



November 13th 2020

Remembrance

On Sunday I watched the Remembrance Service online at St Mary's. Thoughtfully, Stella and her Mum photographed our wreath which was taken to the Bowes Museum afterwards, which I shared with the children. We held our own Remembrance Assembly in school, read a lovely book together called *Where the Poppies Now Grow* by Hilary Robinson and Martin Impey. Afterwards, the school observed the two-minute silence very respectfully. Children throughout the school completed different activities such as poetry and artwork to mark the occasion.

Children in Need

It was lovely to see our children come to school in colours of the rainbow. They looked fabulous and supported this worthy cause very well. Mrs Newton has uploaded some class photographs of the children which can be found [here](#).

One very special gesture came from Reggie in Reception. He had been talking to his family, explaining that some children had very little and he decided to donate the value of one of his Christmas toys to Children in Need. We were all very touched by this donation and are very proud of him for thinking of others. Well done Reggie! Thank you to everyone who donated. We will let you know how much was raised next week.

Outdoor Learning

This week some members of staff received further training on Outdoor Learning which has become an important part of the curriculum. Dr Greenwell was successful in a small grant application and now the school has a 'Kellie Kettle', equipment for the firepit, knives and peelers for whittling and much more. I am sure that as we become more skilled as a staff that these sessions will prove incredibly popular with the children. I am pleased that staff from TCR Hub will be leading 6 outdoor sessions for our Year 6 children over the coming weeks.

Please make sure that your child has suitable footwear (wellies if possible) and a waterproof coat on your child's outdoor learning session days.

School Council

Last week each class from Year 1 to Year 6 voted for two school representatives. They will hold socially distanced meetings in the hall with Mrs Bartoli during one of our assembly slots each week. I will let you know of any of the ideas they have or changes they would like to make. Well done to all of the children who had written a manifesto and spoke in front of the class – it is not easy to speak in front of peers about yourself. There will be new councillors chosen in the new year.

COVID 19 reminders

I uploaded a useful guide for parents onto the website this week from Public Health England (PHE) which can be found [here](#). The instructions from the Department of Education and PHE are something that I check each day. Over the course of this week and the pandemic I have contacted PHE, the PHE Lead for Durham, the Health and Safety Lead at the Local Authority and Leadership Advisers to ensure we follow the most up to date, legal procedures. I really appreciate how we are all following these in order to keep our school and community safe. Thank you also to all the parents who are wearing a mask on the school site.

Parents' Evening

I hope that the parents of children in Early Years and Years 1 and 2 found their conversations with class teachers useful.

The remaining Parents' Evenings will be held on the following dates between 3:20pm - 6:00pm and will take place via telephone only. Appointments can be made by telephone (01833637718) or emailing montalbo@durhamlearning.net

Monday 16th and Tuesday 17th November – Year 3 and Year 4 Parents' Evening 3.20pm-6pm

Wednesday 18th and Thursday 19th November – Year 5 and Year 6 Parents' Evening 3.20pm-6pm

Christmas

This week the Local Authority provided some advice around Christmas and how we can best share some events with parents. Next week I will send out an explanation and will ask for specific consents, which will be explained in the letter.

New Parent Pay Booking System

The new booking system for Breakfast Care and After School Care via the Parent Pay App is working well. Bookings can be on an ad hoc basis, daily, weekly, monthly or termly but please note that the booking will only be confirmed once payment has been received.

Nursery children do not have to use this system as the care can be included in their entitlement, therefore should any additional care be required please inform Mrs Patterson or the school office staff.

Those who pay for their childcare via an employer's salary childcare scheme should complete a booking form and return it to the school office for processing and not use the new on-line system.

If you do not need the session you have booked, this can be cancelled up to an hour before the event. A credit for the appropriate amount will be made to your account and it would be helpful if you could inform school of the cancellation.

Co-op Local Community Fund

After completing a funding application, I was delighted to receive confirmation that we had been selected for The Co-op Community Fund in Barnard Castle. The funding will go towards developing the small copse of trees in the corner to support our outdoor learning and wellbeing. We plan to construct a naturalistic shelter that will eventually be surrounded by trees. I will let you know how parents/carers and the community can help us with this in the coming weeks.

Reception Class Places 2021

Please remember that even if your child attends our nursery, you must still apply for a school place for their Reception year. Further information on how to apply for a Reception place is available on the D.C.C website or via the following link: www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions

Attendance for w.b. 10.11.20

Reception	95.5%	Class 3	***100%***
Class 1	97.6%	Class 4	95.6%
Class 2	***100%***	Class 5	97.2%
		Class 6	91.5%
School overall attendance is: 96.6%			

Dates for the Diary

November 16th – 19th Parents' Evenings (see above for details)

December 11th Christmas Jumper Day

December 18th Last Day of Term

December 21st-Jan 1st Christmas Holidays

January 4th Teacher Training Day

Mr C Minikin, Head Teacher