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**CLOVER HILL
PRIMARY
SCHOOL**

Headteacher: Mrs Ailsa Holden

Hello everyone – Welcome to November! I hope you all had a lovely half term? The second half of the Autumn term is my absolute favourite – it's the best (and probably the busiest) time of year to work in a primary school. Not only do we have our Autumn term curriculum to work through but we also have to plan and prepare for our KS1 Christmas nativity and our KS2 Carol Service – 2 events that we are extremely proud to share with you each year.

I'm sure the next 7 weeks will fly by! Mrs Holden

KS1 and Reception Nativity

Looking ahead, we are excited to announce the performances of our KS1 Nativity – **Ralph the Reindeer**. The shows are scheduled for: 8th & 9th December 2pm and 10th December 9.30am.

Please keep an eye out for more information regarding tickets and costume details which will be sent out shortly.

KS2 Carol Service

Our Christmas Carol Service will take place as usual at St Mary's Church, Whickham on Friday 19th December. Children will need to be taken to and collected from this event. Parents are invited to join us both for the carol service and afterwards back in school for a hot festive drink and mince pie. We hope you can make it. Further information to follow.

Boccia Workshop

The whole school enjoyed trying a new sport this week - Boccia (pronounced botcha). This is a target sport played indoors on a court. It is a game of attack and defence, where each side tries to score as many points as possible by placing their own-coloured balls closest to the white jack ball.

Some of the children are going to represent Clover Hill in the borough competition later this month.

I was so proud when I received a telephone call from the instructor the very next day who wanted to pass on how well behaved he thought our children were. He said he goes into lots of schools and remembered us from last year when he came in to deliver a Kerling workshop and was so impressed with the attitudes and manners of our children. It is so lovely to receive feedback like this especially from visitors to go to lots of different settings. Well done everyone!

Flu Vaccinations

Remember – if you would like your child to have their annual flu vaccination (nasal spray) you must complete the online form by Friday 7th November. The vaccination date is 11th November 2025

Parent Consultations

Appointments for parent consultations will go live on Friday 7th November at 6pm. Please log on to Arbor to book your five minute appointment. There will be **one appointment** per child available to book.

School Newspaper

Our newspaper team have been working tirelessly so that they meet their end of the month deadline for publication. Watch this space for the official launch when you'll be able to 'READ ALL ABOUT IT'

Harvest Festival Donations

Thank you for your incredible donations for our **Harvest Festival**. The team from Gateshead Foodbank were blown away by your kindness and generosity. It was most gratefully received.

Remembrance Sunday: 09/11/25

Some of our children will be representing Clover Hill at the Remembrance service on Sunday 9th November. During the service we will be laying a wreath at the Cenotaph. Our Year 5/6 pupils have also written a heart-felt message (see below) for service men and women which will be read out by the new vicar of Whickham St Mary's – Reverend Scott.

We look forward to seeing many of our families at the Cenotaph service, which begins at 10.30am. We will be taking part in our own Remembrance assembly in school on Tuesday 11th November.

To all the soldiers.

Thank you.



Thank you for risking your lives to protect our country, our people and our lives. You make our homeland a safe place.

You sacrifice time away from your own home and family to make sure we can all live in peace and harmony.

We give thanks to you, we respect you, we salute you.

From all of the children at

Clover Hill Primary School

Children in Need: Friday 14th November

Our children can come into school wearing 'spots and dots' – clothing, headbands, children in need merchandise – whatever they have! It will be a non-uniform day where children should wear TRAINERS as we will be taking part in **RUNPUDSEY!**

runPudsey is a fun way to get our children moving and raising money for BBC Children in Need. Following a special 'Children in Need' assembly, our classes will be running the daily mile to music wearing our 'spots and dots'. All we ask is that they bring an optional **small** donation that we can send to Children in Need. 1 donation per family is absolutely fine rather than individual children each bringing in money. **There will be a bucket in the playground for donations as children come into school – please just add whatever you can, if you can.** Money will not be collected from children in classrooms.

Diary Dates

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| 10/11/25 | Odd Socks day – Children to wear odd socks to kickstart the national anti-bullying week |
| 14/11/25 | Children in Need – Wear 'spots and dots'. Optional donation bucket will be in playground. |
| 19/11/25 | Year 2 visit to Fellside Church (Experience Christmas interactive workshop) |
| 24/11/25 | 3.30-6pm Parent Consultations (Reception to Year 6) |
| 25/11/25 | 3.30-6pm Parent Consultations (Reception to Year 6 - NOT Year 3) |
| 26/11/25 | 3.30-6pm Parent Consultations (Year 3 only) |
| 05/12/25 | Break the Rules Day (school fundraiser) |
| 8/9/12/25 | 2pm KS1 Nativity |
| 10/12/25 | 9.30am KS1 Nativity |
| 10/12/25 | 3.30pm Meet Santa in his Grotto at Clover Hill (further information to follow from our PTA) |
| 11/12/25 | Christmas jumper day (no donations required) and Christmas lunch |
| 15/12/25 | Y3/4 Christmas party |
| 16/12/25 | Reception & KS1 Christmas party |
| 16/12/25 | KS2 walk to St Mary's Church for carol rehearsal |
| 17/12/25 | Y5/6 Christmas party 3.30pm School Council present: CHRISTMAS MOVIE NIGHT |
| 18/12/25 | Pantomime in school (paid for by our PTA) |
| 19/12/25 | KS2 Carol Service at St Mary's Church |
| 19/12/25 | Break up for Christmas |

School Improvement Plan

We are working on the following three priorities this year:

1. To develop writing by building syntactic control. To form sentences that clearly express an intended meaning. We are teaching children how to build well-structured sentences so they can clearly and accurately communicate their ideas through writing.

2. To improve the quality of teaching and learning by embedding Co-operative Learning structures. We are working to make lessons even more engaging and effective by using Co-operative Learning techniques. This means children will regularly work together in small groups, helping each other to learn and solve problems. It encourages teamwork, builds confidence and helps every child take an active role in their learning. As a result, children are more motivated, understand topics more deeply and develop important social skills that will benefit them both in and out of school.

3. To ensure a smooth transition between Reception and Year 1 by implementing a continuous provision curriculum in Year 1. We want to make sure that children feel confident and happy as they move from Reception to Year 1. To help with this, we're continuing to use play-based and hands-on learning activities in Year 1, similar to what they're used to in Reception. This approach helps children settle more easily, keeps them engaged in their learning, and supports their development at a pace that's right for them. It also helps build independence, creativity, and a love of learning that will support them throughout their school journey.

We are undertaking training throughout this year in all three areas and will be implementing strategies into our everyday classroom practice. We evaluate impact at the end of each term and build on this accordingly. We are working closely with governors who are actively involved in the school improvement process alongside school leaders. We will keep you updated with the progress of each priority each term.

Anti-bullying Week: Monday 10th-Friday 14th November 2025

We are having an **Odd Socks Day** on Monday 10th to kickstart our 'anti-bullying' week, with adults and children being encouraged to wear odd socks to celebrate what makes us all unique.

Organised by the Anti-Bullying Alliance (ABA), this national campaign is a valuable opportunity for schools to unite and promote kindness, inclusion and respect among pupils. This year's theme, **Power for Good**, encourages pupils to recognise the power they each hold - to speak up, support one another and create positive change when they see bullying, whether online or in person.

We explain to all our children that although there is a national anti-bullying week, at Clover Hill it is obviously an anti-bullying week EVERY week. We always ask the children to think carefully about their behaviour and attitude to others. We invest a lot of time and care in trying to prevent bullying so that children make the correct choices in their behaviours and friendships in the first instance.

Our pupils are supported so that they are aware of what to do if they are having problems with other pupils that could lead to bullying **but also how to evaluate when things just go wrong due to general falling out with friends or accidental upsets**. Falling out with others can be really upsetting and so we work extremely hard to get children to empathise with each other and to unpick misunderstandings that can cause unnecessary barriers to positive friendships.