

---

**Beaufront First School**  
**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2018**  
**Newsletter**  
**School News**

**NCC Consultation about Education in the West of Northumberland**

Yesterday, the Chair of Governors and Head Teachers of 15 schools have sent a joint letter to Northumberland County Council to express their views regarding the Consultation about Education in the West of Northumberland. A copy has also been sent to the Secretary of State for Education, the Regional Schools Commissioner and our local MP. A copy of the letter from schools and covering letters will be emailed to parents both for information and because you too may like to adapt them and write to the Regional Schools Commissioner, the Department for Education and our MP.

Can we also remind parents that the deadline for responding to Hadrian Learning Trust's Consultation is next Thursday (29<sup>th</sup> March). We will be sharing our school's response by next Wednesday. Please respond to both consultations to make your voice heard!!

**School Photographer**

You should have received a proof of your child's school photograph in book bags today. Orders should be returned to school on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March.

**School Meals**

We are delighted to announce that we have appointed Mrs Hulbert to be our new catering manager. Mrs Hulbert will be starting in this capacity after the Easter break. Having such a skilled person who is so passionate about food for children will be an incredible plus for our school. We are looking forward to improving and developing our school meals in terms of the food presented, the children's understanding of healthy food and increasing the children's confidence to try new foods. We hope you will take this opportunity to encourage your child to have a school meal every day. The benefits are far reaching – both in terms of a healthy meal and the social aspects of sharing food with friends. It would be wonderful if we could have 100% participation in school meals.

Thank you  
Mrs Daniel

**Reception Class**

Mrs Hulbert and Miss McCall are coming to the end of their teaching 'stint' in Reception and we owe them a vote of thanks for the wonderful job they have done while Mrs Boucetla has been on maternity leave. Miss McCall has taken a job at Slaley First School and so hopefully we will still see her in and around Hexham. Mrs Boucetla is due to come back from her maternity leave after the Easter break and we are looking forward to welcoming her back.

---

## School Improvement Visit – 15<sup>th</sup> March

We had a visit from Louise Mallin last Thursday. Louise is our ‘School Improvement Partner’, providing accountability for all aspects of school life. She gives great support to the staff and governors and makes us question every aspect of our practice. Her report was very thorough and positive. Here are a few of her comments from the report:

- ...the school continues to provide a rich and stimulating curriculum and are developing and enhancing it again this year.
- In Early Years and Key Stage 1, the rigorous approach to spelling has had an impact on writing.
- ...the teacher had high expectations of the children and there was a good pace and engagement throughout.
- ....they were totally absorbed in their learning.
- ....this was a very productive classroom ... The children and staff were mindful and respectful of the other group around them.
- All children could confidently explain to me what they were learning.
- The quality of writing in the English books is exceptionally high.
- The teaching assistant working with the children was an incredibly skilled practitioner who carried out extra reading and research to enable her to pinpoint with accuracy what each child need to do to improve.
- ... the teacher encouraged the children to try different things and not to be scared to get things wrong the first time or change ideas. Children volunteered to read back their ideas and were confident to do so.
- ...pupils focus well on their learning because teachers reinforce expectations for conduct and set clear tasks that challenge pupils.
- Teachers expect and encourage all pupils to work with positive attitudes so that they can apply themselves and make strong progress.



### What are the video games that every parent should know about?

The following information comes from <http://parentinfo.org/article/five-video-games-that-parents-should-be-aware-of>

The Games Rating Authority (GRA) exists to provide ratings and ratings information for video game purchasers in the UK using the [PEGI rating system](#). The ratings are based on what the game contains and not, as is sometimes believed, on how hard or easy it is to play.

For those with younger children, the ratings are especially useful in helping consumers to make informed buying choices. Additional consumer information (ACI), accessible through the [GRA website \(link is external\)](#), provides a text-based description of what the game contains and what other features are worth noting – in-game purchases, online interaction with others.

### **Pokémon Go (PEGI 3)**

Though suitable for all ages, this free-to-play, augmented reality game has caused a stir for all sorts of reasons. Using the device's in-built GPS, the player is encouraged to go out into the real world, track down and capture assorted Pokémon. So far, so straightforward. However, the game has been criticised because some of the real world locations where the Pokémon are located were deemed inappropriate or unsuitable.

In addition, players may make in-app purchases to improve their chances of capturing the Pokémon.

On the plus side, it is a game that ensures children get active and move around in the real world though younger children should be supervised.

For more information read Parent Info's [Pokémon Go - a parent's guide](#).

### **Minecraft (PEGI 7)**

Is there any child who isn't playing Minecraft? It may appear to be little more than a digital LEGO, but there's so many aspects of this game that keeps people playing it over and over again.

It lacks any notable 'violence' and the ability to interact online with others does create positive communities of players who help each other to build all manner of things. Having said that, of course, children who do engage with others online should be supervised given the ever present risk of trolling or bullying.

### **Angry Birds 2 (PEGI 3)**

Yet another 'freemium' game which can be downloaded on Android and iOS devices, this very popular game offers endless fun and violence-free entertainment, but be warned that you will have to pay out to obtain 'gems' and 'spells' to enable you to conquer the more challenging levels. These items can be replenished for free in limited amounts, but there's certainly a bit of pressure in the game to buy stuff.

## **Diary Dates**

*Please note that new dates are shown in italics*

2018

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March

Representatives of NCC to attend Beaufront to meet with staff and Governors (5.00pm for Governor's meeting)

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March

Deadline for responses to Hadrian Learning Trust Consultation

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March

School closes for Easter Break

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> April

Deadline for responses to NCC Consultation on Education in the West of Northumberland

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April

School reopens for Summer Term

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May

Bank Holiday

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May

School closes for Summer Half Term

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June

School reopens

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June

Whole School Triathlon.

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July

Whole School Summer Garden Day

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> July

Sports Day

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> July

Whole School visit to Tynemouth Beach

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> July

Beaufront Leaver's BBQ

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> July

Leaver's Assembly

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> July

School closes for Summer Break

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September

Teacher Training Day

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September

School reopens for Autumn Term

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October

School closes for Autumn Half Term

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November

School reopens

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December

School closes for Christmas Break

**2019**

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January**  
**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February**  
**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February**  
**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April**  
**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April**  
**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May**  
**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May**  
**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June**  
**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July**

**School reopens for Spring Term**  
**School closes for Spring Half Term**  
**School reopens**  
**School closes for Easter Break**  
**School reopens for Summer Term**  
**Bank Holiday**  
**School closes for Summer Half Term**  
**School reopens**  
**School closes for Summer Break**