

Tweedmouth West First School

Respect Responsibility Resilience

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Dear families,

Welcome back to the Spring Term part 2 - it's going to be short but busy! Curriculum maps are available on the [Tweedmouth West website](#) and will be shared on Seesaw.

I wanted to write to you with a quick update of some of the things happening at Tweedmouth West to support the list of dates that will be available as usual on Parentmail.

Seesaw Seesaw

Your child's teacher is uploading photographs and information about learning and events frequently on the Seesaw app. Please do get the app and check it - the children really enjoy talking about their learning and the photos are a great prompt and opportunity for conversation. **Picture News** assemblies each week are also a really valuable way for children to learn about current events, geography, people and politics and to express their feelings and ideas. Ask your child about Picture News each Wednesday.

Oracy Voice 21 Oracy

All staff are planning and teaching Oracy skills specifically- this includes speaking clearly with excellent vocabulary, pace and pronunciation. Good Oracy practice also promotes cognitive skills for clarifying and summarising information and choosing words carefully to reason and discuss ideas. Ultimately having good Oracy skills enhances the children's skills to work with others, turn-taking, listening actively, responding appropriately and feeling confident to have a voice and an opinion. Effective communication is a key life-skill and we are keen to promote it at every opportunity.

Literacy Tree and Letterjoin Literacy Tree Letterjoin

We are using new approaches to writing with these subscriptions and feedback so far is very positive. Teachers and children are enjoying new English planning and activities and we have high expectations for good quality writing for many purposes, including pleasure, stamina for longer pieces of writing, in clear and accurate handwriting. Children will sometimes bring home their own 'publications' so please do share their work with them.

The Linking Network [The Linking Network](#)

Year 3 and Year 4 are taking part in a project which links us with other schools, this time in Newcastle and Gateshead, to help children celebrate diversity, promote community and champion equality and common ground. We will think about questions such as Who am I? Who are we? Where do we live? How do we all live well together? The children will bring home activities to complete with families and we finish with a trip to an art gallery in Newcastle to work with our partner schools in the summer.

Red Balloon

After 30 years of making an incredible contribution to our community, Red Balloon Pre-school will be closing in July. We extend our warmest wishes and luck for the future to Jackie, the staff and committee members who have made it such a warm and welcoming place for all this time. You will be missed.

2-tier transition [Berwick reorganisation](#)

As you will know the current 3-tier system in Berwick is changing to 2-tier. This means that our current Year 3 children will stay on as our first Year 5 and Year 6 pupils. We are currently working closely with Northumberland County Council and architects to build new provision for 2 new classes by 2025. We are keen to support and recruit colleagues from the Middle schools over the next few years, however our pupil numbers will have to go up to ensure this happens.

Family Hub

Having the Family Hub as our neighbour we are keen to promote collaborative work with them and the services they provide. [Berwick Family Hub](#) [Family Hub facebook](#)

Cubs and Kits

We are strengthening links with [Cubs and Kits childcare](#) they will be shortly having meals provided by our catering team and continue to use our school hall for PE sessions. In addition they will also be using our site to enhance childcare provision during the holidays in the longer term

We look forward to seeing you in school for parent meetings next week and to working together with you on these many exciting projects for your children.

Yours sincerely

Jacq Dalrymple
Headteacher