

# Melsonby Methodist Primary School Newsletter

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Facebook page: Melsonby Methodist Primary School

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

## **Red Nose Day and Cross country**

Look out for cross country and Red Nose Day photos coming to facebook soon and also we would like to thank Mr Key (Bena and Harvey's Granddad) for baking us more than fifty super Red Nose Cakes. Super effort, thank you!

## **School update**

In order to make our school more visible to prospective parents we have talked to and left promotional material at 17 private day nurseries in Darlington. We have constructed a well-used facebook page as well as the school website. School prospectuses have been distributed around 11 estate agents in Darlington requesting that they give them to parents looking for housing in the area. We have also registered the school on Darlington's list of available primary schools. Furthermore we are in the process of starting up a nursery provision at the school, more to follow on that below.

## **Nursery update**

After the consultation period had come to an end and everyone's views had been carefully considered the governing body voted unanimously to lower the school admission age to 3 years in order to set up a nursery provision at Melsonby. You will see that a marketing letter has been distributed today to all houses in the village. If you do know of anyone locally who may need nursery provision from September then please let them know about us. Thank you to all of you who returned the consultation paper.

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## SATS Week

SATS Timetable May 2015	
Monday 11/05/15	English – Reading Comprehension
Tuesday 12/05/15	English – Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling Test
Wednesday 13/05/15	Mental Maths Test and Maths Paper 1
Thursday 14/05/15	Maths Paper 2

If any of our Year 6 parents or indeed pupils have any concerns over the SATS please contact Mr Watson directly. I do feel the Year 6 pupils are really applying themselves well in order to prepare for the SATS. Well done Year 6 and keep up the good work.

## Wall Repair

It has taken nearly 3 years to arrange for the repair to the playground wall but I'm pleased to announce work will commence on it from Monday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March and this work is due to continue over 4 weeks ending on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April. Please be assured all health, safety and safeguarding procedures will be in full operation during the project.

## Facebook

A new Melsonby School Facebook page has been constructed during the Christmas holidays so please have a browse. If there is anything that you think we can add to it please let me know. I would like to thank Mrs Jackson who gave some of her time and a lot of her knowledge and experience to assist in fine tuning our page for us. The page is **Melsonby Methodist Primary School**. You can also access the page from the school's website. There are more photographs connected with the trip on the schools facebook page.



## MSA and Wrap Around Care Position at School

We currently have a vacancy at school for a midday supervisor and Wrap Around Care supervisor. This is for a few hours per week and if anyone is interested or knows someone who may be interested please contact the school for further information.

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## Attendance

There has been a dip in overall attendance figure for this term which is due in a large part to the various illnesses that have been circulating throughout school. I do think this is an opportune moment for a timely reminder about how low attendance can directly affect the learning of children.

Attendance %	Impact on Learning	Impact on Learner
95% – 100%	Best chance of success	Your child is taking full advantage of every learning opportunity
90% - 95%	At least 2 weeks of learning missed	Your child will have to spend time at home catching up on missed learning.
85% - 90%	At least 4 weeks of learning missed	Your child is at risk of under achieving and will need extra support from you to catch up on missed learning.
80% - 85%	At least 5 ½ weeks of learning missed.	Your child's poor attendance is having a significant impact on learning.
Below 80%	At least 7 ½ weeks of learning missed.	Your child is missing out on a broad and balanced education. You are at risk of prosecution.

## Published by Hertfordshire Children's Services

In response to the attendance drop we are implementing a new attendance celebration scheme which will reward those individuals and classes with the highest attendance figures for the week, term and year.

## Celebration and Class Assemblies

After the Easter holidays we will organise celebration assemblies for Friday afternoons from 3.10pm so all parents can come and join us for this very special time of the week. We have also put together a rota of class assemblies where each class will lead an assembly, one per term, and parents of children in that class will be invited to join us.

## Bereavement Counselling

There is counselling available at Cruse in Darlington. Their telephone number is (01325) 288633 and the sessions run at Maude street, Darlington on a Monday between 2.00pm and 4.00pm. Although they are drop in sessions each session is private and confidential. Because this service is ran by volunteers they suggest telephoning them around 11.00am on morning of the Monday you intend to visit to ensure there will be a counsellor on duty.

We have organised bereavement counsellors to be in school on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March between 8.30am and 11.30am. They will be here to give one to one sessions with adults and will also talk with the children in their own classes about bereavement.



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## Class 3 Skyping

A group chat via skype was organized for Class 3 with Daniella, an English lecturer living in Germany with her German boyfriend David. Calling from Göttingen, Germany, they were asked several questions by the children which were prepared the previous day. David, who had not visited England before, also had many questions for the children regarding school life and general English culture. Some questions asked were: 'Do the German's do anything special for Red Nose Day?' 'Has Daniella noticed any major differences in German culture since living in Germany?' Finishing with 'Do German children play online/with xbox's as much as in the uk?' I would like to thank Jamie Kearney, a student who is currently working with us, for the time he has invested in this fabulous project.



## Dates for Diaries

- Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March Swimming for Class 2 and 3
- Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March - Parent's evening
- Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March - Peripatetic Keyboard lessons in school
- Year 3 & 4 football competition at Richmond School from 1.00pm to 4.00pm
- Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March- Peripatetic woodwind, brass and string music lessons in school
- Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March - Last swimming for Class 2 and 3
- Raise online training for governors at 6.00pm
- Wall repair work starts
- Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March - Tag rugby festival at Richmond School
- Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March - Year 5 & 6 football competition at Richmond School from 1.00pm to 4.00pm
- Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March - Easter activities afternoon
- Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March - Easter service at St James's Church at 10.00am
- break up for Easter holidays
- Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April - Training Day - no children in school
- Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April - summer term starts
- Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April - Wall repair completed

