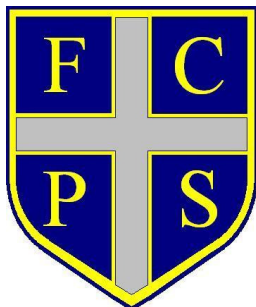


Issue 79

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# Fellside Matters

I'd never imagined leaving full time employment could be so busy! Everyone at school, including myself is 'flat out' right now - visits, visitors, concerts, performances, sports events, arts events, reports to write, assessment details to collate, meetings for new parents - the list is endless.

Effective school staff share many qualities. In the later years of my career it's become clear to me that the single most important element for success is how much each individual adult genuinely **cares** about each individual child - their welfare and safety, their happiness and of course

their learning and progress.

We have teachers who lie awake at night worrying about progress of individual children and finding solutions for these children. Support staff - none of whom are contracted for more than 32.5 hours a week and a number much less - often have to be 'thrown out' as the caretaker locks-up at 6.00pm.

Our teachers, teaching assistants and admin staff work long and hard and skilfully to ensure this busy school functions effectively. I applaud - as I'm sure you do - their commitment.



## My Plans for September

I'd like your help... No actually MacMillan Cancer Care would like your help. Let me use this opportunity to tell you something of my plans for early September.

Given good health and the avoidance of serious injury, on Friday 3rd September I'm setting off from Land's End to John O'Groats on my bike - by myself and unsupported. I'm training hard now (and have been for the last 35 years!) for my 'Big Ride' with a fully laden bike. Avoiding the shorter route (900 miles) on busy roads, my route takes me along the north coasts of Cornwall and Devon, through the Welsh borders, The Lakes, then up the west coast of Scotland to Fort William before heading through the Great Glen and up to John O'Groats. Simple... on paper! This route will be a challenge - hillier and longer (over 1000 miles) about the same distance as Newcastle to Nice. I'm aiming to complete the journey in two weeks.

I'd love you to sponsor me for this retirement plan. All money raised will go to MacMillan Cancer Care - an organisation whose service I'm sure some of you may have drawn on as a family. Our family has.

FOF will be holding its MacMillan Coffee Morning on Friday 24th September. The new headteacher has given me permission to attend! I'd love to be handing a substantial cheque to MacMillan - hopefully represented by our MacMillan Nurse Mum Clare Walton and Kelly Knighting-Wykes of MacMillan.

This newsletter launches my 'Just Giving' web page and I'll be contacting virtually everyone I know away from school soon to request a donation.

It's really simple to donate. Log on to [www.justgiving.com/Kevin-Doran](http://www.justgiving.com/Kevin-Doran). Alternatively Google 'Just Giving' and on the home page enter my name. Follow the on screen instructions.

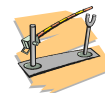
I hope you can support my fundraising effort. Thanks.

## New safety Measures

If you have visited school over the past week the new electronic barrier to the car park can't have escaped your notice. This important safety measure has had an immediate positive impact on traffic movement in the school at all times of day. I'm aware of one or two 'grumbles' about its use early in the morning. It will remain in use from very early in the morning. We have had concerns about children crossing our car park to access Fellside Fun Club with traffic movement as others arrive and depart - sometimes pressed for time and rather hasty.

Remember any parent/carer with appropriate disability documentation will be issued with an electronic fob by the school.

Please do not park in the entrance area outside the school gates. And under no circumstances should anyone try to walk under the barrier.



## **Staffing for 2010/11**

Following a rigorous selection process earlier this month the vacant post created by Karl Ellerbrook's imminent departure has been filled. Miss Danielle Scott takes up her post here in September. Congratulations to Danielle. I'm sure she'll be an asset to our school.



We are currently in the process of selection of a new Deputy Headteacher. The final stage of the process - presentation and interviews - will be at school on Thursday 8th July. Details about staffing and year groups will be given to you after this date.

## **Success in Sport**

This term has brought even more sporting success for our teams on top of being Gateshead hockey and rugby champions.



On the day before the half term holiday our girl's football team cruised to victory in a tournament at Whickham School winning one of their games 15-0. Imogen Tennet scored 11 goals in the tournament but girl of the tournament had to be Chloe Allen with 23! She already plays for Newcastle United Academy.

Our Year 6 cricket team also had a comfortable victory in a recent tournament at The Glebe Cricket Ground. They have progressed through to the County Final in Washington on Wednesday 30th June. Good Luck.

Mrs Bowron and Miss Knox took our athletics squad to Gateshead Stadium last Friday. Our team were superb in every respect with some outstanding individual performances - Gold for: Ben Kitchen and Chloe Allen in the cricket ball throw, Laura Wilkinson in the skipping and Jordan Atkinson in the 600 metres. Silver for: Ellen Dobbie in the 60 metre sprint, Mia Weatherill in the Spring Jumps and the Year 5/6 girls relay. Bronze for: Ellen Dobbie in the long jump.



Thanks to Mrs Bowron and Miss Knox for working through this occasional day.

## **Strawberries and Wine Concert**

Our eighth cafe style concert with almost 100 musicians entertaining an invited audience. Our full school orchestra concluded the concert with a medley of themes from films. We were delighted that Gateshead Council's Head of Music Service, John Treherne, was able to attend and present our annual Musician of the Year Trophy - this year's winner was Joseph Dibley.



## **Den Building**

A dozen amazing structures have been constructed in our grounds - most on Saturday morning and most in the Key Stage One play area. All simple yet effective constructions meeting the requirements of the design brief. Judging workers was clearly a challenge but after much consideration, third place was awarded to Sarika Riffert, second to Rose McGregor and first prize to Reece Jones and Cameron Brownless.



Congratulations and many thanks to the hard work and creativity of the adults who built the structures.

## **Website**

As well as the latest photos of den building last Saturday there are a number of new items on the web site. Take a look at the 'Animoto' picture and sound compilations for weddings, farm visit, nursery chicks, Bollywood dancing and more.



Special thanks to June Nicols for her skilful work creating these presentations.

## Texting / Email Service

We now have operational a texting and email service provided by a company called 'Keep Kids Safe'. This new system will allow us to send a text message and/or email to parents with information such as school closures, attendance concerns and cancellation of events / clubs. This will be a two-way system where parents will eventually be able to text to inform us of their child's absence.



We will send out a test message at the end of this week. This will go to the first priority named contact for every child. We can only set up one mobile phone number for every child. If you do not receive a test message on Friday 2nd July please contact the school office to check your phone details.

Whickham School and Sports College have used this effective system for a while and have received useful feedback from all who use it. As with new systems it will take us a while to have it up and running where we are able to use it on a daily basis.

## Friends of Fellside

Tickets for the BBQ on Friday 16th July are now available from Mrs Tinson at reception.

Tickets cost £2.00 per adult and £1.00 per child (all children must be accompanied by an adult). Entrance is by ticket only.

Our Dad's band 'Take Cover' will be performing at the BBQ which starts at 6.00pm



## Diary of Planned Events to September

Friday 2nd July	Grandparents' Afternoon
Friday 16th July	FOF BBQ
Monday 19th July	Sports Day (Weather permitting)
(Tuesday 20th July	Alternative Sports Day)
Friday 23rd July	End of Summer Term (Mr Doran's last day!)
Monday 6th September	Training Day
Tuesday 7th September	Pupils return to school following Summer Holiday



## After School Clubs

The following clubs will be operating through the Summer:

Year Two	Recorder Club - Wednesday lunchtime
Year Two	Drama Club - Tuesday 3.15 - 4.15pm
Year Three/Four	Football Club - Friday 3.15 - 4.15 pm
Year Five/Six	Hockey Club - Monday 3.15 - 4.50pm
Year Five/Six	Tag Rugby Club—Thursday 3.15 - 4.30pm
Year Six	ICT - Thursday lunchtime
KS2	Recorder Club - Thursday lunchtime
KS2	Choir - Friday lunchtime
Reception to Year 6	Karate Club - Wednesday / Thursday 7.50 - 8.50am
Reception to Year 6	Gymnastics Club - Wednesday 3.20 - 4.20pm

