



**Wylam First School**  
Rocketing to success

**Newsletter 2**  
**09.10.23**

Dear Parents/Carers

As we pass the halfway point of this busy half term it is always a pleasure to see the progress that the children are making and how happy they are in school. We have the highest of expectations for all of our children and have been so impressed with the way they are rising to the challenge. The second part of the half term is equally as busy with walk to school month, parents evenings and our Harvest Festival.

So far we have seen the children taking part in Open the Book assemblies, the Y3 girls enjoyed a wonderful afternoon at a football festival and Miss Dodds was pleased to see so many people at her English workshop last month.

This year one of our focus areas is to support the development of cultural capital by exposing our children to a wide range of role models and possible future careers. Thank you to Hala Alsafadi, who delivered our first assembly a few weeks ago and spoke to the children about her role as a journalist. The children thoroughly enjoyed the assembly and it inspired a lot of questions and conversations between. The next one is Adnan Shroufi, a Senior Data Scientist.

Thank you to all parents who attended our new to year group meetings. I hope that it gave you all of the information you needed. As always, however, if there is anything that you are unsure of please talk to the class teacher at the beginning or end of the day or book an appointment if necessary.

As I am sure you are aware, COVID is again on the rise in the community and in our school. We have had a number of staff absences recently and are fully expecting more to come as we head into the winter months. This can cause challenges in a small school with a small staff so please bear with us if we have to make slight changes to staffing or call upon supply staff to help us through.

## Information

### **Wheels Week**

As part of Walk to School Month this October, this week (9-13th) is 'wheel to school' week. The children are invited to come to school on their bikes, scooters or maybe even roller skates. Please park your wheels on the yard and at some point during the day the children will have the opportunity to wheel around the yard with their friends. With this in mind please be extra vigilant when driving and parking around the school site.

### **Parents Evenings**

We will be holding our Autumn Term parents evenings on Wednesday 18th and Thursday 19th October. You will be able to sign up this week using MCAS. All of the teachers are looking forward to meeting with you to discuss how your child has settled into school and what their next steps are to be successful this academic year. You will also have an opportunity to have a look at their books so far.

### **Driving and parking near to the school site**

Please be mindful of children crossing the roads to get onto the school site, particularly near the main entrance to the school on Bell Road. We have had a number of complaints about cars accessing the school site while children are entering. Thank you for your support with this.

### **School Website**

We now have a new school website <https://wfs.cheviotit.co.uk/>. We are in the process of transferring all key information over and this is now the website you need to refer to for all updated information. Our old website is still active currently and will still be the website that appears when googled (this will change gradually when more traffic is diverted to our new site), but will eventually be removed.

### **Macmillan Bake Sale**

Thank you to all who donated and all who purchased cakes at our Macmillan Bake sale. We raised £153 for Macmillan - well done!

### **Harvest Festival**

We are really looking forward to our Harvest Festival on Tuesday 17th October. Like in previous years our Y4 pupils are currently working towards this and will run the event. Parents will be invited to attend from 1:30pm where, for a small donation, you will be able to purchase some of our harvest soup, have a cup of tea and purchase produce from our allotment. All of the donations go towards the sustainability of our allotment. From 2pm the Y4 children will lead our Harvest Festival and each class from Nursery to Y4 will lead the Harvest songs. The Harvest Festival will take place in the school yard. We look forward to seeing you all there. If you are able, we would really appreciate some food bank donations. There will be a table set out on the day as a drop off point. This will be donated to the Miner's Lamp Food Bank in Prudhoe. Thank you in advance.

### **Break the Rules Day**

On Thursday 26th October we invite you to BREAK THE RULES! Forget about uniforms...come as you please! The wackier the better!! You could come in your favourite football kit, princess or superhero costume or even, as it is so close to Halloween - your scariest Halloween costume. Children can break the rules in return for a £1 donation to the PTA. PS Don't tell Mrs Gibbon!

### **Numbots and Times Tables Rock Stars**

We have had a few issues with access to Numbots and Times Tables Rock Stars. This should now be resolved. Please let us know if your child is still having difficulty logging on.

## **Reminders**

### **Maths Workshop**

On **Thursday 9th November** at 9am, Mr Chapman will be holding a parent workshop to talk about how we teach maths at Wylam and how you can help your child at home. Once the workshop is over you will then be able to go into your child's class to take part in a maths lesson with your child.

## **School Calendar**

Tuesday 10th October	Y3 The Story of the Earth workshop with Newcastle University
w/c 16th October	Teddy tombola donations can be sent into school
Tuesday 17th October	Harvest Festival 1:30pm (parents invited)
Wednesday 18th October	Parents evening

Thursday 19th October	Parents evening
Saturday 21 October	PTA Bonkers Bingo 7pm
Thursday 26th October	Break the Rules Day Last day of ½ term
Friday 27th October	Teacher training day
Monday 6th November	Back to school
w/c Monday 6th November	Christmas fair donations can be sent into school & Santa's grotto tickets go on sale (see flyers)
Thursday 9th November	Maths workshop at 9am
Friday 10th November	Y4 Christmas model workshop
Monday 20th November	Y4 Transition Event (morning only)
Tuesday 21st November	Flu immunisations R-Y4
Tuesday 21st November	Y3 Skipping Festival at Wentworth Leisure Centre
Friday 8th December	Rocksteady Christmas Concert
<b>Christmas 2023</b>	
Monday 11th December	KS1 Christmas Performance 9:30am EYFS Christmas Performance 1:45pm
Tuesday 12th December	EYFS Christmas Performance 9:30am KS2 Christmas performance 1:45pm
Wednesday 13th December	KS2 Christmas performance 9:30am KS1 Christmas Performance 1:45pm
Friday 15th December	Christmas Lunch + Christmas Jumper Day
Monday 19th December	EYFS Christmas Party
Tuesday 19th December	KS1 Christmas Party
Wednesday 20th December	KS2 Christmas Party
Friday 22nd December	End of term Christmas Service 1:30pm Last day of term Evening: Santa's Sleigh visiting Wylam (PTA fundraising)
Monday 8th January	Teacher training day
Tuesday 9th January	Back to school

Best wishes.

**S Gibbon**  
**Executive Headteacher**