



November 15th 2019 Issue 10

Remembrance Sunday

Thank you to the families who joined us on the Remembrance Parade. It is quite rightly a very popular community event and I am grateful to Rosie for her reading in St Marys also George and Adam for laying our school wreath at the war memorial in the Bowes Museum.

Science Fair

The Science Fair on Tuesday was a huge success! There were so many positive elements to the event. I was especially pleased to see how knowledgeable, enthusiastic and welcoming our Science Ambassadors were and I received many positive comments from parents about them. I am grateful to Teesdale School for sending their staff and Science Ambassadors to us, Durham University for the use of their experts and planetarium, and GSK for their staff (including the excellent apprentices) and their equipment.

The buzz of excitement and learning in the hall was tangible and is exactly what we try to create across the curriculum. It's something that happens regularly for us and we were delighted to be able to share the fun with you! Thank you very much to all of our staff for their time and efforts in supporting the event, our amazing science ambassadors and especially to Dr Greenwell. It is fair to say that nobody is more passionate about science than Dr Greenwell and the way she has developed science in our school is remarkable. The amount of visitors and visits we have had really enrich the curriculum and huge congratulations to Dr Greenwell for a super Science Fair.

Christmas Fair

As one event finishes, the planning for the next gathers pace! FOMS, staff and I are busy arranging some lovely stalls and activities for the Christmas Fair on Tuesday 3rd December from 5pm-7pm. There are now well over 20 stalls in attendance not including the school stalls, selling a wide variety of items that will make excellent Christmas gifts. Father Christmas will also be in the Goods Wagon! The event will be in the school hall with stalls and activities outside on the yard and in the garden too. If you know anyone in the wider community who may like to come, please invite them!

Friends are running various activities such as a bottle tombola and raffle. If you have any prizes that you would be willing to donate please bring them to the School Office. Thank you.

Parents' Evening

I hope that you found Parents' Evening useful. I know that most classes had nearly all parents attend which is very pleasing. It is a nice time to look at books and have your questions answered. If you did not manage to make it on either night and you would like to see your child's teacher, please contact the School Office. Thank you.

Thank you to those of you who bought a book at the Book Fair this week. The school will benefit with more books too which will stock our new library and class bookshelves.

Letterjoin

Some teachers at Parents' Evening may have shared the fact that we follow a handwriting scheme called Letterjoin which you can access at home. The home user name is lj0107 and the password is home. If you are using an Ipad, you may need a swipe code which is a capital L starting at the top left.

Children in Need

We often mention the importance of reading to children and parents and I was pleased to hear the School Council's idea for a book sale to support Children in Need. I hope that your child picked up a bargain! I will let you know how much we raised, along with the donations for non-uniform.

Absences

Please remember to telephone the School Office if your child is unwell, preferably before school. Advice from the school nurse, which we follow, states that if a child has been sick or has had diarrhoea, then they need to have been clear for 48 hours before returning to school.

Attendance Awards

The attendance certificates arrived and we were able to hand out 91 certificates for 100% attendance. Well done everyone! There are well-researched links between attendance and children's progress. Most children's attendance is considerably over 90% and as a school from Y1-Y6 (the measure OFSTED uses) our attendance this year is over 97%!

Inspiring Curriculum

We have done a lot of work on the curriculum this year and it is something that we will continue to develop. As I visited the classes this week it was amazing to see the children's knowledge and skills developing in different subjects. For example, building on the children's prior knowledge, Mrs Newton's class have built a huge, collaborative Bowes Museum and in art have sculpted Silver Swans! In Year 1 they have made draw bridges using pulleys, building on their earlier castles topic and these are amazing. In Year 6, I noted some beautiful water colours that the children have created. It is important that we give the children opportunities to develop in all subjects if we want the next generation of engineers, artists, computer programmers and more.

Athlete Visit

On Thursday 28th November, GB Athlete Charlie Myers is visiting our school. Charlie is a professional Pole Vaulter and this year he came 5th at the European U23 Athletics Championships. Charlie will be running a fitness activity circuit for all children to take part in. We hope that you can support and encourage your child by sponsoring them to complete the activities. The money raised will provide school with some new sports equipment and support Charlie Myers on his journey towards the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. We look forward to this fantastic event!

Resilience Work

One area we have been keen to develop with our Year 6 children is around resilience. Miss Richardson and I arranged for some sessions with Barnard Castle School and this week half of the class did some activities with a Sergeant Major and the cadets! They came back very enthusiastically and Miss Richardson was very proud of their behaviour and attitude during the session. The other half of the class will go next week.

Reception 2020

Please remember to visit www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions if you have not already completed applications for a Reception place.

Attendance for w.b. 11.11.19

Class	Present
Reception	94.5%
Year 1	93.7%
Year 2	100%
Year 3	95.3%
Year 4	96.6%
Year 5	96.3%
Year 6	94.8%

School overall attendance is 95.8%

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

1 hour 5 minutes of learning was lost to lateness this week

Dates for the diary

November 22 nd	Newcastle University outreach working with KS2
November 25 th	Safety Carousel Y6
November 28 th	Athlete visit
December 3 rd	FOMS Christmas Fair 5-7pm
December 9 th	Nursery and Reception Nativity Play 2.30pm
December 9 th	Music Concert at Teesdale 4.30 -6.30pm
December 10 th	Reception Multiskills Festival at Staindrop (am)
December 10 th	Christmas Dinner Day
December 11 th	Year 1 Multiskills Festival at Aycliffe
December 11 th	Christmas Performance by Year 1 and Year 2 at 1.45pm
December 12 th	Christmas Performance by Year 1 and Year 2
December 13 th	Carol Service in St Mary's Church at 2pm (wear your Christmas jumpers!)
December 16 th – 20 th	Christmas parties – dates tbc
December 20 th	Last day of term
January 6 th	Teacher training day
January 7 th	Children return to school

Mr Minikin Head Teacher