

**Excellence
for All!**



Windy News

Email: windynookprimaryschool@gateshead.gov.uk

Reading for pleasure

Evidence suggests that children who read for enjoyment every day not only perform better in reading tests than those who don't, but also develop a broader vocabulary, increased general knowledge and a better understanding of other cultures. In fact, reading for pleasure is more likely to determine whether a child does well at school than their social or economic background.

We continue to instil into the children the importance of reading. The lunchtime book club, reading plus intervention, reading buddies and the in school bookshop all give the children the opportunity to read for pleasure outside of the classroom. Our recent World Book Day celebrations have helped to raise the profile of reading within school further. We are hugely grateful to Paul Atkinson, manager of WHSmith in the Metro Centre, who came into school and gave every child a book to help celebrate World Book Day. We also thank you the parents for supporting your children in getting involved. Each class held a competition linked to some aspect of World Book Day and congratulations to the winners, who all received a book as a prize. Their photos are displayed in the main admin corridor.

The Book Fair was once again well supported and we managed to raise £716.34 in commission which we will be using to update the non-fiction books in the library. This is a fantastic effort and we would like to thank you for attending the Book Fair with your child.

Our Road to Reading competition has been launched where each class will compete on a weekly basis to have the most number of children reading. We are aware that the lure of electronic gadgets is much more attractive to some children than books, however we would urge you to continue to hear your child read on a regular basis, even when they enter KS2, and mark it in their diary so that they can feel part of the competition. We would urge you to encourage your child to read a range of books, comics, newspapers—anything that will help them to grow as readers.

You can make a huge difference! Parents are the most important educators in a child's life - even more important than their teachers - and it's never too early to start reading together.

Co-op—Supporting our local cause

The Co-op have chosen to support our bid to develop the Early Years Outdoor area via their Local Community Fund. If you have a Co-op card, or know someone who does, please register your card to support our fund via this link

<https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/23620>

Alternatively visit the Co-op at Beacon Lough, Low Fell or Fewster Square.

The Co-op have asked our Year 6 pupils to draw a picture of their mum to coincide with their Mother's Day celebrations. These will be displayed in the Beacon Lough shop and store visitors will get the opportunity to vote on which is their favourite picture. Why don't you pop down to see the art work and get yourself a Co-op card.

March 2019

What's happening?

- ♦ **Diary Dates**
- ♦ **Extra funding to support your child**
- ♦ **Health food policy**
- ♦ **Mrs. Greaves**
- ♦ **RRSA and School Council update**

Advance Notice for school closure

School will be closed on Friday 28th June for the school's occasional day.

Easter Egg Competition

As usual, we will be hosting our annual decorated egg competition very soon. Please can we remind you that the competition is for the best egg decorated by your child. There is a separate competition for parents who want to show off their own creative talent.

We also have limited space to display them so designs should be no bigger than A4 paper size.

Children and adults are welcome to bring their eggs into school on Monday 1st April.

They will be displayed in the Hall on Wednesday 3rd at 8:40 and 3:00 for parents to view, and sent home on Thursday 4th after class winners and prizes are awarded in our Windy Winners Assembly.

Windy Nook Primary School

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Dates for your Diary

Please note that some dates may change due to circumstances beyond the school's control.

Mon 18th Mar Judo taster sessions
Tues 19th Mar Judo taster sessions
Wed 20th Mar Governor Attendance Panel
Thu 21st Mar Y1 Phonics meeting for parents
Wed 27th Mar Reception multi sport festival
Thurs 28th Mar Spring Music Festival 5pm
Fri 29th Mar Reception Heights and Weights
Mon 1st Apr Easter egg designs brought into school
Tue 2nd Apr 9:45 a.m. Easter Service St. Albans
Reports to parents
Wed 3rd Apr Easter egg display open to parents
8:40 , 3pm
Y6 Dance Festival at the Sage
Fri 5th Apr School breaks up for Easter
Tue 23rd Apr School re -opens after Easter holidays
Thur 2nd May Y3 /4 Rugby Competition
Fri 3rd May Y5/6 Visit Sunderland Winter Gardens
Mon 6th May School closed—Bank Holiday
Tues 7th May KS1 Sats week
Mon 13th May KS2 Sats week

More Information

RRSA and School Council Updates

Comic Relief

A huge thank you to everyone who supported Comic Relief this year. The theme was "Make them laugh". We enjoyed listening to a range of jokes in our special joke assembly and raised £446.18.

Costume sale

The school council have decided to hold a termly pre-loved uniform sale. Alongside this we thought it would be a good idea to have a pre-loved costume sale. Any costumes from Halloween discos and World Book Day celebrations that are now too small could be donated to school and sold. More information to follow.

Mrs. Greaves Remembered

You may well have noticed the new quiet reflection shelter that has been erected on the KS2 yard. We have been able to afford this due to your kind donations and sponsorship in memory of Mrs. Greaves. The money raised was also matched with a grant from the LA. The shelter needs some extra personal touches and then we will invite Mrs. Greaves' family to its official opening.

Extra Funding to help support your child's learning

If you think you are (or would be) entitled to Free School Meals please fill in the form

If your child is in Years 3-6 and you think you are entitled to free school meals, please contact the school office to request a claim form. Your child could get extra funding to support their learning within school.

If your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 and is already receiving the free meals provided, but you would have been entitled, please also contact the school office and request the form anyway.

Even if you do not wish your child to take the school meal, our school will benefit from the grant attached to each pupil who is eligible to free school meals.

Currently, this is worth £1,320 per pupil per year and would be a huge loss to the school if parents do not claim. If eligible your child will receive the money on an annual basis until they leave primary school.

If you need any more information, please contact the school. Thank you.

Healthy Food Policy

The school's healthy food policy has recently been updated and can be found on the school website. Please be aware that we have a number of children in school with food allergies so we would ask you to be mindful when you are sending in treats for your children's birthdays or when sending snacks in for break time. We are a healthy school so we would ask that any cereal bars that are sent in for break time are checked for their sugar content.

There are a number of other health related policies recently updated on the website.

Homework

We have an increasing number of children who are not completing their homework at home. Please support your children in doing this as it teaches them good work habits ready for when they move onto the next stage of their learning journey. Starting this week any child who has not completed their homework will miss all of Golden time.