



October 23rd 2020

Half Term

It is fair to say that this half term has presented new challenges for us all and we have had to make many adaptations to school life. I would like to thank our children, staff, parents and governors for their efforts in making sure that things have ran as smoothly as possible. We are fortunate to have the school community we do.

Despite these challenging times, there have been so many positives this half term. Our attendance has been very strong throughout the school and children have been generally punctual. Learning behaviours in class have been excellent and each day the children demonstrate our key values as they endeavour, collaborate and inspire. The educational visits around town and the virtual visits have enhanced teaching and learning, and children have been very engaged in their half term's topics. Children are making pleasing progress in many areas of the curriculum.

Two particular highlights for me in school this year have been watching children play and interact with their friends. Furthermore, seeing teaching staff interact with children and seeing lightbulb moments! In the past, these everyday school events may have been taken for granted a little, but now they seem to mean much more.

As you will be very much aware, we must continue to be vigilant and act as instructed in the weeks and months ahead and I have included some reminders on the newsletter.

Halloween Event

It was great to see the children in school today in a range of scary outfits as they paraded around the one-way system! They had a lot of fun today and it was a fabulous end to half term. Mrs Newton has uploaded some pictures of the classes onto the website which can be found [here](#).

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. I am sure Reverend Harding will publicise the plan shortly. In school, we will be commemorating in our traditional way, with an assembly and two-minute silence on the 11th November. As well as this, there are various items that the children may want to purchase from paper poppies to slap bands. Information on this can be found on the app. Please could parents send in any donations for items in a named envelope specifying which item their child would like.

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 w.c. 02.11.20 by telephone (01833637718) or emailing montalbo@durhamlearning.net

Monday 9th and Tuesday 10th November – Nursery and Reception Parents' Evening 3.40pm-6pm
Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th November – Year 1 and Year 2 Parents' Evening 3.40pm-6pm
Monday 16th and Tuesday 17th November – Year 3 and Year 4 Parents' Evening 3.20pm-6pm
Wednesday 18th and Thursday 19th November – Year 5 and Year 6 Parents' Evening 3.20pm-6pm

COVID-19 reminders

COVID-19 If you or anyone in your family are displaying COVID-19 symptoms then the following link is useful in order for you to be able to book a test: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

Alternatively, you can also call 119. Under these circumstances, please keep us informed. It is also important that if anyone in your household, child or adult, displays symptoms or has a test all within the household self isolates. This means that all siblings who live with a child or adult who is displaying symptoms should not attend school until the end of the self-isolation period or after the affected person has had a negative test. Please check by calling the school office if you are unsure. Thank you.

Flu Catch Up Clinic

Information with times, dates and venues of Catch Up Clinics was sent out on the app earlier this week. If your child missed the immunisation here at school and you would like them to be immunised please ring 03000032554.

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.

New Parent Pay Booking System

From Tuesday 3rd November you are able to book a place for your child in Breakfast Care and After School Care online via the Parent Pay App. A guide has also been added to Our Schools App for your information. Follow these instructions after logging on to your child's account:

- Select the Menu Icon on the left-hand side of the screen
- Scroll down to bookings
- Select "Make or View" bookings
- Follow the on-screen instructions to book single or multiple sessions
- Continue onto the payment instructions as the booking will not be confirmed until payment has been made.

Please note this is the only way school will accept bookings for Breakfast and After School Care with effect from November 2nd except in an emergency.

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

Attendance for w.b. 19.10.20

Reception	***100%***	Class 3	98.7%
Class 1	97.7%	Class 4	***100%***
Class 2	98.3%	Class 5	98%
		Class 6	96

School overall attendance is: 98.3%

Dates for the Diary

October 26th-30th Half Term
November 2nd Teacher Training Day
November 3rd Children return to school
November 9th – 19th Parents' Evenings (see above for details)
November 11th Photographer in school (Individual photographs)

Mr C Minikin
Headteacher