



### NEED HELP WITH A TOUGH DECISION?

Very soon you will need to decide which First School your child will join for their Reception year. In a few weeks the online portal for admissions to Northumberland first and primary schools will open. Parents of children who reach the age of 4 between 1st September 2015 and 31st August 2016 will need to choose which school they would like their child to attend in order to be allocated places in the spring. This edition of 'Links News' (extra to the weekly edition that all parents at Amble Links First School receive) aims to give you a little more information about our school. It also invites you to bring your child along for a visit at any point during this year to allow you to make an informed choice about which school you would like to send your child to for some of the most important years of their life. This newsletter will only give you a snapshot of life at Amble Links. Our school website (details at the bottom of the page) contains much more information about many aspects of life at Amble Links, but by far the best thing to do is come and see us in person!

#### YOU'RE INVITED TO VISIT

Parents are welcome to come along with their child for a visit to see us 'in action'. Although we'll be inviting new starters to come along for visits in the summer term we don't hold an open day as such. We'd much rather invite you to give us a ring to arrange a time when you can be shown around personally and spend time with your child in our Foundation Stage. More often than not children visiting us do not want to leave and parents feel very left out; this is a good sign!!

#### INVOLVING PARENTS

We involve parents with as much as possible at Amble Links. In our Reception Class parents are invited to come into school every morning and share a book with their child and help them settle in for the busy day ahead. We hold 3 parents' evenings per year to ensure you are always up to date with how your child is doing. Parents are also invited to classrooms once every half term to look through their child's books with them.



Every Friday morning we hold a celebration assembly which all parents are invited to. Our hall is usually very busy with around 70 parents attending each week to see which children have been awarded 'Star of the Week' and 'Homework Hero' awards amongst many others! Parents are then invited to join us for a coffee and chat afterwards.

We keep parents up to date with everything that is going on in our busy school through our regularly updated website and Facebook page as well as through our weekly newsletters which contain all of the important dates in our calendar. 100% of parents in our recent survey agreed that the school was welcoming and there are opportunities to get involved.

**Pupils from Amble Links First School have won the Amble and Warkworth Young Citizen's Award for 4 out of the 6 years the award has been running!!**

#### Sports Opportunities

As the children move through the school they are offered a range of opportunities in PE and Sport including competitions in a range of sports like netball, golf and orienteering. From halfway through reception our children have swimming lessons every week until they leave the school. Our children are very competent swimmers by the time they leave us.

We have recently teamed up with Tiny Woods Academy who lead our weekly after school football sessions. We also provide an after school karate club and dance club which are very popular.

The physical activity starts early! Our large Foundation Stage outdoor area is a haven for adventure with many places to climb, crawl, and ride. We have recently purchased some great new outdoor toys for the children to ride on including four new balance bikes. New for 2015 are 3 new playhouses and a water play area.

The physical activity gets even more exciting in Year 4 when the children go away on a 3 day residential visit that includes caving, climbing, canoeing and many other adventurous activities!

#### Breakfast Club and After School Activities Every Day

Many parents really appreciate the fact that we have a breakfast club that runs daily from **8.15am** for only 50p per session. Children can be dropped off at the main door and enjoy cereal, toast and juice with their friends before school.

At the end of each school day children can stay with us until **5.15pm** at our after school activities. On some evenings children have the opportunity to use our ICT suite to complete homework supported by school staff whilst on other evenings they can take part in crafting activities. Some children just decide to relax and watch a DVD or play games with friends. All of this for between £2 and £4 per session. This provision can be used as flexibly as you wish; parents can let us know in the morning or give us a call.

**Visit our website at: [www.amblelinks.northumberland.sch.uk](http://www.amblelinks.northumberland.sch.uk) for lots more information!!**

"Everyone succeeds at Amble Links."

### Becoming a Turtle!

The children who are already with us in our teacher led Nursery aspire to become a member of the 'Turtles' - otherwise known as our Reception class. For children who have already been with us the transition is extremely smooth as they have been in our Foundation Stage Unit for a year or more already. Children joining us from other settings also find it very easy to settle in having been to visit us on as many occasions as they need to during the summer term. Parents' meetings also make parents aware of what is to be expected when the children join us. Our Turtles very quickly get into the swing of things and integrate into our school perfectly with the help of our experienced and well qualified Foundation Stage staff as well as the other children in school who look out for them at playtimes!

### We Love Computing!!

We love ICT at Amble Links! From very early on the children have access to a range of ICT equipment such as cameras, sets of robots, I pads and computers. We encourage the children to use ICT independently and by the time they get to KS1 they are beginning to make their own computer programs as well as learning how to stay safe in an online world. In KS1 and KS2 the children always have access to I pads which they often choose to use to support them with their work.

We also provide online access to a range of websites that support the children's learning and provide a huge range of tools that they can use at home as well as our suite of 18 computers. All children have the opportunity to use this during lunchtimes each week as well as during weekly

### Learning the 6Rs

Everything we do at Amble Links is aimed towards helping our children learn well and become good citizens. Ensuring our pupils are safe and happy help us achieve this. Our children very quickly learn the 6 Rs of being Resourceful, Reasoning, Responsible, Reflective, Resilient and Respectful. It's amazing to hear even the youngest children telling us how they are being resilient in school and showing us how to be respectful towards one another. It is lovely to hear our children saying "you're welcome" when you thank them for holding a door open for you. We encourage our children to take on all sorts of responsibilities such as being a Junior Play Leader or an Ipad monitor amongst many other jobs; all of this is getting them ready for the world of work.



### School Events

Throughout each year we invite parents to join the children for large school events. These include our Great Amble Links Pea Hunt, Sports Days, Christmas and Summer Fairs, Christmas Craft Evening and, of course, our Christmas celebrations in school and at church.

The children love performing for their parents and each year their class will lead a short class assembly for you, giving the children a chance to show what they've been learning and show developing confidence.

### Learning to Read and Write

Building on what they have already learnt in nursery, the children begin learning phonics through our Read Write Inc scheme early in their year in Reception. This scheme helps the children to very quickly learn to read and write the initial letter sounds before moving on to blending these sounds to make words. The children soon move on to more complex letter sounds. The children can often be seen leaving school with stickers on their jumpers showing which sound they have learnt. It's not long until they're jumping into the 'Writing Car' and before we know it we have young readers and writers!

### Our Curriculum

We deliver the National Curriculum and Early Years Foundation Stage through a topic based approach that really draws the children in.

Wherever possible different subjects are tied together into one topic. Outline plans for our topics are detailed on the school website but just imagine how exciting it would be as a child to learn through topics with titles such as:

'Monstrous Minibeasts', 'Blast Off', 'Shiver Me Timbers' and 'The Good, The Bad and The Ugly'. Our children also begin learning French in Year 3 and in Year 4 learn to play an instrument - currently it's the clarinet!

We enrich our curriculum further with educational visits-these are always very memorable for the children and we love seeing the excitement and amazement on their faces during these!

The galleries on our website will give you even more of a picture of how our curriculum looks in real life.

## THE ONLY THING LEFT TO DO NOW IS COME AND VISIT US!

I hope you have found this short newsletter easy to read and that it has given you a snapshot of life at Amble Links. This is only a snapshot though. Why not give us a ring and arrange to come and have a look around the school, see us in action and get a chance to ask us any questions face-to-face at a time that is convenient for you.

I look forward to meeting you soon. Paul Heeley (Headteacher)

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Visit our website at: [www.amblelinks.northumberland.sch.uk](http://www.amblelinks.northumberland.sch.uk) for lots more information.