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1st February 2019

Following a very positive meeting with Early Years consultants from the county, we are very excited to be extending our nursery offer to include 2 year olds after half term. Please see our 'Nursery News' section for more details.

We have also made changes this week to how we are delivering English across the school. We are making fuller use of the Read Write Inc scheme materials and teaching English in smaller groups for the next few weeks. This intervention will provide a boost for all of our children and allow them to have more adult attention and support in accelerating their reading and writing skills. So far, staff are telling me that the change has been positive and the children are responding very well. We are fortunate, as a small school, to be able to be flexible with our timetable and staffing to allow us to dedicate this time.

We had a visit from Rebecca Maitland on behalf of Lowick Parish Council this week. She has explained to the children that we can help re-decorate the Lowick bus shelter. The children were full of good ideas about what we could include and agreed that it should be very colourful. We look forward to working on their ideas and drawings to help create something bright and inviting for the village.

We will be celebrating Chinese New Year on Tuesday (5<sup>th</sup> Feb). It is also our afternoon for our forest school session at Ford. I hope they are ready for a visit from our dragon! Please remember to send your child to school in suitable clothing for being outdoors. We are having a Chinese themed lunch before we go so there is no need for a packed lunch. Our thanks to Margaret, as always, for rising to the challenges we give her.

*Rebecca Simpson*



Mrs Stiansen and Mrs Simpson took part in the collation service for Revd Sarah Hills to Holy Island on Sunday. We welcomed her to the island on behalf of both schools. The girls on Holy Island also made a welcome card, which they have delivered to Revd Sarah at the vicarage. We are looking forward to working with her and she will be coming to Lowick to lead collective worship next Wednesday so the rest of the children will meet her soon.

### After School Clubs

Please note that there will be no Dodge-ball club on Thursday (7th February). Football/ball skills club will take place on Wednesday (6th February). Our football coach, Alan Crosier, is unable to be here that afternoon but Miss Hay will lead the club on this occasion instead.



### Spellings

#### Year 1

ay oy

Ay and oy are used for those sounds at the end of words and at the end of syllables.

Eg day, play, say, way, stay,

boy, toy, enjoy, annoy

#### Year 2

The 'u' sound spelt 'o'

Eg other, mother, brother, nothing, Monday

#### Year 3

Homophones—same sound, different spelling

Eg grate/great, here/hear, peace/piece

### Year 3 Gymnastics Competition

The Year 3 children will be taking part in a Gymnastics Festival and competition at the DC Gymnastics Centre in Berwick on the morning of Friday 1st March. The routines will be delivered by the DC Gymnastics coaches and Year 8 Sports leaders from the local Middle Schools. The children will need to wear their PE kits and will return to school for a late lunch.



### PTA Meeting

You are invited to join us for a PTA Meeting on Wednesday 13th February at 3.00pm to discuss future fundraising events. We would greatly value your input and support as we plan events that raise money to pay for school visits out and educational visitors into school, all of which greatly benefit the children's learning.



### Nursery News

We are extremely excited to announce that, from Monday 25th February, we will be lowering our age range by offering places for 2 year olds. Our nursery will offer funded sessions, where eligible, and also fee paying sessions. Please get in touch for more information or to organise a visit around our fabulous nursery.

The nursery would also like to thank the PTA for their continuous support and for buying nursery some new outdoor dungarees. They have already been put to good use.



### Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 5th Feb	Chinese New Year — the children are invited to wear something red to celebrate Chinese New Year Chinese Banquet for lunch Forest Schools afternoon at Ford School. Please make sure your child has appropriate clothing
Wednesday 13th Feb	PTA Meeting at 3.00pm
Thursday 14th Feb	Musical Theatre afternoon
Friday 15th Feb	School Stops for Half term week
Monday 25th Feb	School restarts — Nursery places available for 2 year olds