

**Newsletter Spring 2 Week 1**

I would like to welcome all our children back from their half term holiday. I hope that everyone is feeling refreshed and eager to start a new half term!

I feel very privileged to be taking up the role of Interim Head Teacher here at Bellingham Primary and want to take the opportunity in this week’s newsletter to introduce myself. I am an experienced teacher with a variety of leadership experience in the education sector. I have worked for many years as Deputy and more recently as Head of School within the Bishop Bewick Trust in Newcastle. My previous experience includes working as an Early Years Consultant for Newcastle School Improvement Service. I have also spent time as Acting Head at a school in Durham. More recently, I have been supporting schools within Bishop Bewick Trust who are preparing for their Ofsted inspection.

A Mum of 3 children, I am busy outside of work too. My twin sons play football for NUFC and I enjoy going along to matches to support them. My daughter is reading English Literature at Newcastle University and is currently in her 3rd year. I live in Ponteland with my husband Mark where we are often to be found walking our black Labrador called Diego!

It has been lovely to meet your children in school today. They have learned a bit about me and now I would like to use the next few weeks to get to know them. I have asked that they write to me by letter or on Class Dojo to tell me about themselves and also what they would like for their school. Please encourage them to do this as it will get us all off to a great start!

I am looking forward to meetings parents and so would like to invite you to an informal coffee morning this Thursday morning at 9am. I will be hosting this in the school hall and parents should make their way through the main door after dropping children off. It will give people a chance to put a face to a name! If you are unable to attend and wish to meet individually then please do make an appointment through Mrs Piggford in the school office.

Parents will be aware that Miss Symons has been off work for a period. Miss Symons has decided to take a break from teaching and so on behalf of parents, pupils and governors, I would like to thank her for her contribution to the school and wish her every success in the future. Year 2 will continue to be taught by Mrs Timms and Ms Raphael until Easter at the very earliest. I am currently reviewing a sustainable option which will be least impactive to the class and will endeavour to provide details of this as soon as I can.

Other highlights

Thank you to Mrs Breckons who has kindly allowed us to hatch some of her farm chicks in school. She was able to bring some hatched chicks in today and the children were excited to see them! Spring has truly arrived! We will monitor the hatching process with bated breath, keeping you updated with photos through Class Dojo.

School Attendance figures for the week beginning 16th February are as follows…

Reception-94%

Year 1- 95%

Year 2-96%

Year 3- 92%

Year 4- 90%

Please encourage your child to keep good attendance.

Teachers and ‘Friends of Bellingham Primary’ are hosting a ‘Bring and Buy Book Sale Extravaganza’ in the school hall at 3.15pm on Friday 8th March. We are asking for contributions of good quality books that you are looking to clear out of your cupboards at home. The more books we receive the more successful our sale will be. Please be generous and begin bringing them in from Monday.

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| Monday 26th  February | **Teacher Training Day** |
| Tuesday 27th  February | School Open.  Children welcomed back after half term. |
| Wednesday 28thth  February |  |
| Thursday 29th | **Coffee Morning for Parents. 9am** |
| Friday 1st March |  |
| Monday 4th  March | Music with Mrs Armstrong (afternoon) |
| Tuesday 5th March | PE- all children to come in PE kit ready for activities with Mr Ellison.  Forest School session. (Reception and Year 1)  Team Building after school club- Mr Ellison |
| Wednesday 6th | Art club after school club- Miss Mundy |
| Thursday 7th March | Swimming – Reception and Year 1  You will need : swimming kit, towel, bag, goggles. Payment can be made via ParentPay. |
| Friday 8th March | **WORLD BOOK DAY!**  Please come dressed in pyjamas or a costume of your choice, bringing with you your favourite book.  **BRING AND BUY BOOK SALE!**  Parents will be invited into the school hall for a ‘Bring and Buy Book Sale Extravaganza’! From 3.15pm until 4pm a variety of children’s books will be on sale in the hall. 3 Golden Ticket Book Vouchers will be hidden inside some books. I wonder who will be our lucky winners? Please collect your child as normal from the usual door then come back through the main door at the office entrance. Books will be on sale from 20 pence- £1 |



*Please contact school as soon as possible if your child is absent – thank you.*

***For the safety of all children - please inform school directly if there are any changes to your child’s home time arrangements – thankyou.***