



West Woodburn First School, West Woodburn, Hexham, Northumberland NE48 2RX

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11th May 2018

Dear Corsenside Parish Council,
Please find below an overview of the last academic year at West Woodburn first School.

Staff overview:

Executive Head: Mrs Elsey – currently on sick leave from October 2017.

Head of school: Mrs Rutherford – acting head in the absence of Mrs Elsey.

Teachers: Mrs Rutherford/ Mrs Turnbull / Mrs Horn / Mrs Bush (SEND)

Teaching Assistants: N/A

Admin: Mrs Bilton

Cook: Mrs Lawson

Cleaner: Mrs Drapkin

Caretaker: N/A

School Life:

The children are loving working with Mrs. Gray – our forest schools teacher every Monday. The children are using tools, building campfires and dens, and working hard to transform our school garden area. We continue to swim every Thursday. We also have Mr. Tait in school every Friday to teach music, singing and take 1:1 tutoring of the guitar and piano. Over the last year we have participated in the following:

- September - EYFS Phonics workshop for parents, KS1 reading workshop for parents
- October - Whole school visit to the Centre for life, All Saints church for Harvest Festival/ Open morning
- November - Children in Need 'Spotacular' day, parents evening
- December - Glitterfest @ BMS, Peter Pan Pantomime @ Newcastle Theatre Royal,
- Whole school Christmas Performance of The Landlords Cat, All Saints Church - Christmas Carol Service
- January – Gymnastics Festival
- February - SEND parents meetings
- March – World Book Day / Tag Rugby event / Forum book shop visit / Rural schools singing competition / Tri – Golf festival at Close House / Handwriting Artist worked with Class 2 / Easter open morning
- May – NSPCC assembly / Parents Evening / Y4 Residential trip to Bamburgh / R/Y1/2/3 trip to Belsay Estate / Multi –Skills event at RTC / Y2 SATS / Ray Estates Artists exhibition.

- June – Y4 transition day with Ian Hopper, Cricket festival, Beep beep day
- July – Tennis and athletics festival, Y4 leavers assembly, Whole school trip to Washington Wetlands/ Open morning

After School clubs offered:

- Yoga
- Christmas Crafts
- Code Club

Pupil transitions:

There are currently 24 children on roll. We have 6 pupils due to leave year 4. 5 pupils are going on to Bellingham Middle School; one is going to Hexham Middle School.

We are expecting two children to come into reception in September 2018.

Governance:

We are currently looking for parent governors to support our school. Adverts have been repeated several times over the last few months. Mr. Anthony Gibson was appointed a chair of governors earlier this year. Mrs. Amy Murray became vice chair.

Consultation:

In November 2017, Northumberland County Council (NCC) began an informal consultation process to look at the structure of education in the West. This included all schools within the Hexham and Hayden Bridge partnerships. Phase 1 of the consultation began in February 2018. This involved schools, pupils, parents, governing bodies and local communities submitting individual and group responses to their opinions of the consultation. Three suggested models were presented of how 'Education in the west' could look. Unfortunately, in all three models, West Woodburn First Schools was suggested to close.

We launched a 'Save our School' campaign along with 16 other schools who had also been threatened with closure. The local community showed their support to save our schools. At the end of April the outcomes for the consultation had been scrutinised and a fourth alternative model was suggested. This model saves Hayden Bridge high school, closes Bellingham Middle school and provides a promise to all first schools that they will be supported to turn into primary schools. These new primary schools have to agree to form a federation with another or group of schools or become part of a Multi-Academy-Trust (MAT).

In May 2018, and a cabinet committee met and approved this model and a statutory proposal is now going ahead. Over the next 4 weeks NCC will be coming out to schools to facilitate the move to a two tier (primary and secondary school) system. A final decision will be made by the cabinet and be made public on 10th July 2018. It is still possible for letters, comments, questions and concerns to be sent to Andy Johnson at NCC, Guy Opperman (M.P) and councillors Wayne Daley and John Riddle before this final date.

Please accept our sincere apologies for being unable to attend this evenings meeting. The door is always open at school and we welcome any comments anytime. We hope to see many of you at our next open morning in the summer term.

Many thanks and kind regards

Mrs. Victoria Rutherford

Acting Head teacher.