



Easington Church of England Primary School

Happy, healthy and fulfilled
NEWSLETTER 5th June 2015



Dates for your diary – details to follow

Wed 10 th June	Y6 Leavers Service at Durham Cathedral – parents and families welcome 11.00am
Wed 10 th June	Cinema evening in aid of School Funds
w.b. Mon 15 th June	Y1 phonics screening
Wed 17 th June	9.10 a.m. Y3/4 class worship - Y3 parents invited
throughout June	assessments for all year groups
Wed 24 th June	9.30a.m. church – parents and families welcome
Wed 1 st July	9.10 a.m. Y5/6 class worship - Y5 parents invited
Fri 3 rd July <i>new event</i>	School and Church Summer Fayre – 2.30p.m. in Parish Hall
Tues 7 th July	Peterlee Partnership Festival
Wed 8 th July	Y5/6 residential visit to Lockerbie
Fri 10 th July	Annual Reports to parents
Thurs 16 th July	2.30p.m Y6 leavers service church – parents and families welcome
Fri 17 th July	School closes for Summer break

Please note Leave of Absence requests will not be authorised during Statutory Assessment weeks. We also recommend that children are not taken out of school in the run up to these dates.

Star Pupils

Year Reception	Johnny Harland / Katie Stirman
Year One	Elise Embleton
Year Two	Ronnie Hutton
Year Three	Valentine Cooper
Year Four	Dan Young
Year Five	Sammy Luu
Year Six	Alfie Laight
Pupils' pupils	Olivia Curtis Dawson / Lois Watt
Mrs Swift's Special Book	Joshua Ebbelwhite
Writer of the week	Alyssa Lawton
House Team of the Week	Aidan
Attendance week ending Friday	
Class 1	97.93
Class 2	99.35
Class 3	100.00
Class 4	94.17

Support to develop working memory skills

I was recently introduced to a new website <http://www.eyecanlearn.com/perception> which supports the development of working memory. This is a really accessible web site with many games and activities – you might like to try some with your child. Mrs Swift

An e-safety message from NSPCC

Please see the reverse of this week's newsletter for an e-safety update.

Building update

Weeks six and seven of our building work have seen:

- Brickwork starting on our hall extension and classroom
- Excavations at the front of school to prepare for new entrance and office

"Act justly, love mercy, walk humbly with your God"

Micah 6:8

School and Church Summer Fayre –Friday 3rd July 2.30p.m. in Parish Hall

We are in the process of planning a Summer Fayre as a joint fundraising activity with St. Mary's church. At this point we are looking for volunteers to help with stalls and games on the day – if you are able to give up two hours of your time on the afternoon please can you let me know via the school office. Nearer the date we will be asking for donations of tombola and raffle prizes. Again if you know of any local businesses that are willing to donate a prize I would be very interested in hearing from you. Thank you in advance for your support with this fundraising event – Mrs Swift.

Persistent Absence - The Department for Education has announced a change to the definition of persistent absence for the 2015/2016 academic year. The current threshold of 15% or more absence means that a pupil has to be absent for 56 sessions (28 days) of school to be classified as persistently absent. The Government believe that this is a great deal of school to miss and from the beginning of the 2015 /16 academic year it is reducing the persistent absence threshold from 15% or more to 10% or more absence. The following table shows estimated cumulative absent sessions thresholds for around 15% and 10%.

	15%	10%
Half-term 1	10 or more sessions	7 or more sessions
Half-term 1-2 (Autumn Term)	22 or more sessions	14 or more sessions
Half-term 1-3	30 or more sessions	20 or more sessions
Half-term 1-4 (Autumn Term and Spring Term combined)	38 or more sessions	25 or more sessions
Half-term 1-5	46 or more sessions	31 or more sessions
Half-term 1-6 (full Academic Year)	56 or more sessions	38 or more sessions

This information was (and will be again) shared with parents via our newsletter. We are encouraging parents to take into account these thresholds when considering booking holidays for next year (2015-2016) as 7 or more sessions (1 day= 2 sessions) in the first half term will mean that a child is recorded as persistently absent.

Non Uniform Day 22/5/15

Thank you for your contributions on our last non uniform day. £83.50 was raised for School Funds. Many thanks as always.

If you have any queries about the content of this newsletter please ask. Please make an appointment to speak with class teachers in the first instance. Thank you.



An e-safety message from NSPCC - Do You Really Know Who Your Children Are Talking to Online?

Chances are that if you have a child approaching their 'tweens' they will soon be clamouring for a) a mobile phone b) a social media account c) a games console - all of which could enable them to chat to complete strangers anywhere in the world.

The days of a family PC in the corner of the living room are long gone. Most of us carry the internet in our pockets these days so it's not surprising that our children want the same easy access. And once children get to nine or 10 years old they are in any case eager to go online and chat to their friends without a parent watching over their shoulder.

However, according to Ofcom, one in ten children aged 8-11 who go online say they have seen something in the past year that was worrying, nasty or offensive.

We all want to keep children safe online and many parents will at some point take action, like installing filters on their home broadband to stop children seeing unsuitable material. But filters don't protect children from strangers contacting them through social media, mobile apps, or online games.

The NSPCC wants to see all online accounts for under-16s set up to block messages from strangers, prevent users making their location or contact details public, set profiles as private by default on sign-up, and alert children to the risks if they choose make their profile public.

Until these steps are taken by industry we all have to be extra vigilant about children's safety. So it's essential to have regular chats with your children about what to do to keep themselves safe, and stress that it's ok to come to you for help.

The good news is that lots of parents are talking to children about online safety - since the NSPCC launched its latest online safety campaign in January around 400,000 parents have spoken with their children about the issue.

However, we're still concerned that some parents are missing out vital topics when they talk to their children about staying safe online.

For example, children have told us they want parents to talk about how to manage apps that track your location, but only one in five parents say they've covered this in online safety conversations.

And if parents aren't talking to children about things like location or privacy settings it can leave them at risk of online grooming. We've seen horrendous cases where offenders take a scattergun approach, targeting hundreds of children at a time online, often posing as another young person.

So we want all parents to make sure their online knowledge is up to date by checking out our updated Net Aware guide, published this week.

Among 12 sites that have now been added to the guide are Tapatalk and Pheed, which many parents may not be familiar with, plus well-known games like Call of Duty that allows users to chat online.

The guide now covers a total of 60 social networking sites, apps and games popular with children and is free to access at www.net-aware.org.uk

The digital world is here to stay and it's our job to make sure the next generation take their first steps online safely; aware of the risks, but confident about how to get where they want to be, just as our parents once taught us how to cross the road.

Claire Lilley
Head of Online Safety at NSPCC