



**Believe. Achieve. Succeed.**

## School Newsletter — January 2017

### Happy New Year

Thank you to everyone who supported our final pantomime, *Babes in the Wood* at the end of last term. Although it already seems a distant memory I am sure it is one which will last a long time for all those involved in the performance.

We were delighted with the response of the audience at each of our three performances which ensured that the children were rewarded for all their hard work. We hope the effects of the panto in raising confidence,



developing a sense of achievement and showing our pupils what can be done with commitment, enthusiasm and hard work will be carried forward into all aspects of their lives. There is no doubt that the panto teaches our pupils to appreciate the skills of others as well as to aim high themselves.

As our main fund raising event of the year the pantomime was extremely successful as we raised the fantastic total of £2,004 which for a school with only 75 pupils is amazing. Thank you for your support.



There is still some money outstanding for the calendars with your child's photo on, so if you have not sent in your £2 or returned the calendar please do so as soon as possible. Mr Wilson has produced a DVD of the panto which is now on sale for £5. If you would like a copy, please fill in the attached slip and return it to school by Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January with your payment.

## SKY Sports for Living Project

Caitlin McClatchey is an Athlete Mentor for SKY Sports Living for Sport and she visited school last half term to work with our Young Sports Leaders and talk to the whole school during assembly. She is a British former swimmer who, representing Scotland, won two gold medals in the 2006 Commonwealth Games. She retired from competition swimming in July 2015.

Caitlyn introduced the Sports Leaders to the Six Keys For Success which are designed to help young people develop valuable life skills that will help them in and outside of school, now and into the future. The six keys are: Mental toughness, hunger to achieve, people skills, sports and life knowledge, breaking barriers, planning for success.



These are the top six life-skills athletes identified as enabling them to achieve success in sport. The Young Sports Leaders took part in a variety of practical activities all linked to the Six Keys For Success with a particular focus on working together in groups and teams. Caitlyn was really impressed with the Sports Leaders attitude and willingness to work together to achieve a common goal. She said "they were one of the best groups I have worked with and I hope that by sharing my story with them I can show them that through hard work, determination and self-belief anything is possible".



Save the Children  
**CHRISTMAS  
JUMPER DAY**

Thanks to everyone who took part in Christmas Jumper Day, we raised £100 for Save the Children.

## Show Racism the Red Card

We continue to work hard to help our pupils learn about the importance of justice and equality. Following on from the Hate Crime workshops we held in November, Show racism the Red Card came into school on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November. They promoted a message of understanding by using the high profile status of football and football players to tackle racism in society. All classes took part in a range of workshops that focussed on asylum seekers and that aimed to:

- Educate young people about the causes and consequences of racism and to explore the various forms racism can take.
- Empower young people to challenge racism in the communities in which they live, providing them with relevant knowledge and information to enable them to do this.
- Help young people prepare to play an active role as citizens in an increasingly multi-cultural society.
- Enable young people to develop good relationships and respect the differences between people, regardless of their ethnicity, faith, culture or nationality.

Former Middlesbrough and Crystal Palace player Dean Gordon ran a fitness session in the hall focussing on team work, listening and thinking skills using a range of football activities. Workshops to raise awareness of asylum seekers and racism were run by Show Racism the Red Card tutors, Richard and Lizz.

In addition each child chose their own way to respond to the issues they were learning about. Congratulations to Matthew, Elliot, Laurie and Tilly who wrote and performed a rap about asylum seekers which we have entered in the Show Racism the Red Card national competition along with a poem written by Megan in Year 8 and a game created by Macey in Year 6.

### Asylum Seeker Rap

Now this is a story all about how  
Bans life got flipped-turned upside down  
And I'd like to take a minute  
Just to be the speaker  
and tell you how Ban  
became an asylum seeker.

In peaceful Iraq born and raised  
Travelling is how she spent most of her days.  
From Syria to England, really wasn't cool  
And the worst part is, the kids aint got no school.  
When the man of the house was up to no good  
Started making trouble in the neighbourhood.  
They got in one little fight and Ban got scared  
She said, "We're moving again, but this time  
prepared."

She isn't the only one, suffering from this  
Even if they're different, you still shouldn't dis.  
Racism can happen, on the school yard  
This is why we have to show  
**RACISM THE RED CARD!**

## Behaviour for Learning Seal of Approval Scheme

Congratulations to the following pupils who have been chosen for our "Student of the Week" Award during the last half term.

Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
Grace Da	Toby	Aiden
Kingswood Residential	Millie	Martha
Reece	Beth	Matthew
Charlie	Josh	Alex
Joseph	Hale	Elliot
Macey	Damien	Millie
Grace Do	Ryan	Tilly

Our "Behaviour for Learning" Scheme encourages staff to reward behaviour which develops good learning habits. The rewards include postcards home to parents, first dinner slips and raffle tickets.

At the end of each half term the raffle is drawn so that two boys and two girls from each class win a prize.

The 12 lucky winners were Katie, Tilly, Shaun, Aiden, Chloe, Anya, Reece, Leo, Macey, Grace Do, Aaron, Reece.

At the end of term anyone who had managed to earn 98% or more of their Seals was given a Bronze Award Certificate and a letter was sent home to their parents. Those pupils can earn a Silver Award at the end of this term if they earn 98% or more of their Seals again. The pupils who didn't achieve a Bronze award last term can still earn one this term if they collect 98% or more of their Seals.

## The Importance of Good Attendance

As part of our efforts to raise attainment and accelerate the progress our pupils make we want to remind you of the importance of regular attendance.

### Did you know?

- Children who lose time from school do not do as well as they could. The evidence shows that children with poor attendance are unlikely to succeed academically and that they are more likely not to be in education, employment or training when they leave school.
- If children are taken away for a two week holiday every year and have an average number of days off for sickness and medical appointments then by the time they leave at sixteen they will have missed a whole year of school.
- One of the most effective ways that schools can improve achievement is by improving attendance. Even the best teachers struggle to raise the standards of children who are not in school regularly.

### It is not true!

- That children who are absent catch up. Research shows that by missing lessons, pupils soon fall behind. Lessons they miss are **not** repeated at a later date.
- That for younger children, lost schooling does not matter. It is just the opposite.

So please put your child's education first, otherwise you are putting them at risk of being left behind or just as importantly, being left out which makes it much more difficult to enjoy school.

We have an incentive scheme in school which rewards a child from each class with 100% attendance each week with the opportunity to win a snack attach voucher in our raffle. Children who have 100% attendance at the end of the academic year are rewarded with a trophy and WH Smith voucher.

This half term we are rewarding pupils with improved attendance so if your child had attendance below 95% last term they will need to improve by a minimum of 5% to achieve a certificate and reward. If their attendance was between 95% and 97% they need to improve their attendance by at least 2% this half term. Any child who had 99% or 100% attendance will need to maintain this to get a reward. We will send you a copy of your child's attendance record for last term by the 6<sup>th</sup> January.

The government are particularly concerned about those children whose attendance drops below 90% and they are known as persistent absentees. If it does, we are keen to work with you to ensure that their attendance improves in the future and therefore avoid the Education Welfare Officer visiting your home.

## Valentine's Disco

We are having our Valentine's Disco on Thursday 16th February from  
6 – 8pm. The cost of entry is £2 and your child must have earned  
136 Seals of Approval before the disco to attend.

### Extra Curricular Activities - January / February 2017

	Lunchtime	After school finishes 4:45pm
<b>Monday</b>	Football (Years 6, 7 & 8) Craft Club (Years 6, 7 & 8) Harmony Group (Years 6, 7 & 8) Reading (Years 6, 7 & 8)	Cricket (Years 6, 7 & 8)
<b>Tuesday</b>	Skipping (Years 6 & 7) Band I.T. Club (Years 7 & 8) Reading (Years 6, 7 & 8)	
<b>Wednesday</b>	Gymnastics (Years 6, 7 & 8) Reading (Years 6, 7 & 8) Sudoko (Years 6, 7 & 8)	Netball (Years 6, 7 & 8)
<b>Thursday</b>	Rugby (Years 6 & 7) Reading (Years 6, 7 & 8)	Volleyball (Years 7 & 8)
<b>Friday</b>	5-a-side football (Years 6 & 7)	

**Please note that all clubs will start week beginning 9th January**

### Diary Dates January - February 2017

11th January	Year 6 indoor athletics competition
18th January	Year 7 & 8 indoor athletics competition
24th January	U13 boys cricket competition — Berwick
25th January	Holocaust Memorial project / assembly
7th February	U13 girls cricket competition — Berwick
10th February	Year 7/8 volleyball competition — Berwick
16th February	Valentine disco 6-8pm - 136 Seals needed
17th February	School closes for half term
27th February	School reopens

### Babes in the Wood DVD

Name of child ..... Class .....

I would like ..... (fill in number) copy/copies of the  
panto DVD and enclose payment of £..... (£5 for 1 copy or £9 for 2 copies)

Signed ..... Parent / Guardian