

# Felton C of E First School

Thursday May 26th 2016



We are already half way through our extremely busy Summer term, during which the children have already been involved in lots of exciting activities.

## And Still to come before the Summer holidays ....

- Continuation of Tennis Coaching and After school club on Mondays
- Craft club with Charlotte on Tuesdays (Yr1 -4)
- Continuation of Football Coaching with Ryan on Wednesdays after school (Yr1-4)
- After School Choir on Thursdays
- (Yr2/3/4) Whole School 'Den Building Day' in aid of Save the Children
- hosted by the children and featuring and the official Queens Birthday community 'garden party' lunch opening of our "Key Hole" garden
- Family Camping weekend (11<sup>th</sup> June)
- Sports Day , games and stalls, prize giving ceremony, all followed by an outdoor family lunch
- Lifepath at Brinkburn Priory for year 3/4
- Music Celebration Day with local schools involving yrs 2 ,3 and 4 at The Alnwick Garden
- Yr3 Dance Festival with Ms. Stewart
- Reports to Parents
- Brinkburn Priory end of year service

And of course, last but by no means least the eagerly anticipated birth of Mr.P's baby.....!

## A message from the Chair of the FSFA Lucy Grieve

We have quite a few events coming up before the end of term, which we hope you will be able to support.

Sarah Hunter has organised a "**Beat the Clock**" sponsored sports event for the children on the last afternoon of this half term. Parents are very welcome to watch and cheer on the children, with refreshments and cakes being provided. We're looking for donations of cakes from parents to raise funds on the day. Please speak to Sarah if you can help

We shall be running **activities and a cake sale during school sports day** and will be looking for a few parents to help us facilitate this on the day. Please speak to Lucy if you can help.

We have the **family camping night at the school on Saturday 11th June**. We're very much looking forward to welcoming lots of families for a BBQ and games during the early evening, and then a night's camping with friends. Tickets are available from Richard Anderson or Lucy Grieve.

**Our final big fundraiser will be the Duck Race and stall at Felton fair**. We shall again use the fair to publicise and sell tickets for the duck race the next day. This was a massive success last year, which we're hoping to replicate again this year.

Finally, details will follow very shortly for our **big spring ball next year**. We're hoping to make it a celebration ball in honour of us becoming a primary school and use it as a fundraiser and social get together for all.

As always, **we are looking for new parents to get involved and help out where they can**. All help is gratefully received!

**The Queen's Birthday community 'Garden Party' lunch and the official opening of our "Key Hole" garden.**

The first week back is planned a whole school 'mini adventure' centring on British values and culminating in a community lunch in celebration of the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday. The children will be involved in a short presentation, in which they will describe what they have been learning during the week. This will include a description of how team work has allowed them to build and maintain the Key Hole garden. All parents



are invited to join us in the school grounds from 11.30am to listen to the children and then afterwards for a fabulous community lunch 'garden party style'. Please use the new online response form to let us know if you are coming. Tickets paid for in the office from tomorrow, and picked up from Monday June 6<sup>th</sup>.

## Sport's Morning

**On Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June**, we look forward to welcoming you all to our **Sport's Morning**. In order to ensure a prompt start, please could all athletes arrive at school wearing their sports kit.

As usual athletes will head off in their teams to begin our 'potted sports' events. Each event is an opportunity for the children to earn points for their team total. Children from Reception to Year 4 will work together in mixed age teams while the Nursery children will participate as two small groups. After the events, children will then be able to compete individually in traditional track races. Parents beware; we may also look to sign you up in some races too!

The FSFA will also be running some stalls and games for you to enjoy and to raise money for school funds. These are always a huge success and we greatly appreciate the time and effort that goes into its organisation, as well as your contributions and support.

If that wasn't quite enough for one morning, you are also invited to stay and join us for Community Lunch after the sports have finished. We will be sending out invitations shortly, we look forward to seeing you there.

## Attendance

As you may remember, our school absence figures have in previous years, been above the national average of for all schools. However, current attendance figures (September 2015 - May 2016), show that only **2.2%** of sessions have been missed so far this year which is below the national average. I am delighted with this continued improvement and thank all parents for their support of our efforts to improve our attendance figures.

## Safety onsite

Please note that recently, we have witnessed several children exiting school by running across the grass, then across the car park through the parked cars and finally out of the gates to meet with their parents at the footpath entrance. Can we stress that this is against school health and safety arrangements and presents a risk to both children and staff. We would be very grateful if, as parents, you would ensure all children leave school on foot and by the footpath. All bikes and scooters must be pushed, not ridden until they are off site. Thank you!

## Additional Training Day

To coincide with the change of local schools to Primary status from September, we are having a shared training day with partnership schools at the beginning of the Autumn term. This means that school will not now reopen until Weds 7<sup>th</sup> September and not on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> as previously advertised. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

## New Appointments & Departures

We are very pleased to announce the election **Mrs Rachel Murphy as the new chair of our Governing Body**. Those of you who know Rachel will know her to be an enthusiastic and passionate supporter of our school and we are delighted to be supported (and challenged!) by her and the rest of our dedicated governors as we move into the next exciting phase of our development. The staff and Governors would also like to offer our sincere thanks to Dr John Verney who stepped down as chair this term after 8 years of fantastic service to our school.

We are delighted to have appointed **a new class teacher for year 4/5 from September**. The successful candidate is currently a Year 4 teacher, and will bring to our existing team specialisms in science, maths and music. As soon as we have completed the necessary checks we will ensure that parents and children will know the name, and will have the opportunity to meet with our new teacher before the next academic year.

After 17 years Mr Weddell has hung up his caretaker's brush and dustpan! We held a retirement lunch for him last week, surrounded by the children and family and colleagues. He will be sorely missed, **"Thank you Mr Weddell**



**for all your help and stories over the years"**. We are, however, pleased to inform you that **Linda Crisp** has taken on the role of caretaker with immediate effect. Following Fiona Thornton's regrettable retirement due to ill health, **Claire Preston** has also been made the permanent replacement school cook. We are delighted to welcome both ladies to their new roles.

Finally, as some of you may have heard, we are very lucky to have secured the services of **Mrs Jean Burroughs** as our Sport's Coordinator from September. Jean will work alternate half terms (on a Wednesday) and will teach PE across the school, offer an after school club and in house support, provide CPD within



PE and organise and co-ordinate a range of external opportunities and intra and inter- school festivals. We are looking forward to this exciting opportunity to develop opportunities for our children to be involved in a variety of competitions and festivals with other schools in the local area.

And finally this week saw the end of another era with **Ms Stewart's last day in school**. We are so sad to see her go and know that our school will be a poorer place without her. However, we wish her every



happiness in her retirement and are very much looking forward to the final Year 3 play at the Alnwick

Playhouse – there will not be a dry eye in the house!!

**I wish you all a lovely half term break and look forward to a happy and very busy last half term before the Summer holidays!**

**Suzanne Connolly**



# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## Diary Dates For May 2016 – September 2016

*Please note more dates will be inevitably added as opportunities arise for trips out and sporting events in the last half of term. As always we will give you as much notice as possible of any new arrangements.*

Friday 27 <sup>nd</sup> May	School closes for half term 'Beat the Clock' event organised by FSFA
<b>June</b>	
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> June	Back to school
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> June	Garden Party lunch for the Queen (11.30am onwards)
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> June	FSFA Family camping event in the school field
w/c Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> June	Yr1 phonics screen
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> June	School Sports' Morning and Community Lunch ( 9.15am )
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> and Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Ms Stewart's Year 3 Dance Festival (Weds night performance at the Alnwick Playhouse)
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Lifepath at Brinkburn for years 3/4
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	Shared music event at The Alnwick Garden for Years 2/3/4 (day time – details to follow separately)
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> June	Boat building for Felton Duck race (TBC)
<b>July</b>	
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> July	Reports to parents
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> July	Felton Village Fair (Recreation Ground)
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> July	FSFA Duck race (At the Bridge)
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	Whole School Celebration Service at Brinkburn Priory
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> July	School closes for Summer Holidays
<b>September</b>	
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> September	Teacher Training Day
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> September	Teacher Training Day
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> September	School re-opens as Felton Church of England Primary School