



# Amble First School

## October 2023 Newsletter

### IMPORTANT - Phone contacts and change of address

A reminder that changes to phone numbers and/or home address should be updated by email or in person as soon as possible. Should there be an emergency, it is essential that we are able to make contact quickly. **A minimum of 2 contact names and numbers must be provided.**

### Harvest festival

We welcome you to join us for our Harvest Celebration on **Wednesday 25th October**. This will be held at St. Cuthbert's Church at 10am. Children will be sharing songs, poems, stories and prayers with you. We will also be collecting donations for the Amble Food Bank and would welcome any tins, boxes, packets of food that you have spare. Please bring these into school at any time from the week beginning 16th October.

### Parents/carers meetings

By now you should have received a letter offering you an appointment to meet with your child's class teacher. The aim of these meetings is to discuss how well your child has settled into their new class and is an opportunity for you to ask any questions. The following times are available for each class:

**Nursery:** Thurs 12th 3:30pm - 5:00pm

**Reception:** Wed 11th and Thurs 12th 3:30pm - 5:00pm

**Year 1:** Wed 11th and Thurs 12th 3:30pm - 5:00pm

**Year 2:** Mon 9th and Wed 11th 3:30pm - 5:00pm and Thurs 12th 3:30pm-4:30pm

**Year 3:** Tues 10th and Wed 11th 3:30pm - 5:00pm

**Year 4:** Mon 9th and Wed 11th 3:30pm - 5:00pm

### Special dinner day

Our "Special Dinner" day this term is on Thursday 5th October 2023. If you would like your child to receive dinner on that day, please email the office before Monday 2nd October.

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to universal free school meals, therefore don't need to pay (but parents must contact school by email if your child usually has a packed lunch).

**If your child normally has a school lunch each day, you do not need to contact school.**

### Halloween Celebration

Our Halloween celebration will take place on **Friday 27th October**. Children are welcome to come to school in fancy dress, though please be aware that this is also PE day for some pupils. We will also be holding our annual Halloween competition, however this year will be slightly different. This year, we are asking children to create a Halloween decoration to decorate the school. This can be anything they like - the spookier the better!

Please send these in on the **Wednesday morning** and the children will then be able to take them home on Friday for the half term holiday.

### Water Bottles and Packed Lunches

A polite reminder that water bottles brought into school need to be named and should contain **water only**. We ask that children do not bring juice for two reasons; some juices can be high in sugar and as a school we try to promote healthy eating/drinking. Secondly, spilled juice is very sticky which creates mess in the classrooms and can cause problems with unwanted insects, particularly in the warmer months. We would also request that children do not bring bags of sweets or large chocolate bars in their packed lunch boxes. Many thanks for your support with this.

Due to allergies, we are also a **nut-free school**. No products containing nuts should be sent into school.

### Reading Books

We have invested heavily over the last few years in reading books for the children. Children have access to 'reading books', which are aligned to their reading level, and also library books that they choose to read

for pleasure. We also dedicate a proportion of each day to teaching reading and to story time where children can enjoy listening to an adult read. In order to help develop their reading accuracy and fluency, we ask that children read at home at least 4 times a week. This only needs to be 5 minutes at a time for there to be a significant impact.

Whilst we understand that sometimes accidents happen and things go missing or get damaged, could we kindly request that books are returned to school regularly so that all children can benefit from them.

### **Phonics Drop In Session**

On Wednesday 18th October, Mrs Hunter will be hosting a phonics drop in session from 2:15pm. This is an opportunity for you to come along and see how we teach phonics and reading and will help you to support your children with their Read Write Inc books at home.

### **School photographer**

The school photographer will be in school on **Monday 6th November** (day of return after half term) to take individual photos of children. Children will also have their photographs taken with siblings who are in school on this day.

### **Reading Breakfasts**

A reminder that our reading breakfasts start again this half term. Please come and join us from 8:45am for a story with the children.

### **Key Dates**

#### **October**

- 2nd KS1 Beach Day
- 4th KS2 Beach Day
- w/b 9th Parents' meetings
- 17th Year 1 Reading breakfast (8:45am)
- 18th Year 3&4 Reading breakfast (8:45am)  
Year 1 Phonics drop in (2.15pm)
- 19th Year 2 Reading breakfast (8:45am)
- 20th Reception Reading breakfast (8:45am)
- 25th Harvest Festival Celebration at  
St. Cuthbert's Church (am)
- 27th Last day of half term

#### **November**

- 6th School reopens for pupils  
School photographer (individual photos)
- 13th KS1 Beach Day
- 15th KS2 Beach Day
- 17th Children in Need
- 27th Reception drop in session (2pm)
- 28th Year 2 drop in session (2pm)
- 29th Year 1 drop in session (2pm)
- 30th Year 3 drop in session (2pm)

#### **December**

- 4th Year 4 drop in session (2pm)
- 14th Christmas Performances at St. Cuthbert's  
Church (Year 1-4)
- 21st Last day of term
- 22nd School closed for teacher training day

#### **January**

- 9th School reopens for pupils

# October Maths Challenge

Welcome to the first of our new Monthly Maths Challenges. We want to encourage our children to use everything they have learnt in their maths lessons to solve a wide range of problems and puzzles. Choose from one of the challenges below and have a go! Send in your responses (with a name and class on the back) to school by the end of the month and there will be a prize for a lucky Monthly Maths Challenge winner. Good luck!



## Reception

### Big and Small

Find a pair of shoes for everyone in your family. Who has a bigger pair than your shoes? Does anyone have a smaller pair than yours?

Put them in order from biggest to smallest.

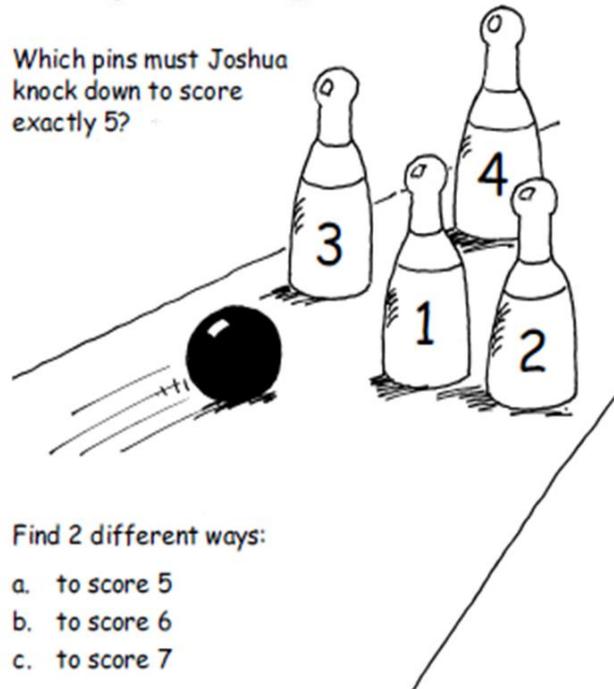
You can do this challenge with lots of things around the house! What else can you find to put in order of size?

Can you show us what you have found on Tapestry?

## Years 1 and 2

### Four-pin bowling

Which pins must Joshua knock down to score exactly 5?



Find 2 different ways:

- to score 5
- to score 6
- to score 7

## Years 3 and 4

### Roly poly

The dots on opposite faces of a dice add up to 7.

1. Imagine rolling one dice.

The score is the total number of dots you can see.

You score 17.

Which number is face down?

How did you work out your answer?



2. Imagine rolling two dice.

The dice do not touch each other.



The score is the total number of dots you can see.

Which numbers are face down to score 30?