



November 29<sup>th</sup> 2019 Issue 12

### **Mrs Leonard's Class Assembly**

Class 5 had their Good Work Assembly today. They all performed very well and showcased some of the excellent work they have done so far. The theme of 'Who Do You Think You Are?' was very entertaining and everyone showed great enthusiasm during the class songs. Children were 'happy historians' and 'marvellous mathematicians' and they even had a great quiz for the audience!

### **Christmas Fair**

We are still busy preparing the lovely stalls and activities for the Christmas Fair on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

We are also looking forward to seeing pupil's designs for the 'Montalbo Lumiere' competition which will be displayed on the evening of the Christmas Fair.

### **Library and reading helpers**

We have had a number of parents/grandparents volunteer to help with both reading and the school library and we are very grateful. Miss Richardson and Miss Lauder will contact all of you to arrange details.

### **Athlete Visit**

Sports for Schools Athlete Charlie Myers visited us yesterday. He led high energy fitness sessions for the children to take part in – and they loved it! There was an amazing atmosphere. Children cheered each other on to achieve their best and they all worked incredibly hard. The activities included: Spotty Dogs, Sit Ups, Star Jumps, Mountain Climbers and Press Ups. At the end of the afternoon, Charlie gave an inspirational talk on his journey to becoming a world class athlete. He had many key messages but the one that we all remembered was to 'dream big' and 'never give up'. Children can continue to send in their sponsorship money for up to 1 week. A huge thank you to those who have already sent in their sponsorship forms and money. We will be handing out athlete prizes before the end of term.

### **Safety Carousel**

This week, the Y6s went to the Safety Carousel and learnt more skills and knowledge to keep them safe at home and in the local area. Workshops included: an E-Safety talk from Durham Police, a Water Safety workshop by The RNLI, a Road Safety Talk by Durham County Council and a Fire Safety Quiz by Durham Fire and Rescue. It was a great day and the Y6s learned a lot of information on how to stay safe!

### **Eco Club and Lego Coding**

The Eco Club were visited by a 'Lego We Do 2' specialist this week. They listened to a presentation about Greta Thunberg and Climate Change before taking part in coding activities linked to rescuing endangered animals. Children programmed different Lego designs to make them move and change colour. It was great fun for everyone involved.

### **Christmas Performances**

It has been lovely to see and hear Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and 2 practising for the Christmas Performances in the hall this week. Please see Mrs Patterson and Miss Lauder about tickets for the Nursery/Reception nativity. Year 1 and 2 will be able to have 4 tickets for each performance and these have been sent home with the children today.

### **No Clubs on Tuesday**

Due to the organisation of the Christmas fair, there will be no after school clubs on this day as highlighted on the club list application form. Chill out club will still be on from 3.30-5.30pm.

### Christmas Events at St Mary's

School will decorate a tree for the Christmas Tree Festival in St Mary's Church which will sit alongside 51 other trees! It is a lovely event and if you are able please pop along to see the trees. The festival runs from Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup>-Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>, admission is free (donations welcome). During Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup>-Friday 6<sup>th</sup>, viewing times are 4pm-6pm. On Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> it's 11am-5pm and on Sunday 2pm-4pm followed by Christmas poems. There will be refreshments and music too.

### Swimming

Please note that there will no more sessions of swimming for Year 4 children until after Christmas – we attend 30 swimming sessions a year or 10 sessions each team. The sessions will start again on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January.

### 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.

### Reception 2020

Please remember to visit [www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions) if you have not already completed applications for a Reception place.

### Attendance for w.b. 25.11.19

Class	Present
Reception	95.2%
Year 1	96.3%
Year 2	98.1%
Year 3	93.7%
Year 4	97.9%
Year 5	92%
Year 6	95.2%

School overall attendance is 95.5%

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

**20 minutes** of learning was lost to lateness this week

### Dates for the diary

December 3 <sup>rd</sup>	FOMS Christmas Fair 5-7pm
December 9 <sup>th</sup>	Nursery and Reception Nativity Play 2.30pm
December 9 <sup>th</sup>	Music Concert at Teesdale 4.30 -6.30pm
December 10 <sup>th</sup>	Reception Multiskills Festival at Staindrop (am)
December 10 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Dinner Day
December 11 <sup>th</sup>	Year 1 Multiskills Festival at Aycliffe
December 11 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Performance by Year 1 and Year 2 at 1.45pm
December 12 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Performance by Year 1 and Year 2 at 6pm
December 13 <sup>th</sup>	Carol Service in St Mary's Church at 2pm (wear your Christmas jumpers!)
December 16 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas parties – dates tbc
December 20 <sup>th</sup>	Last day of term
January 6 <sup>th</sup>	Teacher training day
January 7 <sup>th</sup>	Children return to school

Mr Minikin  
Head Teacher