**Birtley East School Times**

16th February 2024

**Tuesday club – art after half term**

Children who normally attend art club on a Tuesday will be attending the after school club with Maureen and Leila on 27th February, this is due to staff training.

**Minecraft club**

Children in years 3 and 4 who have expressed an interest in this new club (taking place instead on multi skills club) are bringing home a letter today about joining Minecraft club. If there are any spaces left after spaces have been allocated to years 3 and 4 then spaces will be offered to year 5 then year 6.

**World Book Day**

World Book Day is on Thursday 7th March. We will be celebrating this year by wearing PJs/comfortable reading clothes to school for the day. There will be a Mystery Reader Competition. Staff are producing a short audio recording of one of their favourite books so children can try to guess who is reading.

***An invitation to parents/carers:*** We will begin the celebrations with **a ‘booky breakfast’** to be held in the hall. Children can come with their parents to read their favourite book and share some breakfast treats from 8.30am.

**Changes to SEN assessment**

Our SENCo, Miss Pickersgill, will be available for drop in discussions on 14th February after school to answer any questions about the new SEN Threshold documents which are being rolled out across Gateshead, further information about these is available here: [SEND Thresholds - Gateshead Local Offer SEND 0 to 25 years (gateshead-localoffer.org)](https://gateshead-localoffer.org/send-thresholds/)

Some children with SEN will be receiving new learning plans from class teachers at parents evening based upon these new frameworks and some children with additional needs will no longer need a learning plan due to these new structures. The change to using thresholds is happening across Gateshead and is not specific to our school.

**Staff changes**

We have appointed a teacher to cover for Miss Coxon’s maternity leave in the summer term. Once they have been able to share this with their current school staff and parents, we will be able to let you know who this will be. As always, we will arrange transition opportunities for children to meet their new teacher and will confirm arrangements with you as soon as possible after half term.

**Women’s Wellbeing group**

Our Wellbeing Group will take place at Birtley Library next week as school is closed for half term. Tuesday 20th February 9-11am. We will continue to meet after half term at Birtley East. The group will be making journals next term. This is like scrapbooking, where we look at hobbies, interests, past memories, life events and record them in a journal. The group is open to any women living in the Birtley area who is interested in improving their mental health and wellbeing.

**Walking Bus**

Our walking bus will meet on the corner of Lansbury Bungalows on Monday 26th Feb at 8.20am. Children will be met by Corrina and Isla who will walk the children up to school for registration. We will meet at the same point every Monday morning at 8.20am. This is a trial period and if successful we will look at other days and areas.

Anna Diggle

Headteacher