



'The Aspin Owler'

Wednesday 13th March 2019

Spring Term 2018-2019

Issue 4

Welcome Back

I hope that you all had a good half term break, and the children managed to get a rest in this very long Spring Term. The vagary of different local authorities planning different half terms and holidays never fails to amaze me, and I know that this has affected several families at Aspin. We hope you managed to spend some time together over the past fortnight or so. What is obvious from the way the children have settled back in is that they are ready for the coming weeks leading up to Easter.

Red Nose Day

We are supporting Comic Relief on Friday by simply wearing 'Red for Comic Relief' all shades of red are allowed, so dust off your vermillion, russet, scarlet and crimson and support our efforts. A donation towards Comic Relief would be appreciated. We thank you in advance.

New Website

Our new website will go live on Wednesday 27th March, and in next two weeks I will try and ensure that all of the information has been transferred from the old one to the new one. Much of this information has already been migrated across already, but anything that has been added in the past couple of weeks will need to be added. As with any new venture I am sure there will be some teething problems as we learn how to best use the new system, but bear with us, we have done a great amount of work on our current website in the past year or so, so this is our intention with the new one.

Recent Assemblies

My thanks to both to Miss Houseman and Miss North and also to Mr Spindlow who since the last newsletter have brought their children to the stage for what were they first and last assemblies respectively. Both assemblies showed how much children learn at Aspin in so many different ways, and as our Foundation look forward to many more assemblies, and 6S look back on many done, both sets of parents can feel very proud of their efforts.

Sickness and Diarrhoea

In the first week back there were quite a lot of incidences of sickness and diarrhoea which in reality we get in a school as large as ours every year. However there were a lot incidents centralised in Y3 at the end of last week. Obviously there was a deal of concern that this may be more than an outbreak, with nearly twenty children affected, and reasons were sought as to why this had happened.

As a school we have investigated this too, and whilst there have been issues with the sinks in the boys toilets, the Y3 children have been using Y4 toilets and soap, which is obviously available in all toilet areas. Added to this the children ill were both boys and girls, and more in one class than in another, so there are no real patterns. We were also asked how we know it is a sickness bug and not food poisoning – the answer is we don't but work on experience of having such bugs in school previously, and knowing how they tend to localise themselves. Also if it was a food poisoning outbreak, my guess is that it would have been more widespread across school. We are not health professionals, but will follow guidelines given to us by the NHS, which says that no child should return to school until 48 hours after their last incident of sickness or diarrhoea, which is the best way to avoid anything spreading. We have stressed again cleanliness to the children; we'd ask that you do the same.

Y6 'Fifty Golden Years'

I want to give my personal thanks to our Y6 children who took part in the Y6 concert just before half term. Their efforts in learning all of their words, coming to rehearsals and showing good humour and behaviour throughout was a joy to see. From my point of view I put this concert on because I do enjoy it, but because in a year that can seem endless for our oldest children, it serves not only as a distraction from the day to day, it is something we as a school value. Thank you too to their parents – they had far more 'rehearsing' to put up with than me!

March – April Events

One of the ways in which the website has been hugely helpful has been to post current events under the news tab, which you can obviously access at any time. Listed below are the main events this coming term;

Thursday 14th - Y5 NSPCC Workshops
Thursday 14th - Netball Tournament (4pm)
Friday 15th - Red Nose Day - Wear Red!
Friday 15th - Y2 Assembly (2.30pm)
Friday 15th - Bedtime Stories (5.30pm)
Monday 18th - Robinwood Meeting for Y5 Parents (2.30pm in Abbey)
Tuesday 19th - NSPCC Internet Safety Talk to Parents (2.15pm)
Tuesday 19th - London Meeting for Y6 Parents (2.30pm in Abbey)
Wednesday 20th - Local Governing Body Meeting (6.30pm)
Friday 22nd - Sensory Room Opening (11am)
Friday 22nd - 4MR Assembly (2.30pm)
Friday 22nd - Quiz Night (7.30pm)
Sunday 24th - Kids Aloud Rehearsal (2pm)
Tuesday 26th - Orienteering & Change for Life Festival (3.45pm at Aspin)
Friday 29th - Health & Well Being Day - including Silent Disco!
Friday 29th - Nepalese Children visiting (from Kids Aloud Concert)
Friday 29th - FN Assembly (2.30)
Friday 29th - Y4 Cake Bake
Friday 29th - Kids Aloud Concert (Royal Hall)
Wednesday 3rd - Friday 5th - Y4 to Robin Hood's Bay
Thursday 4th - Y3 Performance (1.30 & 6.30pm)
Friday 5th - Termly Reports out to parents
Monday 8th - Y3 & Y5 Parents Meetings (During the Day)
Tuesday 9th - Foundation, Y2 & Y6 Parents Meetings (During the Day)
Wednesday 10th - Y1 & Y4 Parents Meetings (During the Day, All Year Groups after school)
Friday 12th - Certificate Assembly 4
Friday 12th - School Closes for Easter (2.30pm)

50th Anniversary

We have nearly finalised a programme of events for the forthcoming Golden Anniversary, I will write a separate letter about this in the coming couple of weeks, and then post this on our social media sites. It is all looking very exciting – including a very special Summer Fair day on the school's actual birthday – Sunday 14th July. Much more to come.

NSPCC Visitors

As part of our continual work on helping children to stay safe in the world around them, we have had visitors from the NSPCC in school to hold age-appropriate assemblies with the children, and to hold focused discussions with our Y5 and Y6 children. These have proven to be useful in supporting the work that first Sarah Lynch did in the Autumn, and then PC Paul Stephenson undertook earlier this term.

New Girls Activity Group

A pilot project for a new girl's activity group has been set up which looks set to be very useful. There are lots of activity sessions available, but there are girls who struggle to or cannot access these for numerous reasons including:

- Social isolation – not feeling that they fit in
- Extreme shyness
- Sensory processing difficulties or Autism Spectrum Disorder so they struggle in large groups and busy environments.
- Lacking confidence to try new activities
- May have communication difficulties
- May be in mainstream school but have disabilities/difficulties/health issues that restrict them.

They will provide a quiet space and have activities planned that the girls can access if they want to. There'll be snacks available (toast, jacket potatoes etc) IF the girls want them – these can either be prepared by them or for them. They just want to provide a calm and caring environment that will foster the opportunity to meet others in similar situations and potentially make friends. They are targeting girls who cannot or do not access other activities. They are being quite specific and acceptance at the session will be via a referral to the team from school and then a trial session. They are aiming to keep the session a quiet and calm space. Should a participant find the session too quiet, they will be able to direct them towards other activities such as Springboard Youth Club and the NY Youth sessions. Sessions are targeted at 9-19 year olds, if you feel your daughter might benefit, please come in and chat'

Spanish Visitors

Our Y6 classes hosted 15 visitors from a school in Barcelona before half term, and all seemed to have a good time. My thanks to the families that hosted Spanish children at their homes on the Wednesday evening, I am assured that the Spanish children said that this was their favourite part of the week! More Spanish children will be here next February – so get learning your Spanish Y5!

North Yorkshire Community Messaging

In recent weeks police have had several incidents of theft and attempted theft of lead from homes and garages. Can residents who have lead on their properties please be mindful. If you wish for security advice, please contact your local Safer Neighbourhood Team on 101 or visit the North Yorkshire Police Website.

If you are interested in local policing and care about the safety and protection of your local community, this could be the volunteering role for you.

In North Yorkshire there are a number of volunteers who help the Commissioner and Chief Constable scrutinise and support local policing, looking into all different elements of policing and this new group requires a cross section of the community to get involved.

The Police Practice Community Review Groups will be focusing on the use of Stop and Search and Use of Force, both issues which have draw local and national attention recently. As a volunteer you will help review and feedback to the Commissioner and Chief Constable on local policing practices, in turn making sure policing improves in your community and there is greater legitimacy in policing in North Yorkshire.

Volunteers for this group can come from all sections of the community – parents, business people, community representatives, young people and many others too. You should be committed and interested and prepared to attend quarterly meetings, and keen to learn and understand how policing is undertaken, the legislation surrounding policing practice and able to provide clear views and feedback. The review groups will assess and provide feedback on the appropriate use of these powers, identifying good practice and areas for learning, making referrals and recommendations to single county-wide Stop and Search and Use of Force Scrutiny Panel.

To find out more about this role and other volunteering opportunities, visit our website:

www.northyorkshire-pfcc.gov.uk/jobs