



Website: <http://www.lowickholylslandschools.org.uk> Tel (01289)388268 E mail: Admin@lowick.northumberland.sch.uk

Headteacher : Mrs Rebecca Simpson rebecca.simpson@lowick.northumberland.sch.uk

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We are now looking forward to our last week of this half term next week and in particular our **Harvest Festival** which will be at **St Mary's Church on Holy Island at 10.30am**. Parents and families are very welcome to join us but please be mindful that Covid restrictions around wearing face coverings and limiting spaces are in place. We would like to thank everyone who has donated goods for the food bank so far – this is greatly appreciated.

We are also looking forward to welcoming Kuri into school on Monday to talk to the children about Japan from his personal experiences. We hope it will help to bring our Asia topic to life a little more.

Also next week, Pippa has kindly agreed to do a full day of Forest School so we intend to spend Friday outside (weather permitting!) as a lovely way to mark the end of our first half term and the series of excellent sessions she has led since the beginning of term. **Children will need weather appropriate outdoor clothing on Friday 22nd Oct.**



Please keep reading!

We are pleased with how reading is coming on in school. The children are working hard at their phonics in our dedicated Read Write Inc. sessions and we are enjoying listening to children read in our reading for pleasure groups first thing every morning. I am pleased to see the reading records being used at home as well as at school as it helps the children to practise their skills and grows an early love of reading. Please keep remembering to send them into school every day. This is so Important, as reading will help our children access the rest of the curriculum as well as learning for life. Reading is also a source of pleasure, and imaginative journeying for so many, we want our children to understand that joy of getting lost in a good story!

The **MORE** that you
READ, the more things
you will **KNOW**.
The **MORE** that you
Learn, the more places
you'll **GO**.

Dr. Seuss

Reading Records

Dates for your Diary



◆ Thursday 21st October

Harvest Festival 10.30am on Holy Island

◆ Friday 22nd October

Break up for Half Term holiday

◆ Monday 1st November

Return to School

Middle School Portal

For year 4 parents – please remember the middle school portal closes at the end of October. This link will take you to the page on the Northumberland County Council website that will help you complete the online form: <https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Education/Schools/School-admissions-places-appeals-1/Yr-5-Middle-Yr-7-Secondary-Yr-9-High-entry-applica.aspx>

To help with transition we welcomed Mr Duffield from Berwick Middle School in to meet with our KS2 children and do a short talk about middle schools and understand many of our year 4s visited Berwick Middle School for an open evening this week. Glendale Middle has a dedicated area of their website (see the letter from them to our year 4 parents coming home today) and you can arrange a visit with them by calling the school office.

Keeping safe and well

As you will know, we have finally had our first positive cases of Covid in school after having been extremely fortunate for a very long time. Mitigations we have in place in school seem to be helping but there are many cases out in the community and across all the other schools in the area (both Berwick and Alnwick partnerships). As we are not an island and people will have a range of contacts in their normal day to day life it seems like that we will see more cases over the next few months.

The current advice is to send children to school if they are well, even if they have been a close contact. This is the same advice as for double vaccinated adults who also don't need to self-isolate if they are a close contact. This is a significant change from the guidance in place last year.

We would ask you to be very vigilant about Covid symptoms (which isn't easy with a horrible cold going round) and to make use of lateral flow tests, if you are in any doubt, to try and help reduce the spread in our area. Please note that any positive lateral flow test would then need to be confirmed by a PCR test in order to be a confirmed case. More information on the tests and how to order lateral flow tests can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>
We send our warmest well wishes and prayers for people currently suffering and feeling unwell and hope for a speedy recovery.

Quick reminder: please remember the drop off times in the morning for classes 1 and 2 is between **8.20 – 8.30am**.

Tricky Words!

We are focusing on tricky words so over the next few days, your child may bring home a page of tricky (red) words in their reading record. These are the words that don't match the usual blending 'rules' so the best way to learn them is to read them again and again until they can read them speedily. Please help your child to read these words. Thank you for continuing to support your child's learning.

Spellings

Year 1: 'ck'

Eg back, tack, chick

Year 2: the 'r' sound spelt wr at the beginning of words

Eg write, written, wrap

Year 3 & 4: the ending sounding like 'zhun'

Eg division, invasion, confusion

Eco School News

This November, world leaders will gather in Scotland for COP26 - a much anticipated conference for climate for the climate crisis we are in - to decide the next steps that nations must take to protect our planet.

To show decision-makers that we stand united in our hopes for a cleaner, healthier world, we're joining the Wave of Hope campaign led by Crack the Crises – a coalition of more than 70 organisations from across the UK.

We will add our own messages of hope to a homemade 'hand' and display.

Photos of these hands will be added to a gallery and shown at the climate summit so that global leaders can see that we stand united.

These hands represent a wave of hope and change, to highlight how climate change and nature loss are impacting on our ocean, as more of us speak up and demand action for a better future.

We will also be contacting Berwick and Borders Climate Action Group to find out how we can help some more, but until then I have attached details of **Alnwick's Climate Action Day on Saturday 23rd October**, organised by What a Wonderful World, a local not-for-profit group working to inspire and inform people of all ages to help save the planet. working to inspire and inform people of all ages to help save the planet.

There will be: Talks, Music (also from some local schools), Drama Stalls, Top Tips for action, meet your MP and Refreshments. Keep your eyes peeled for our Wave of Hope!

Miss Easten

