



November 6<sup>th</sup> 2020

### **Welcome back**

I hope that you and your families are keeping safe and well and that you managed to make the most of the half term break. As we have now entered the second national lockdown, I recognise the difficulties all of us face and that some families may have been affected to a greater degree than others. If there is anything we as a school can do to help, please let me know.

I was very relieved to note that the Prime Minister recognises the importance of children being in school and that wherever possible, this will remain the case. The children have been a real credit to you in the way that they have adapted and we are very pleased with the atmosphere, work ethic and progress the children have made to date.

It has been lovely to catch up with the children from the classroom door and on TEAMS. They have begun their new topics and this second half term moves from humanities to creative subjects such as Art and Design and Technology. I am really looking forward to seeing some of this work in the weeks ahead.

I thank you all for the sensible and appropriate decisions made around COVID-19 whilst adults who have symptoms wait for test results, for example or parents keeping their child off if they have a cough. As case numbers are high now around the country, we would request that only one parent/trusted adult collects or drops off their child. We also request adults picking up or dropping off wear a mask on school grounds as the site can occasionally be crowded, despite the staggered starts and finish times. Thank you.

### **Children in Need**

We will be supporting Children in Need again this year. We thought that the children might like to come to school in rainbow colours on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November and bring in a donation to support the charity. It could be one or more of the colours of the rainbow such as a red t-shirt or perhaps your child might like to decorate an old t-shirt?

### **School Photographs**

The school photographer will not be visiting school as planned on November 11<sup>th</sup>. This has been rearranged for February 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **Well done Phoebe and Luke!**

I was delighted to read of Phoebe in Year 5's efforts over half term to help our community as she organised a litter pick. Luke in Year 5 also joined in to clean up the town and he enjoyed telling me all about it. The article in this week's Teesdale Mercury showed how children can make a real difference. Miss Bean was quick to copy it for the class inspirational display! We are all very proud of Phoebe and Luke and hope that we can all do our bit to keep our beautiful area clean and litter free.

### **Remembrance**

Like all events, plans for Remembrance will be different this year. We have bought a wreath for the service at St Mary's Church but the event will run very differently. Despite these uncertainties and restrictions, Rev Cannon Alec Harding of St Mary's Parish Church will still produce an act of remembrance for the town that will be available through the church Facebook page on the morning of Remembrance Sunday. There will be no gathering inside or outside church and the wreaths will be transferred later to the Bowes Museum War Memorial. We have sent home a poster from Barnard Castle Town Council 'Barnard Castle Remembering At Home'. They are requesting residents display this in their windows after the 11:00 a.m. silence on Sunday to mark their respects.

## New Parent Pay Booking System

The problems with the new booking system have been resolved by Parent Pay and you are now able to book for Breakfast Care and After School Care.

This 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.

## Parents' Evening

Parents' evenings will be held on the following dates between 3:15 - 6:00pm and will take place via telephone only. Appointments can be made by telephone (01833637718) or emailing

[montalbo@durhamlearning.net](mailto:montalbo@durhamlearning.net)

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November – Nursery and Reception Parents' Evening 3.40pm-6pm

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November – Year 1 and Year 2 Parents' Evening 3.40pm-6pm

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

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

## 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.

## Poetry Competition

McNab's Books, located on 11-13 Market Place Barnard Castle, have been in touch about our upcoming poetry competition open to all Primary School pupils in the local area. They would like pupils to write a poem on the subject of 'My Community' (Barnard Castle and the surrounding area). The overall winner will receive 'Miss Trunchbull's Chocolate Cake' (a full decadent chocolate cake from their café) and a £10 book token!

One winner from each school will win a £5 book token, and their poem will be displayed in the bookshop. We have only had a couple of entries and it would be great to think we could have a few more in the near future.

## Reception Class Places 2021

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](http://www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions)

## Attendance for w.b. 3.11.20

Reception	98.1%	<b>Class 3</b>	<b>***100%***</b>
Class 1	98.7%	Class 4	99.3%
<b>Class 2</b>	<b>***100%***</b>	Class 5	96.6%
		Class 6	99%
<b>School overall attendance is: 98.7%</b>			

## Dates for the Diary

November 9<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> Parents' Evenings (see above for details)  
November 13<sup>th</sup> Children in Need (rainbow colours)  
December 11<sup>th</sup> Christmas Jumper Day  
December 18<sup>th</sup> Last Day of Term  
December 21<sup>st</sup>-Jan 1<sup>st</sup> Christmas Holidays  
January 4<sup>th</sup> Teacher Training Day  
Mr C Minikin Head Teacher