# **Amble Links First School** LINKS NEWS



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#### ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK Our School Target is 97% LAST WEEK: 92.7% Nursery (Seahorses) -87.6% Reception (Turtles) - 95.2% Year 1 (Jellyfish) - 91.5% Year 2 (Puffins) - 86.8% Year 3 (Sharks) - 95.2% Year 4 (Penguins) - 93.8% Well Done Turtles and Sharks!



### BISCUIT DECORATING

Sadly we're still not in a position to be running the usual Valentines Discos that we would have usually have done. As a replacement for this, as an additional fundraiser for our PTA, we will be offering all children the chance to decorate a heart shaped biscuit on the last day of this half term. For just £1 each the children will be

provided with a homemade heart-shaped shortbread biscuit that they will be able to decorate in school on Friday 18th February. They'll then bring their biscuit home to share with family members!

#### DOODLEMATHS - THE GREEN ZONE EXPLAINED BEWARE! IT'S EASY TO DROP OUT OF!

We've seen a big improvement in the children's engagement with Doodlemaths in recent weeks with percentages of pupils staying in the green zone staying quite high. To reward the children that are in the green zone we have started to do some on the spot rewards such as giving a little extra playtime to all of those in the green zone at a particular time. The principle of Doodlemaths is to do a small amount of maths on a regular basis in order to stay in the green zone. By clicking on the dial in your child's Doodlemaths Learning Zone you can see what their weekly target for stars is to stay in the Green Zone; this works on a rolling basis, so if a child was to earn all of their stars to get into the Green Zone on a Sunday, these would disappear on the following Sunday, taking them straight back into the Red Zone. The important thing to remember is that if your child is only just in the Green Zone, the following morning they may not be as the day has rolled over and

the stars from the previous week have gone! By earning a small amount of stars daily, only a small number of stars would drop off the total each day. Clicking on the dial shows what your child's weekly target is and the number of days they have in their current 'streak'. Don't forget that there are also things to 'spend' stars on that are unlocked when children are in the Green Zone

2022 SCHOOL DIARY	
***NEW*** Friday 18th February	Decorating Heart Biscuits fundraiser
Friday 18th February	Wear what you love day (Non-uniform)
Friday 18th February	School Closes for Spring Half Term
Tuesday 1st March	School Reopens for Spring Half Term 2
*** <b>NEW***</b> Wednesday 2nd March	Bag2School Collection
*** <b>NEW***</b> Tuesday 29th March	PARENTS EVENINGS
*** <b>NEW***</b> Wednesday 30th March	PARENTS EVENINGS
Friday 1st July	Additional Bank Holiday date for Queens Platinum Jubilee

#### CHINESE NEW YEAR

This week, the children learnt about Chinese New Year in assembly with Miss Lightley. They especially enjoyed finding out which animals their birth year represented! Our Year 1 Jellyfish children were very lucky indeed to have been treated to a selection of Chinese food donated by Mai at Taste of China. Many of the children tried items that they had not tried before and were pleasantly surprised! See our Facebook page for details.

## PARENTS EVENINGS

As you will see from the diary above, we have allocated 2 evenings for later in the Spring term. These will be held on Tuesday 29th March and Wednesday 30th March. Teachers have agreed to again hold face to face meetings with parents although we still plan to ask parents to wait outside and wear facemasks to help protect staff who will

be meeting with many different people in the 2 days. As previously, Mrs Dellbridge will be getting in touch with parents who have more than one child in school to arrange meetings as close together as possible to prevent too

much waiting around in the cold. We will also be in touch with parents who have not made appointments if we feel it is particularly important to discuss their child.

# OUR NEXT BAG2SCHOOL COLLECTION

Our next Bag2School collection is on Wednesday 2nd March. Please bring in any old or unwanted clothing items or shoes in any bag/bin liner. These will be collected and a donation is then made to our PTA based on the weight of the bags collected. We'll send out a flyer but Bag2School do not now provide bags themselves. PLEASE DO NOT SEND BAGS INTO SCHOOL BEFORE TUESDAY 1ST MARCH AS WE HAVE NO ROOM TO STORE THEM!

#### COVID UPDATE AND ATTENDANCE

This week has been much better for us in school with hardly any Covid cases reported among pupils and none amongst staff; let's hope this continues! We hope that this will help us rapidly improve school attendance to the excellent levels we were reaching prior to the pandemic. So far this year we have not managed to achieve even 1 star on our attendance board for getting above 96% attendance across the school in a week where previously we were getting one nearly every week. We continue to monitor attendance very closely and pay particular attention to where there are many short term absences from school as these soon mount up and can have as much impact on pupils as longer absences. Please let us know as soon as you can if your child will not be at school as unreported absences are recorded as unauthorised.

Visit our website at: www.amblelinks.northumberland.sch.uk



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