



Dear Parents/Carers,

Where has this half-term gone? Only one week until our Autumn break! There's been a real buzz about school this week with trips out, in-house sporting competitions as well as lots of visitors. It's been great to welcome governors back into school who have been looking at our maths and SEND provision this week. We're looking forward to reading their reports. I really enjoyed meeting a group of parents to discuss our school meal provision. It was very productive and I think we came up with some great ideas to increase the popularity of our school meals (watch out for details of our afternoon tasting session AND our invitation to parent/pupil lunch)! Next week, after several calendar clashes, I am delighted to say that I am at last welcoming Amy and Martin from the parish council into our lovely school to show them exactly what we have to offer.

Thank you again for your support regarding our sponsored walk. Pupils are doing so well in collecting their sponsor money and bringing it into school. Ideally we're trying to have all money into school by Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October so that we can find out our grand total, as well as announce our prize-winning class.

Progress reports will be with you next week along with details of our parent evenings in November. These meetings will be held face-to-face in school unless we have an outbreak of Covid cases in which case we will revert to the online process, School Cloud. We'll keep you updated.

Have a lovely weekend!

Lindsay Hamilton



## Excellent Enrichment!



Enrichment homework for this half term is coming in thick and fast but this piece completely blew our socks off! Y7 Geographers were given the task of producing a 3D map of Russia showing its key geographical features such as the the Caucasus, Ural, Sayan and Yablonovyy mountain ranges, the volcanic region on the Kamchatka Peninsula, the 4 biomes as well as densely and sparsely populated cities. Hugh has worked incredibly hard, demonstrating excellent knowledge and skills. Well done, Hugh – this is something to be proud of!

Enrichment Homework due date:

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October**





## Y8 History

As part of their study about the Industrial Revolution, Y8 braved the weather to visit Killhope Lead Mine this week in Weardale. An underground tour in the mine, a stint of 'hard labour' as a washer boy processing the raw lead ore, and, a short spell next to the fire in the miners' lodgings were just some of the things they experienced during their visit. A big 'thank you' to our lovely Mrs Hill for accompanying Mr Ramshaw and his class.







## Microscope Marvels!



In Science, Year 7 have been using microscopes to examine and draw human cheek cells. Their skill in focusing the microscopes and creating microscopic slides has improved considerably in the past 2 weeks.





## Lots of 'Pawtential'!

We are VERY excited, and can't wait, to welcome Rachel Martin and 'Gus' from Pawtential Unleashed into school on 11<sup>th</sup> November! Benefits of a support dog visiting school can have many positive influences on children and young people, such as helping to build self-esteem as well as helping to build interaction skills with others. There are cognitive benefits as support dogs can help to stimulate memory and problem solving skills. Mental and emotional health benefits show that support dogs help to reduce anxiety and help lift moods. Interacting with therapy dogs can also help to improve a students' reading skills, stimulate memory and problem-solving skills, optimise executive-functioning skills, support concentration, attention, motivation, and relaxation which in turn reflects reduction of high stress levels which inhibit effective learning and performance. Support dogs are relatively new to schools but have been recognised as a positive addition. Twelve Ofsted reports since 2016 have praised schools for using support dogs.



This is Gus! Gus is just beginning his career as a support dog and is currently going through training on a daily basis. We can't wait to see the impact a support dog has within school! Watch this space...

## School News



A reminder to our Y8 parents that you must have applied for a Y9 school place for your child by 31<sup>st</sup> October. A direct link to the portal can be reached [here](#) where you will need to login to access the application form. If you need any help, please give us a call.



Please, please, please complete the short 'home technology' questionnaire which has been glued into your child's journal today. We are keen to ensure that we know which families need support with technology devices at home so that we're fully prepared should any child need to isolate and work remotely from home. Your prompt support in completing this form would be greatly appreciated. Thank you!





## Dates for your diary...

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October

Progress Reports posted home

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October

Barrasford Quarry – Y8

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October

Y5 Creative Writing visit - Craggside

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October**

**School closes for half-term**

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November

Teacher Training Day – school closed

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November**

**School re-opens**

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November

Newcastle Castle & Keep – Y7

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November

Pawtential Unleashed – visiting support dog 🐕

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November

The Sill, Northumberland National Park – Y6

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November

Gurdwara Temple, Newcastle – Y8

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November

Parents' Evening: 4pm – 7pm

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November

Curry Night at BMS from 7pm

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November

Parents' Evening: 4pm – 7pm

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November

Hindu Temple, Newcastle – Y7

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> November

Coffee Afternoon with Mrs Hamilton – all welcome!

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December

Coffee Morning with Mrs Hamilton – all welcome!

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December

Marine Society and Sea Cadets workshop – Y5 & Y6

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December

Marine Society and Sea Cadets workshop – Y7 & Y8

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December

Christmas Jumper Day

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December

Enrichment Homework reward - afternoon

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December

Christmas Parties - afternoon

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December

Christmas Fayre: 1:30pm – 3:00pm

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December

Christmas Performance – 6:30pm, St Cuthbert's

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December**

**School closes for Christmas holidays**

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Training Day

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

**School opens for Spring term**

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Pantomime, Theatre Royal, Newcastle

(Oh yes, we are!)