



Explore, Learn and Grow Together

*Brewery Road
Wooler
Northumberland
NE71 6QF*

Wednesday 16th November 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Please find below an end of half term update from across our schools and important information regarding the start of next half term on Monday next week.

Harvest Festivals

A huge **THANK YOU!** to everyone for the kind donations that we received for our Harvest Celebrations last week. We had a great time together here in school celebrating the harvest and it was a real shame that we were not able to welcome family and friends to join us. Both the Wooler First School and the Glendale Middle School Harvest celebrations were a joy with the children singing and playing brilliantly. We have captured both events on camera and will be posting them on our school websites in due course for everyone to enjoy (I hope to get the films put together this week and have them uploaded at the start of the new half term next week). These were our first performance events for a very long time and the children sang, played, spoke and danced brilliantly. We were able to make 17 harvest boxes at the First School and these were distributed out to nominated recipients on Friday last week. Glendale gathered a car load of food and toiletries and Miss Johnston delivered these to the Alnwick Food bank at the weekend.

Parent Consultations

It was lovely to see parents and carers back in school for the First School parent consultations a couple of weeks ago – thank you all for coming to speak to teachers, support your children's learning and for following our COVID procedures here on site. Sadly we had to move from face-to-face meetings to tutor phone calls for our Year 5 parent consultations at Glendale last week due to rising COVID cases. We also had to postpone our planned SEND parents meetings arranged with Miss Dunn & Ms Morris – we will be trying these again later next half term...fingers crossed!

Middle School Admissions portal closes on 31st October

Just a final reminder that the Northumberland County Council School Admission Portal closes for Middle School applications on Sunday 31st October. All Year 4 children need to apply for a Middle School place at Glendale, movement from Wooler First to Glendale Middle is not automatic even though we share facilities here in school. The link to the NCC portal is below:

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Education/Schools/School-admissions-places-appeals-1.aspx>

Bikeability for Year 5 & Year 6 – reminder.

Amidst all of the disruption caused by COVID absences of both pupils and staff we managed to complete Bikeability training across Year 5 & 6 at Glendale over the last two weeks. We have missed this valuable safety training over the last year or so which is why this was opened up to all children in both year groups this autumn. All of the children who took part successfully passed both the Level 1 (off-road) and Level 2 (on –road) elements of the training. Well done to everyone who took part (and to parents & carers for getting the children's bikes into school to enable them to take part). Hopefully we will see more children using their bikes to get to and from school. Children using their bikes for school must wear a helmet, some form of reflective clothing, have bike lights as appropriate and have a lock to secure their bike in the school bike racks.

Painted stones for Christmas 2021

We have been approached to support a lovely artistic community endeavour as we move towards the festive season this year. The children will be invited to find and decorate a stone with a Christmas message next term. The finished stones will then be displayed around our community to be shared and enjoyed this Christmas time. This will be a home activity so please keep an eye out for a suitable stone when you are out and about over half term. More information will follow in due course.

KS2 testing over half term & 12-15YO vaccine offer

All staff and our Key Stage 3 pupils (Year 7 & Year 8) are being asked to continue home COVID testing, using the LFD test devices provided from school, over the half term break. If the LFD test is positive it needs to be followed by a PCR test and isolation rules followed as instructed by NHS Test & Trace. I do not need to be informed of the test results during the break from school but we will need to know if any children return a positive PCR test during the half term break as we get back to school on Monday 1st November. Messages can be left on the school answer machine at any time over the half term period or an email can be sent to either school admin address:

woolerfirst@woolerandglendale.co.uk

glendalemiddle@woolerandglendale.co.uk

COVID Infection Control Measures from Monday 1st November 2021

As we have all seen and experienced over the last few weeks Coronavirus continues to impact our community across the Wooler and Glendale area. On Friday afternoon last week all Northumberland head teachers received notification from Audrey Kingham (Director of Education and Skills) and Liz Morgan (Interim Executive Director Public Health) at Northumberland County Council of additional COVID prevention measures in our schools. Along with my update today there is also a copy of their letter to parents and carers outlining these measures – we will be implementing them here at school from Monday 1st November. These measures were not unexpected and we are able to implement them swiftly as the children and staff return to school next week. This will impact on certain aspects of our normal daily routines but we will continue to strive to minimise the impact on children's learning and well-being as we have done throughout the pandemic. Please read the attached letter and also discuss these measures with your children before next week as this will really help us to keep everyone safe and well here in school in the coming weeks. I will update further on how these measures may impact on planned trips and school events as we move towards the festive period. **ALL GLENDALE PUPILS WILL NEED A FACE COVERING NEXT WEEK.**

And finally...

Glendale Annual Sponsored Walk

With the levels of infection still rising in our area I have taken the decision to move the annual Glendale sponsored walk from the autumn term 2021 to the Summer term 2022 (provisional date of Friday 13th May 2022). This is due to the uncertainty regarding school trips & visits being allowed to take place and the uncertainty around levels of staff here at school (and parental/community helpers) to make the walks safe. Hopefully by the Summer next year the situation will have improved significantly and we will all be able to get out and enjoy our local hills.

Glendale Ceilidh Band

Not only did our wonderful Ceilidh band provide the music for our Harvest celebrations last week here in school but they also played and sang at the Climate concert in Alnwick at the weekend. They were brilliant at each event gaining praise from our special guest and internationally recognized master of the English Concertina (and a fine performer on the Northumbrian Pipes) Alistair Anderson. Congratulation to all of the children involved and to Mrs Humphreys, Mrs Cochrane and Mrs Frost for their dedication and skills in supporting this wonderful work with our children.

M.Deane-Hall
Executive Headteacher