

September 2019 Newsletter



Welcome back everyone! I hope you've all had a great summer. We have been busy in the playground opening up more playspace, creating a quiet reading space and painting lots of areas! A big thanks to our caretaker, Julie, who has worked so hard. As ever, we have already planned lots of exciting things this term so please read this newsletter carefully. Don't hesitate to ask a member of staff if you need further information.



*We are delighted to announce that we have been awarded the silver SMSC award (Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural) a nationally recognised award for our work in this area. We were assessed in the last half of the Summer Term and after talking to your children and staff they agreed our **"mission and core values are excellently communicated and brought to life..student voice is a strong feature."** Huge thanks to our Puffin Patrollers and School Council members who spoke so passionately and clearly. Pupils are so sincere about following our core values of **"Respect, Happiness and Growth."** This makes our school a wonderful environment to learn within and your children a pleasure to take anywhere! Special thanks to Miss Gascoigne-Owens, our SMSC lead who completed a lot of paperwork, led on staff training and worked with assessors.*

I hope this is a fantastic term for your child/children and that they settle easily into the new term.

Mrs Bruce ☺

More good news...



PE Gold Mark

Mr Wonders, our PE co-ordinator, worked hard all year to provide a fantastic variety of Physical Education for all year groups. All staff support our mission to be active learners and the Youth Sport Trust agree awarding us the National Gold Mark for PE. See attached certificate.



Attendance

Two years ago Ofsted stated our attendance 'required improvement.' This was for a number of reasons and included our overall attendance rate of 94% in 2016-2017. In my very first newsletter as the new headteacher in September 2017, we asked for your help and explained why attendance is so important in supporting a pupil's education.

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We shared a checklist of ways parents could support good attendance (see our website - under **learn to fly**) and our attendance policy (see our website- policies) which explains procedures if a pupils attendance rates fall.

I would like to thank all those parents who have supported pupil attendance and share the difference this has made...

Our overall attendance for the whole school last year (2018-2019) was **96%**. This is in line with the National Average and matches our total for the previous year (2017-2018). It has definitely supported the fantastic reports your children received at the end of the year and the standards they are working at. We have **good attendance**, however, we will always strive to do even better!

ATTENDANCE MATTERS



For example,

Reception class had the lowest attendance for two years running. When pupils start Reception with the longer school hours and new routines they often get run down and fall ill. You can help by

- getting them into good bedtime routines and making sure they get plenty of sleep.
- It's sometimes a fine line if a child is well enough to come to school but if in doubt send them in! Tell the class teacher how your child is feeling and they will look after them and contact you if the situation worsens.
- Equally, if you have kept your child off school and they brighten up out of nowhere you can bring your child to school before 1pm. Children get two attendance marks every day. One at 9am and one at 1pm so they would get their 1pm mark and more importantly get half a day of school. This rule does not apply if your child has been sick. Pupils who have had sickness or diarrhoea must wait 48 hours\ 2 days before coming into school to prevent the bug spreading.
- Also if a child has been ill on a Thursday and your thinking "I'll keep them off Friday..it's nearly the weekend"- DON'T. Friday is really important- it's celebration assembly day, it's juice and biscuit day, it's Golden time day, it's Sports Leaders day!!

Because we value attendance, we celebrate it in a number of ways:

- ★ Each Friday in celebration assembly, everyone who has had 100% attendance for the week in one class (classes will be rotated) goes into a raffle. A ticket is chosen every week and one pupil get a dip in the box.

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- ★ Each Friday, we have our Rocket Race. The class with the highest attendance for the week gets a star. The most stars at the end of term get a class visit to the park.
- ★ At the end of each term, if a pupil has 100% they are awarded a badge in Assembly.



Last year we began our reading challenges, asking you to hear **your child read every night**. 89% of pupils in year 1-4 are reading at or above the expected level for their age.

This is with just over 60% of pupils completing the reading challenge. We really want to make this a 100% so get ready to read. If you find this expectation difficult, please speak to your class teacher as we want to make it possible for all kids to attempt and be part of the celebrations at the end. Come to our reading parent drop in this term to get top tips on making reading an enjoyable event! See dates below



Spelling workshop

Do you want help to make spelling homework fun and enjoyable?

Teaching pupils to spell and understanding letter sounds, suffixes, prefixes and more can be very confusing. Homework after a busy school day can also be challenging! Susie LaRosa, is coming to do a sound and spelling workshop for any parent or carer from any year group who would like to know more. We will run two, if people are interested. One during the school day: **Tuesday 17th September** and one after school at 6: 30pm on **Monday 23rd September**. Please sign up for this on the slip at the end of this newsletter.



Eco school

We would like to continue our mission to collect crisp packets this term, so send as many as you like with your children. Our year four pupils will be responsible for counting them up this term. I would also like us to collect plastic bottle tops of any colour or variety to 'upcycle' them. So start collecting!

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Parent helpers

If any parent would like to come in and help, particularly with hearing children read, we would love to hear from you. Just speak to your class teacher or Mrs Bruce about your availability.

Can you help?...

Last year the pupils really enjoyed our assemblies about different jobs. We had police, dentists, charity workers, historical actors! We would love to keep running them this year and would love to hear from any parents who would like to share information about their job. We run the assemblies on a Thursday and the children love to hear about:

- how you got into your job, what you need to do to get your job and any equipment you use.

The pupils will then ask a few questions and be inspired to work towards their goals! Mrs Bruce is always on hand to help in the hall. Talk to your class teacher or Mrs Bruce if you are interested.



Parents and friends of Amble First School support the school to raise vital funds in lots of fun and exciting ways that really help our children! If you would like to join or give support in any way, we would love to see you. The first meeting is on **Friday 13 September** at 2pm. Just come to the main office.

The PTA have already organised the following dates for your diary. More info to follow nearer the date:

Halloween disco- 24.10.19 5:30pm- 7:30pm

Movie night - 14.11.19

Dates for your diary

- **Year Two SATs parent meeting-** This is a very important year for our year two pupils. All year two parents and carers are invited to learn more about their learning journey. We will share with you the expectations for the end of the year and explain the purpose of the end of year SATS (Standard Attainment Tests). This will be on **Monday September 16th at 2:30pm.**

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Speak to Miss Gascoigne- Owens if you have any trouble attending.

- **Year One Phonics parent meeting**-All year one parents are invited to our phonics meeting. We will share with you the work we are doing in school and lots of fun resources and activities that you can do with your children at home. This will run on **Thursday 19th September at 9am**. Speak to Mr Wonders if you have any trouble attending.
- **Reception class** is an exciting time for pupils- they learn and grow so much! All Reception parents are invited to join Mrs Donaldson on **Thursday 12th September at 2:45pm** to hear how you can support your child to succeed this year.
- **Parent Assemblies** - Family and friends are all welcome to watch children celebrate and share their learning - this term we are going to run them on Monday afternoon at 2:45pm

October 21st - Year 4

November 11th - Year 2

December 2nd - Year 3

November 25th - Year 1

November 18th - Reception

- **Reading parent drop in** - Teachers will be demonstrating lots of reading tips and games to ensure your child loves reading! (especially at home after a long day at school!) All parents and carers are invited to come along on the following days at 9am:

September 26th - Reception

September 18th - Year 4

September 25th - Year 3

September 19th - Year 1

October 11th - Year 2

- **Macmillan Coffee morning - September 27th** - Get baking ready to support our charity event for a very worthy cause! We are inviting all parents and

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friends to bring in cakes or biscuits to sell on September 27th.

All proceeds to Macmillan cancer support. More details to follow.

Swimming

Swimming starts again on Wednesday 18th September for years 3 and 4. Please ensure you have your swimming kit and swimming money. The cost of swimming is £4 per week. Children will need a one piece swimming suit (or trunks for boys) and a towel. Long hair should be tied up and we would appreciate it if payment was made to the office in a named envelope in the beginning of the week. Anyone who wishes to pay for the whole term in advance would lessen our workload significantly!

School photos

Individual school photos will be taken by Phototronics on **Wednesday 23rd October**. Family groups are possible - if you have pre/middle/high school children who you want to include on the photograph, just let us know and we will arrange a suitable time.

Special dinner day

Our children love our "Special Dinner" days and this term we are offering our ever popular "Cowboy Lunch" on Thursday 3rd October at the cost of £2.20 (see menu below and booking form at the end of the newsletter). Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to universal free school meals, therefore don't need to pay. If your child normally has a school lunch each day, you do not need to return the form.

Menu

Cowboy dinner

Bangers in a bun

Campfire beans

Fireside fries

Crunchy carrot sticks

Chocolate chip cowboy cookies

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Please book a place for my child on **Cowboy Dinner day** (3rd October).
Please delete as appropriate

- I enclose payment of £2.20
- My child is in Reception/ Years 1 /2 and does not pay for lunch
- My child is entitled to free school meals

Name..... Class



Spelling \ Reading Parent workshop

I would like to attend the spelling workshop on:

Tuesday 17th September at 9:15am

Monday 23rd September at 6:30pm (Delete as appropriate)

Name of adult/s attending

AND THE GOLD MEDAL GOES TO... AMBLE FIRST SCHOOL

SCHOOL GAMES

We are delighted to announce that we, Amble First School, have achieved the School Games GOLD Mark Award for the 2018/19 academic year.

The School Games Mark is a Government led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success.

Our sporting achievements this year include:

Football tournaments
Skipping festival
Gymnastic competition and festival
Athletic competitions
After school: Football club, Rounders club, Athletic club, gymnastic club, Rugby club,
Cricket club
Hula hoop festival
Daily mile\ obstacle course sponsored run

With a total of young people competing in local inter-school competitions this year, we are extremely proud of our pupils for their dedication to all aspects of school sport, including those young volunteers, leaders and officials who made our competitions possible.

As part of our application, we were asked to fulfil criteria in the areas of participation, competition, workforce and clubs, and we are pleased that the hard work of everyone at our school has been rewarded this year.

A special thanks to:

Mr Wonders, our PE co-ordinator, and the whole staff team
Mrs Poulton for her fabulous after school clubs
Ryan and Bear for terrific Footy and Rugby clubs

