



Wearhead Primary School

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Headteacher: Tim Hiley - B.Ed (Hons) NPQH

*"THE SMALL SCHOOL WITH THE BIG HEART"
"El Colegio más pequeño con el corazón más grande."*



Wearhead Warrior

Working together to support each other

Issue 22 – Friday 2nd October

As you will see from the paragraph below a new executive headteacher has been appointed to lead the Upper Dales Federation from January 2020. This is an important step for the federation and will allow things to move forward for the benefit of all the children of Upper Weardale and Teesdale.

It does of course mean my temporary appointment will come to an end in December and it is true to say I will be very sad to say goodbye to the children and staff I have grown to know so well over a period that was initially supposed to be just two terms but grew to two years. I hope that during my time here I have been able to bring many positive ideas to the school and help some wonderful children along part of their learning journey with us. However, I am still here for the next three months and we have an awful lot to look forward to and enjoy during this time.

There will be a letter in your child's school bag with more information about the federation. The letter is from Rachel Greaves, Chair of the Federation working party but in the meantime if you have any questions about the new federation and how it will impact on our children, please do not hesitate to get in touch. If I cannot answer your questions directly I will be able to direct you to the new Executive Headteacher or Chair of the Federation Governing board.

Message from Zelda Heney - Chair of Governors

'You may be aware that Wearhead School is joining in a Federation with three other Primary schools in the Upper Dales; St John's Chapel, Rookhope and Forest in Teesdale. The Working Group for the Federation have continued to work together during the summer and interviews were held for the post of Executive Head Teacher on the 30th September 2020 and Mrs Hodgkinson was duly appointed to this post. A letter will be coming out to parents today from the federation working party to explain the position of the four schools going forward. If you have any concerns please do not hesitate to contact me through the school.'

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Hiley for the contribution he has made as Head Teacher at Wearhead School. I know that staff, parents and children have all valued his experience, support and good humour as well as his excellent IT skills. He made an outstanding contribution to managing the education of all the pupils during lockdown and in integrating children back into school. I know that I speak for us all in wishing him well in the future.'

Toys and Pencil Cases

As the term has progressed we have noticed a few children starting to bring in things such as toys and notebooks from home to play with during the day. Ordinarily this would not be a problem however, with our Covid-secure regime we will ask that this does not happen anymore.



International World Food Day - 16th October 2020

World Food Day is celebrated every year around the world on 16 October in honour of the date of the founding of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in 1945. On this day we will be holding a special "Spanish Day" in school when we will be taking part in a range of Spanish themed activities as well as tasting a whole range of traditional or special Spanish foods. Keep a look out for further details next week.

Official Opening of Our Newly Decorated Library

Now that our refurbishment of the Library and Hallway have been completed with wonderful artworks by Mrs Stemberge along with a whole host of other improvements led by Mrs Turnbull is complete, we want to mark this with some official opening activities. To do this, we will be holding a special book week immediately after half term with a selection of fun activities and events. We will give you more details in the next couple of weeks.

Harvest Festival

Due to Covid restrictions we will not be able to host a Harvest Festival in school this year. However, this is an important event in our calendar so we will be having a harvest afternoon in school on Friday 23rd October. This will involve a range of activities and events on a harvest theme. We would also like to collect for the Weardale Foodbank based in Stanhope so we will be inviting you to send in a range of non-perishable food stuff that you can spare during the last week of half term. Once these items have been held in school for 72 hours we will forward it on to the Foodbank to help families in Weardale who are experiencing difficulties during this challenging time.

Flu Immunisation

Just a reminder that the Flu Immunisation Programme will be taking place in school on Tuesday 6th October in the morning. This year, more than ever, flu immunisation is important not only to help prevent the children getting the flu virus but to also potentially stop the spread of flu to older more vulnerable people where flu and Covid together could prove a very dangerous combination.

If you have not yet completed the online registration form please do so as soon as possible if you want your child to have the immunisation.

Mr Hopper - Monday 12th October

Just a reminder that the next Mr Hopper Day is in two weeks' time on Monday 12th October. Next week is a normal Monday with the children needing to come to school in their school uniform and then their outdoor gear the week after.

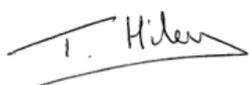
NHS Guidance on Obtaining Coronavirus tests.

Please see the attached letter from the NHS containing useful information about testing for children under 16. We do have a small number of test kits in school for parents who are unable to get a test through the normal procedures. If you feel that you need to access one please contact school and we will arrange a safe handover or delivery.

Quote for the week

"We keep moving forward, opening new doors, and doing new things because we're curious and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths."

Walt Disney - Animator



Tim Hiley
Headteacher





Test and Trace

23 September 2020

Dear parents and guardians,

This is an important letter to share some information on how we can work together to make sure we can continue to give children and young people the best education in the safest way possible.

One important part of ensuring the safety and wellbeing of pupils, parents and our communities is testing for coronavirus. We all have a duty to make sure that the right people have access to get tested at the right time. Every time a test is used inappropriately, a person with Covid-19 symptoms may miss out on getting tested.

Therefore, I ask that you all follow these principles:

- You should only book a test if your child has any of these three coronavirus symptoms:
 1. **a high temperature:** any new high temperature where your child feels hot to touch on their chest or back (you do not need to measure the temperature)
 2. **a new continuous cough:** coughing a lot for more than an hour, or three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
 3. **a loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste:** a noticeable loss of smell or taste or things smell and taste different to normal
- Your child **does not need a test** if they have a runny nose, are sneezing or feeling unwell but do not have a temperature, cough or loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste because these are not normally symptoms of coronavirus.
- If you are unsure about whether to get a test, please check the official list of symptoms on the NHS website, which is reviewed regularly:
www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/
- Only the person with symptoms should get a test. You do not need to get a test for anyone else in the household unless they also have any of the three symptoms listed above. All members of the household need to self-isolate whilst waiting for the test result.