16	23	30		Wed		6	13	20	27		Wed		4	11	18	25	
Thu		5	12	19	26		Thu	3	10	17	24	31		Thu		7	14	21	28		Thu		5	12	19	26	
Fri		6	13	20	27		Fri	4	11	18	25			Fri	1	8	15	22	29		Fri		6	13	20	27	
Sat		7	14	21	28		Sat	5	12	19	26			Sat	2	9	16	23	30		Sat		7	14	21	28	
Sun	1	8	15	22	29		Sun	6	13	20	27			Sun	3	10	17	24			Sun	1	8	15	22	29	

January 2020							February 2020							March 2020							April 2020						
Mon		6	13	20	27		Mon		3	10	17	24		Mon		2	9	16	23	30	Mon		6	13	20	27	
Tue		7	14	21	28		Tue		4	11	18	25		Tue		3	10	17	24	31	Tue		7	14	21	28	
Wed	1	8	15	22	29		Wed		5	12	19	26		Wed		4	11	18	25		Wed	1	8	15	22	29	
Thu	2	9	16	23	30		Thu		6	13	20	27		Thu		5	12	19	26		Thu	2	9	16	23	30	
Fri	3	10	17	24	31		Fri		7	14	21	28		Fri		6	13	20	27		Fri	3	10	17	24		
Sat	4	11	18	25			Sat	1	8	15	22	29		Sat		7	14	21	28		Sat	4	11	18	25		
Sun	5	12	19	26			Sun	2	9	16	23			Sun	1	8	15	22	29		Sun	5	12	19	26		

May 2020							June 2020							July 2020							August 2020						
Mon		4	11	18	25		Mon	1	8	15	22	29		Mon		6	13	20	27		Mon		3	10	17	24	31
Tue		5	12	19	26		Tue	2	9	16	23	30		Tue		7	14	21	28		Tue		4	11	18	25	
Wed		6	13	20	27		Wed	3	10	17	24		Wed	1	8	15	22	29		Wed		5	12	19	26		
Thu		7	14	21	28		Thu	4	11	18	25		Thu	2	9	16	23	30		Thu		6	13	20	27		
Fri	1	8	15	22	29		Fri	5	12	19	26		Fri	3	10	17	24	31		Fri		7	14	21	28		
Sat	2	9	16	23	30		Sat	6	13	20	27		Sat	4	11	18	25		Sat	1	8	15	22	29			
Sun	3	10	17	24	31		Sun	7	14	21	28		Sun	5	12	19	26		Sun	2	9	16	23	30			

We would like to thank everyone for their help and support throughout 2019.

All the staff and governors here at school would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year 2020



Appointments with teachers

Teachers are available at the start and end of the day for a quick chat. They need to be with their classes promptly at 8.55am each morning to welcome them in to school and to take the morning registers. Should you wish to see a teacher or Mr Deane-Hall for a longer discussion, a prior appointment must be made with the school office. Your first point of contact should also always be the class teacher of your child. Many thanks.

School will re-open on Tuesday 7 January 2020. Children must be on the front yard ready to line up promptly at 8.55am. Being even 5 minutes late really impacts on your child's start to the day.

