

# Pegswood Primary School News

<http://www.pegswood.northumberland.sch.uk/website>

Issue 2



Friday 15<sup>th</sup>  
September

## Forest School

Mrs McGuire will be starting forest school in the week ahead. Year 6 will be attending on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September in the morning and Year 5 in the afternoon. Please can you make sure that children come to school in uniform, but bring with them appropriate clothes to change into to go into forest school. They may get wet and muddy. If they have a pair of wellingtons and a waterproof coat and/or trousers, please bring those as well.

This year Mrs McGuire will be following a national awards scheme in forest school, so the children of all ages will learn valuable skills, safety and teamwork whilst they are in forest school. All classes will get to access forest school over the half term.

## Admissions Portal

The admissions portal for secondary school is now live for parents of Year 6 children on the Northumberland County Council website. There is a link directly to it from our 'News' section on our school website.

Over the past two years, some of our children have not been admitted into Ashington Academy. Their policy changed and they now do not have any 'feeder' schools. It is based on distance from their school and other criteria. Their full admissions policy can be found on the same page on our website.

Because of this, it is imperative that you visit all available secondary schools on their open evenings, in order to make the best possible decision.

Open Evenings are:

Ashington Academy – Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

NCEA Dukes Secondary – Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September – 4:00pm

Please ensure that you put more than one school on your application, when listing your preferences, even if you do not want them to go to the second or third-choice school. If you do not receive your first option, with no other choice on the form, the priority of the application drops drastically.



We have been in consultation with Northumberland County Council and Ashington Academy for many years over this issue that affects not just us but all schools in the Ashington Partnership, although it affects Ellington Primary and us the most. Unfortunately, Northumberland County Council are unable to have any influence over Ashington Academy due to their academy status.

Further steps began last year to try to find a solution to this to ensure children and parents/carers from Pegswood Primary can confidently choose their next stage of education, with the knowledge they will be able to attend their secondary school of choice, along with their friends. We will continue to try to find that solution as we move forward.

The portal on the Northumberland County Council website closes on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023 (during half term). It is imperative that you do not miss this deadline; otherwise, your application will go to the bottom of the pile.

### Story Centre

We have had a busy first full week in the Story Centre this week. On Wednesday, Year 5 had an online session with S.F Said who wrote their class book Varjak Paw. On Thursday morning, Laura McLennan visited Years 1 and 2 for storytelling and to run a workshop for them. She also read to Year 6 and left some new books on our shelves. On Thursday evening, local author Jodie James visited the Story Centre with her new book. Jodie will be returning in October to work with Years 3 and 4.

All classes have visited the Story Centre, including the Nursery. A big box of lovely new books arrived from Readers That Care that they gifted to us. They are an independent children's bookseller and donated the books after seeing a post on our social media platform about the transformation of the library into the Story Centre.

Year 4 also received a brand new class set of The Last Bear by Hannah Gold to read and review together from the publisher, Harper Collins.

