



## NEWSLETTER JANUARY

The new year has already started with a buzz for New Hall. The 'Spring' term always seems to be the wrong phrase for a term which can have some of the worst weather in terms of snow and ice! Please can I urge all parents wherever possible to walk their children to school as this is not only healthier but safer for all, particularly as we are a school in a cul-de-sac. Our school population continues to grow as the message gets out about the great work that we do here, and with this comes more traffic. So, we are victims of our own success! The safety of our pupils is always paramount, and is the responsibility of all of us.

If there is bad weather and we have to make the difficult decision to close, please be aware that there will be a message on our Twitter account, the school website, as well as the local radio stations and Birmingham City Council website. Please check these first before attempting to phone the school.

Thanks to all of the parents who attended our Bug Club training last week. We are very excited to launch this new initiative as

we can see the benefits of free, easy access to books to read at home. All of the pupils now have a log in and I would encourage you to ask them to show you what it is all about. Please feel free to speak to your child's teacher, if you were unable to attend, to find out more.

We are very much looking forward to seeing you all at Parent's Evening next week. This is an opportunity to see how well your child is doing, so I would encourage you to attend.

I would like to welcome Mrs Talliss into the New Hall Team. She has replaced Mrs Trevelyan, who we said goodbye to last term. Mrs Talliss is an experienced teacher, and has settled easily into life here at New Hall.



## **BRITISH DYSLEXIA**

### **ASSOCIATION**

On December 3rd 2014, we had a day long verification visit from the British Dyslexia Association. I am pleased to say that New Hall is now a dyslexia friendly school. This is the culmination of eighteen months of hard work by all staff to recognise and understand the needs of pupils with dyslexia. Well done to everyone and a big thank you to the parents who came in to support us on that day.

### **BUG CLUB - LOVE READING**

Bug club is an online reading programme that we at Newhall are using to support the teaching of reading. It has carefully graded texts that match to the individual level of your child, which they will be able to access at home, providing you have internet connection.

We are using these eBooks to promote a love of reading and to encourage all of our children to pick up a book for pleasure. As well as the books there are quiz activities matched to the texts which allow the children to gain coins to spend in the virtual fun area.

Texts are allocated to pupils from their class teacher and monitored on a regular basis, these texts are not to replace reading books sent home but to support. They also come with some parental guidance for when you are reading with your child. Please encourage your child to access their books and join in with the fun they will have whilst reading!

Website: active learn

All pupils have their own username and login

School code:3gsm

Have fun whilst reading together!

## **LUNCH TIME SUPERVISOR**

We are currently looking for a permanent full time lunchtime supervisor to fill a vacancy. If you would like to join our friendly hard working team, please pop into school and have a chat with the School Business Manager, Mrs Page. This job is suitable for someone who would like a term time only contract.

## **CURRICULUM MATTERS**

We are now in the fifth month of our school year, and the majority of our children seem to have really embraced our approach to the new curriculum. Across the subjects, children talk with enthusiasm and enjoyment about what they have studied and learned. The use of practical work and new technology during lessons, and also for homework tasks, seems to be making a really positive impact on our children's learning experiences. Use of outside visitors and educational visits bring subjects 'alive' for them and are proving truly memorable which enhances learning back in the classroom. It is evident that this use of a wide variety of teaching strategies and techniques across the curriculum and different age groups, makes learning, interesting for our children. We will continue in our efforts to provide an exciting and relevant curriculum for them.

## **DATES FOR THE DIARY**

28 January - Team Qayyum Parent lunch

29 January - Parents Evening

4-6 February - Whitemoor Lakes for Year 6

16 - 20 February - Half term

23 February - Inset day

24 February - School re-open