



Newsletter 5 - 12th November 2021

Neil's Retirement

Goodbye

We are sad to say that our caretaker Neil has decided to retire this Christmas. He has worked so hard to support the school and been a good friend and colleague - we will really miss him and wish him all the best for a very long and happy retirement!

We will be advertising for a new caretaker to start in January.

Play and Stay

Play and stay will be on a Friday morning, 9am-10am and will be held in the school hall. Facemasks will need to be worn inside and we request where possible that you still social distance. If this is your first visit to play and stay then please contact the school to book a place either by phone or by email.

Please enter via the staff entrance through the top gate opposite the office.

Each session costs £1 which goes towards refreshments and resources.



Parking Outside School

We would just like to remind everyone to park considerately around the school at drop off and picking up times. Please avoid parking too close to junctions and in places which create a hazard for pedestrians and other road users. We have had a letter this week from Lynesack and Softley Parish Council expressing particular concerns about parking on Diamond Bank and near the bend. We appreciate that there is little space to park near school but would appreciate your support to try to improve the situation.

Thank you to all the parents who are able to walk to school for drop off and pick up time. Thank you also to everyone who is helping us by parking considerately.

Small Electrical Recycling Scheme

Butterknowle School are taking part in the small electrical recycling scheme. If you have any small appliances such as irons, phones, kettles, toasters, hairdryers, straightener, games equipment they can now be recycled through school. A leaflet will be sent home tonight with more details. There is also a competition to enter for anyone who has recycled an item.

We also have a battery recycling facility in school now. You can send in any used batteries and once we have filled the cylinder, they will be collected for recycling.

Durham Savers – North East Credit Union

The North East Credit Union has developed a new app which you can use to manage the money you have in the account – information attached in the e-mail.

We would also like to know if everyone would be interested in restarting the Durham Savers Club through school so that the children can save a regular amount of money again. Please email us if you would like us to restart the savings and if enough people are interested, we will organise a weekly collection day.



Poppy Day

On Thursday 11th November the whole school will be walking up to the war memorial to place the poppies that the children have made and to have a time of reflection. We will be leaving school at 10.45am ready for 2 minutes silence at 11am. All are welcome to join us. Poppies and other merchandise will be available in school to purchase from Monday 8th November.

Christmas card orders

Your child will have received a copy of their Christmas card design, if you would like to place an order, the order form needs to be returned to school **no later than Monday 8th November**. Any orders sent after this date will unfortunately not be able to be ordered.



Shoe box appeal

A huge thank you to all who donated items for the shoe box appeal we were able to send 7 boxes which is phenomenal! And a thank you to Sarah Watson for dropping off

the boxes at Cornerstone Church .

On Monday 18th the Year 5 and 6 children took part in the cross country at Staindrop Comprehensive. They all tried extremely hard and Jack Matthews came 9th out of 62 children.

In owls this week we have been measuring broom sticks,

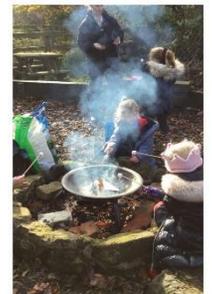
Christmas Play

This year there will be 2 Christmas plays which will be held in the school hall. We will be doing 2 performances KS2 will be on Monday 6th December 2pm and 5.30pm and EYFS/ KS1 will be on Wednesday 8th December 2pm and 5.30pm. 2 tickets per family will initially be available **1 per performance** to ensure that everyone is able to attend. Any spare tickets will be released nearer to the time. Tickets will be available nearer the event.

Learning around school



In Blackbirds, we had a Super Halloween party. We all got dressed up in our spooky costumes and had lots of fun carving our pumpkin and decorating gingerbread biscuits.



Butterknowle Community Christmas Fayre

Butterknowle Village Hall Saturday

27th November 5-9pm

Free Entry – All Welcome

Enjoy a Christmas shopping night! Various stalls including cakes, magic tricks, toy stall, flowers, fudge, sweets, FM perfume, homemade crafts. Scentsy, Avon, plus lots more!

learning about Diwali and we enjoyed a sunny morning down at the forest school area toasting marshmallows and thinking of words to put on our word bonfire linked to Fireworks.

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