



September (2) 2011 Newsletter

Wow - we have been busy!

We have had an action-packed start to the new school year. Last week we celebrated multi-cultural arts with the children taking part in Bollywood and traditional Indian dancing and story telling, Chinese dragon dancing and drumming, African drumming and welly dancing. All of the children enjoyed the wide range of multi-cultural experiences across the week which culminated in a whole school assembly with African singing and dancing.

This week some of our children were lucky enough to see The Pearl Of Africa choir from Uganda. The choir were visiting us and Richard Coates Middle School as part of an English tour. Their performance in our assembly was sensational. The young people aged between 11 and 18 sang in perfect harmony and danced with such enthusiasm that we all felt uplifted. We wish them well as they continue their tour.

The children in 3FT joined the elderly residents of Ponteland Manor last Thursday afternoon to celebrate their 14th birthday. The residents were treated to some music and singing and the children enjoyed being part of the celebrations. Many of the residents enjoy watching the children play on the field during the summer months and they particularly enjoy talking to the children when they visit.

All of the children in Key Stage 1 enjoyed a visit to Alnwick Castle yesterday as part of their topic work.

Congratulations to Mr Vincent

Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Vincent on the safe arrival of their second son Lloyd Vincent.

Ponteland First School Website

We have changed the host of our school website and as a result the web address has changed. Our website can now be found at www.pontelandfirst.northumberland.co.uk

Packed Lunches

Whilst we do not wish to dictate the content of a packed lunch we ask that parents support our endeavours to be a healthy school with what they provide for their children to eat. Ideas for packed lunches and nutritional advice can be found at www.food.gov.uk

PE Kit

Please ensure that your child has a PE kit in school each day.

Gardening Club

Produce from the raised beds has been used in our school kitchen this term. Today there was home grown beetroot and the kitchen has also been supplied with green beans, potatoes, cabbages, celery and carrots. Thank you to everyone in the gardening club who has helped to nurture our crops.

Traffic

Thank you to Mr Phipps who has done a brilliant job reminding parents of our endeavours to keep Thornhill Road car free in the mornings and after school. The vast majority of parents and grand parents have agreed to work with us and to park in one of the village car parks. On the days that Mr Phipps is out there you have shown that it can be done. Please continue to work with us and keep the road clear of parked cars. Whilst it is not illegal to park there we all agree that it is not in the best interests of the children to walk down the road with cars parked on either side and cars mounting the pavement.

Maths Workshop For Parents

Thank you to all of the parents who attended the maths evening with David Lewis this week. The feedback received has been overwhelmingly positive and parents appreciated the opportunity to see how concepts are taught to the children.

Keeping Up With the Kids

Thank you to the parents who attended the introductory session to the literacy-based "Keeping Up With the Kids" course this week. For those of you who could not attend the introduction but would like to attend the course please let our office staff know. The course commences on Wednesday 28 September from 1pm - 3pm and will run for 8 weeks excluding half term finishing on 23 November. The course will be run by Carron Whittaker from Family Learning in our community room.

Richard Coates Middle School

Any year 4 parents who were unable to attend the open evening this week please ring RCMS for an appointment to be shown around. The Head Teacher, Mr Rusby, will be attending the Y4 assembly on Friday and will be available to talk to parents over coffee afterwards.

Robinwood

We will be having a short meeting for Y4 parents to discuss the proposed residential visit to Robinwood for our current year 4 children. The meeting is on Wednesday 28 September at 2.45pm in school. Any parents who are unable to attend will receive written information and can ask class teachers if they have any further questions.

Dates for your diary in Autumn Term 2011

Tuesday 27 September	Y3 visit Killhope Mine 7.30pm PTA AGM in school - all welcome
Wednesday 28 September	2.45pm Robinwood meeting for Y4 parents
Friday 30 September	Year 4 assembly 9.15am
Friday 7 October	Year 3 assembly 9.15am
Monday 10 October	PTA New Rendezvous Evening
Friday 14 October	Year 2 assembly 9.15am KS1 have Medieval Knights visiting and doing some jousting on the field. Parents' Evening
Tuesday 18 October	Harvest Festival 9.15am - parents of Reception children and of all children new to the school are invited to attend
Wednesday 19 October	Parents' Evening
Wednesday 19 October	Training Day - school closed to children
Friday 21 October	Half term
Monday 31 October	Back to school
Friday 4 November	Year 1 assembly 9.15am
W/C 14 November	Anti-bullying week : This year the theme is "Stop and think - words hurt"
Friday 18 November	Blue Friday - wear blue (non-uniform) to say "No" to bullying
W/C 28 November	Last week for clubs
W/C 5 December	Christmas performances
W/C 12 December	Christmas parties
Friday 16 December	Christmas service at St Mary's Church (11am) End of term

The above dates are those envisaged by the school and may be subject to change

L Blain
Head Teacher
23 September 2011