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Headteacher: [Mr Kevin Moloney](#)

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a year the past 12 months have been - who would have contemplated not just a worldwide pandemic but also the level of disruption to all areas of society and our lives. I certainly never envisaged that school would be closed for the amount of time it has been and my sincere hope is that once we re-open to everyone on the 8th March, that will be the last time we will have had to close our doors to all pupils.



We are working on preparations for a safe return for all pupils and staff. Staff will continue to be tested twice weekly for the virus and children will come back to their class bubbles.

We will continue to insist that only one adult per family should drop off and collect and we expect adults to maintain social distancing rules at these times.

We will be sending out more information shortly on our re-opening and expectations, which

will hopefully answer any queries or concerns you may have.

The first few days back next week will invariably be busy, so please continue to use the admin email if you have a message to pass on.

We have some members of staff still shielding until after Easter, so please bear with us - we will try to get back to you as soon as we can.

Spring is here...

Spring always seems to fill us with renewed optimism as everything comes back to life, which is sort of how school feels at the moment. We have been dormant for so many for so long and we are now excited to welcome back all year groups, making the building a vibrant, noisy place once more.

Kevin Moloney
Headteacher



Thank you!

A huge thank you to Lesbury Parish Council for a recent generous donation of £500. This will enable us to buy 2 more Chromebooks for pupils to use.



ADFB

Please donate whatever you can to the Alnwick District Food Bank. They perform a much needed service to the local community and we accept donations all year round. Drop items in to the box in the school's front entrance.



A reminder that we have a small number of pupils in school with severe nut allergies. Exposure to nuts and nut products can cause a rapid and serious reaction for these individuals. We ask for your co-operation in not sending any nut product in to school, either as a snack or in your child's packed lunch.

Thank you.

WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**
4 MARCH 2021

On **Thursday 4th March** we will be celebrating World Book Day. Whilst it may be a little different this year, we still have lots of fun activities for your family to take part in to celebrate the joy of reading! We can't wait to see all of the wonderful things you get up to, from exploring our whole school book **Journey** by Aaron Becker, to having a go at the potato character challenge. Do look out for the videos of the adults from our school community sharing some of their favourite stories too. Happy reading!



You should have all received a letter outlining some of the great activities planned. A copy can be found here: [Hipsburn WBD 2021](#)

You can also access a digital version of the £1 book token by following the link: [Claim your digital book token](#)

Red noses have gone green



Have you heard? Comic Relief is back on Friday 19th March and the famous **red noses** are now 100% plastic-free! Look out for further info as to how we'll be celebrating, but, in the meantime, please donate what you can to this great charity.



You can scan the QR code or follow the link to our school facebook page: [Donate to Red Nose Day](#)

Keeping active...whatever the weather!

We may not have been able to do Joe Wicks Live this particular morning, but that didn't stop us getting fit and active so we could have a healthy mental marvellous magical Monday. We made our own Hipsburn Wicks instead! We soon forgot the chill in the air as we got our heart rates going and our bodies moving and stretching. We had lots of fun and it was a great way to start the day.



We've received some great news from Franki Clark, the Northumberland School Games Organiser. Our year 4 pupils have qualified for the Alnwick and Berwick School Games 2021! The qualifying schools are Hipsburn and Tweedmouth West year 4s for cricket and Glendale Middle and Swarland for athletics. Congratulations to all the children in year 4! I know you all had great fun competing. Thanks go to Miss Barron for diligently adding up all the scores. What happens next is to be confirmed, be it face to face or virtually, we wish Hipsburn year 4 cricketers the very best of luck in the finals.
Miss Haswell

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GONG XI FA CHAI



Finally, as a fitting end to our celebration we were treated to a special Chinese lunch and got our very own lucky red envelope and fortune cookie as an extra treat.

Happy Year of the Ox for 2021 everyone!

Children at school have recently been busy preparing for Chinese New Year Celebrations. We have learnt lots of fascinating facts about the Chinese culture, geographical facts and comparing some of their traditions to our own. We have had lots of fun making masks for our Chinese play, trying some origami and using our craft skills to make 3D dragons and special red envelopes. We have had a go with some Chinese writing, numbers and symbols as part of exploring facts about our own Zodiac animal. We also worked as a group to make an enormous dragon which involved lots of construction and sticky fingers.



Preschool at play...

Here are preschool children celebrating Chinese New Year by making their own red rice to make Chinese numbers and creating a homemade dragon. It might have been cold outside but they are a hardy bunch and had great fun!



michael morpurgo



Last half term the children in Key Stage 2 had the opportunity to take part in a 'Seven Stories' author event with Michael Morpurgo.

We submitted some excellent questions for the Q&A session and did some super research into some of Michael Morpurgo's books (many of which were already very popular with the children in Ford and Etal classes!).

It was a brilliant event where we learnt a lot about the inspiration and writing techniques for his books.

We now have some very inspired young authors!



We love seeing what you all get up to whilst learning at home - here are some pupils from Alnwick class getting up to all sorts of interesting-looking things!



Ford creativity...

Pupils in Ford class have been working hard on creating their own Scratch coding games with sound. Here is a link to one by **Oscar**. How many fish can you catch before you get nipped by the crafty crab?

<https://scratch.mit.edu/projects/474281878>

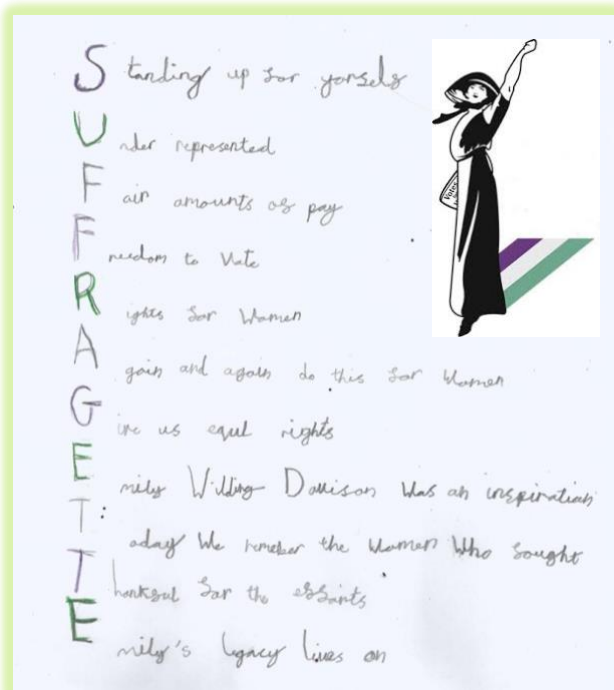


Emma from Ford Class also entered this excellent poem in the 2021 Inspiring Northumbrian Women Poetry Competition:

Grace lived on a coast in a rocky place
 Rolling waves as tall as mountains crashed against the shore
 A tall, red and white lighthouse was her home
 Crashing into the island came a boat
 Even the bravest of sailors were threatened by the towering waves
 Daringly Grace and her father sailed out into the sea to help the people
 All around their boat the storm was wild
 Raging water all around
 Lightning flashing and thunder bashing
 In their tiny boat
 Now they see people in the water and go right up
 Grateful faces in the lighthouse



Here is another excellent entry from Verity about the brave suffragette buried in Morpeth, Emily Wilding Davison.



Ford class had great fun playing in the snow recently then uploading their snow pictures and videos onto our padlet 'Snow Much Fun'. Check them out here:
[Snow Much Fun](#)



Each class has their own reading padlet which is accessed through google classroom - Ford class have given you a sneaky peak into theirs...
[Ford Reading Room](#)

