



January 26th 2018 Issue 18

New Nursery Starters

We are so pleased with how our new nursery starters have settled in. They have all quickly picked up the rules and routines of The Base helped by the wonderful role models in Reception and Nursery. All of the children in The Base have had a marvellous start to 2018 doing lots of exciting work about dinosaurs including excavating a dinosaur skeleton and creating a huge T-Rex!

Maths Information Evening

Miss Blackburn, our Maths Leader, would like to give parents a little more information about how Maths is taught in school, give you an indication of the expectation for different year groups and the types of games or activities you can do with your child at home. Mrs Bartoli will give parents in Reception similar information. All of the meetings are on 22nd February. Nursery and Reception's meeting will be in the Base at 3.30pm, Years 1 and 2s meeting will be at 5pm and Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 will be at 6pm in Miss Blackburn's classroom.

Chess Club

Dr Greenwell has enlisted the help of the British Senior Champion, Garry Hewitt, to help with chess club. Later this year, Dr Greenwell will arrange some matches against other local schools and I look forward to seeing how chess players get on.

Edinburgh Visit

Parents/carers of children in Miss Richardson's class are invited to an information evening about the residential trip to Edinburgh. This meeting will take place on Tuesday at 5.30pm in Miss Richardson's classroom.

Dr Greenwell's Class Assembly

The next Class Assembly will be performed by Dr Greenwell's Class.

This will take place on Friday, February 9th at 9.00am. Parents and relatives of the children in this class are welcome attend.

Valentine's Disco

This will be a little earlier in the year than usual due to the half term holidays and will take place on Thursday, February 8th.

Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and 2 will be from 5.30pm to 6.30pm and Year 3-6 will be from 6.45pm – 7.45pm. Tickets will be available from 29th January costing £1.50 which includes a drink and a hot dog.

Primary Science Quality Mark

As a school, we are working towards the Primary Science Quality Mark which recognises schools where the teaching and learning of science is given a high priority. Dr Greenwell, our Science Lead, is making several changes to the way we teach science and is using some innovative ideas. One of the changes she has introduced is the whole school science homework – so far she has sent out one about a practical experiment using foil and one about finding the odd one out, promoting discussion in the family. The idea is to get children thinking about science and to try and explain their thoughts. The activities chosen are suitable for all year groups and different children will have different answers depending on their age and understanding. Dr Greenwell would welcome some feedback from parents/carers about this approach and there is a section on the bottom of this newsletter where she would welcome your comments. Many thanks.

School Leadership

I have been really impressed with the development of our Subject leaders in school. All of our teachers have subjects which they lead and monitor and they are making a real difference by creating positive changes to improve our practice further. I have had several colleagues in other schools who are keen to work with us in areas like phonics, writing and Maths. Advisers have been keen to photocopy evidence from books so that they can show others best practice. Well done team!

WOW competition

It has been nice to see the children collecting their WOW badges for walking to school at least once a week for a month. Many of them are keen to enter the badge competition to design a badge related to one of the seasons. Please bring in any designs you have by the end of February so we can send them off. Thank you.

Attendance for w.b. 22.1.18

Class	Present
Mrs Bartoli's Reception	100%
Miss Lauder's Class	84.3%
Miss Blackburn's Class	91.3%
Dr Greenwell's Class	93.6%
Miss Richardson's Class	96.1%
School Total	92.3%

Punctuality

Please ensure that your child arrives at school no later than 8.55a.m. in order to make a prompt start for lessons. Remember Wake Up, Shake Up usually starts at 8.45a.m. 30 minutes of learning was lost to lateness this week.

Dates for the diary

February 5th	Y5/6 Netball Competition at the Alun Armstrong Centre 9.30-11.30am
February 6th	Safer Internet Day – Online Safety Assembly for Parents 3pm
February 6th	Y2/3 Multiskills Festival at Staindrop School 9.30am-11.30
February 9th	Dr Greenwell's Class Assembly 9.00am
February 12 th - 16 th	Half Term
February 19 th	School starts after half term
February 21 st	Y5/6 visiting Teesdale School for dress rehearsal of Teesdale's play
February 22 nd	Maths Information Meeting for Parents: Nursery and Reception – In the Base Y1+2 at 5pm in school Y3, 4, 5 and 6 at 6pm in school
March 14 th and 15 th	Parents' Evening

Mr Minikin

Head Teacher

Have you enjoyed working on the science homework with your child? Yes/No

Comments.....

Do you feel that the science homework has promoted more scientific discussion at home? Yes/No

Comments

Do you feel that the science homework is appropriate for your child? Yes/No

Comments

Do you have any suggestions or comments about the science homework?

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