



March 29th 2019 Issue 26

Parents' Evening

I always enjoyed Parents' Evenings as a Class Teacher and having talked to our staff recognise that they do too. It is always nice to share successes and discuss next steps with parents/carers. We try to build good communications and there should be no surprises on Parents' Evening, as any key information should have already been shared. It felt a little different with the school being more spread out which took a little getting used to, but many parents commented very positively about the extensions and facilities.

Thank you to everyone who was able to come to Parents' Evening (over 90% of parents did) and to our teachers for their preparation for these. If you were unable to attend an appointment, please call the School Office to arrange a convenient time.

Mother's Day

This is a busy time with families in school most days! I'm hoping that our Mother's Day event was a great success and I hope that you enjoyed the activities with your child. We have been fortunate for the last two years to have reasonable weather which has helped us use our developing outside space. Thank you to Mrs Bartoli and all of our staff for preparing the activities for this.

Exciting Curriculum

Our Early Years team were delighted to receive visits from two parents this week. Reception learnt more about the role of a vet thanks to Mrs Peat and were delighted to help operate on Monty the stuffed animal dog! Nursery learnt more about the role of a doctor through a visit from Dr Whitehead who was very impressed with the listening skills of our youngest learners. Later in the week, Nursery and Reception visited the emergency services hub to learn more about the police and fire service. They had a wonderful time and particularly enjoyed squirting the hoses! Our youngest children thrive in Nursery and Reception and make remarkable progress from their starting points.

We have been looking at ways to develop our curriculum further to give our older children more ownership of their learning, developing their understanding by working closely with others. Values and habits that we would like to instil in our children are 'to endeavour, to collaborate and to be inspired' and we are developing ways to allow these to run through all that we do.

Sports Events

This week saw Reception, Year 1 and Year 5 take part in sporting activities. Sport is so important to us and it is nice for children to learn and experience as many sports as possible.

Reception tried out a number of skills in their festivals that involved throwing and catching, running and team games.

Our Year 1 children had some competitive football games following their work with the coach this year. They did very well, considering they were playing against older children and managed to win a game. Well done Year 1!

On Thursday Year 5 went to Staindrop Academy and tried a range of activities in their Multi-Skills Festival. They enjoyed themselves very much and showed an excellent sporting attitude.

As well as the events above, Nursery and Reception children have been benefiting from working with Michael Connelly, our gymnastics coach this half term. He has been very impressed with their skills, attitudes and abilities. If skills like balance and coordination are developed early, then our children will be able to tackle more complex skills as they work their way through school.

Easter Flumpets

This year we decided to support the Butterwick Hospice at Easter rather than Christmas. The Easter Flumpets have proved very popular and can be purchased from the School Office. They cost £1.50 each with all monies raised going to the hospice.

Miss Lauder's Class Assembly

The next class assembly in school is Miss Lauder's Year 1 children on Friday 5th April at 9am. Families of these children are very welcome to attend.

Year 3 Pedestrian Training

Year 3 continue their pedestrian training with trained Local Authority providers next week. Please ensure that your child has a coat with them as they will be going out even if it's raining!

Year 3 and 4 Spring Performances

The children in Dr Greenwell's and Miss Scott's classes have been busy rehearsing for the Y3/4 play. They are performing twice, once on Tuesday 2nd April at 1.45pm and again Wednesday 3rd April at 6pm. Four tickets for each performance have been sent home with the children this week. If you do not require all 4 for both performances, please send spare tickets back to school.

SATs Meeting for Parents/Carers of Y2 and Y6

Miss Blackburn and Miss Richardson would like the chance give more information to Year 2 and Year 6 parents about the SATs that the children will take in May.

Both meetings will be on Monday 1st April – Year 2 from 5pm-5.30pm and Year 6 from 5.30pm-6pm.

Parent Pay

As you will know, we are switching over to Parent Pay from April 1st 2019 and as such will no longer accept any cash or cheque payments. Parents/Carers please ensure you have activated your account with Parent Pay and if you need any help with please contact the school office. All balances (debit or credit) will be transferred to the Parent Pay system in the coming week and final statements will be issued for dinner money and Montalbo Extra accounts.

Attendance for w.b. 25.3.19

Class	Present
Reception	94%
Year 1	96.7%
Year 2	95.8%
Year 3	96.1%
Year 4	95.7%
Year 5	96.7%
Year 6	97.2%
School overall attendance	96.1%

Please ensure that your child arrives at school no later than 8.55a.m. in order to make a prompt start for lessons.

31 minutes of learning was lost to lateness this week.

Dates for the diary

April 1 st	Year 2 and Year 6 Parents SATs meeting (Y2 5pm; Y6 5.30pm)
April 2 nd	Pedestrian Training Year 3
April 2 nd	Year 3 and 4 Spring Performance 1.30pm
April 3 rd	Year 3 and 4 Spring Performance 6pm
April 5 th	Miss Lauder's Class Assembly
April 8 th – 22 nd	Easter holiday
April 23 rd	Start of Summer Term – children return to school
May 1 st	Key Stage 2 Football Tournament
May 13 th – 16 th	Year 6 SATs
May 20 th – 24 th	Year 2 SATs
May 22 nd -24 th	Year 6 Residential to Ford Castle

Mr Minikin

Head Teacher