



October 9<sup>th</sup> 2020

### **School Office**

As our school continues to grow, the School Governors decided we needed to adjust our office arrangements to enable the school to continue to run as efficiently as possible. This has meant that both Mrs Hauxwell and Mrs Collin have been appointed in new posts, with additional hours and responsibilities. Well done to you both!

### **Impressive children**

The children continue to impress the teachers with their hardworking approach and excellent learning behaviours. When I pass the classroom doors it is great to see focused children working hard. They have adapted remarkably and continue to follow the new routines well. It has been great to chat to some of the classes and find out what they know and have remembered on their educational visits, such as the Autumn Walk mentioned below.

### **Autumn Walk**

Reception had a lovely walk on Tuesday to the quieter parts of town to look at some of the key buildings, as they had been learning about places such as the Post Office. After that, they looked for signs of Autumn and completed some activities, including finding lots of conkers! They walked a long way and were beautifully behaved – well done Reception!

Next week Year 1 will be adding to the knowledge gained in class, as they visit the castle.

### **Scooter with Care**

We encourage healthy ways to travel to school but need to ensure that our children are mindful and courteous towards pedestrians on the surrounding lanes and paths, by pushing their scooter along narrow sections and not riding too close to pedestrians. I would be grateful if parents could reiterate this to their children. Thank you.

### **Durham Book Festival**

The Durham Book Festival is moving online this year. There are some videos and stories suitable for children <https://durhambookfestival.com/schools/> which you can watch at a convenient time and registration is free.

<https://durhambookfestival.com/programme/> has some podcasts that adults may be interested in.

### **Halloween**

Today your children may have brought a template home, if they wanted one, to decorate for the atrium area at The Hub, where they will be put on display. Please return them to school if your child would like their work displayed.

With the disruption caused this year, I thought that it might be nice for the children to come to school on the last day of half term, Friday 23rd, in their Halloween costumes. We usually have some amazing costumes but please bare in mind that the children will still be doing some work, particularly in the morning, so will need to be able to sit down, see and not overheat! In the afternoon, they can have some Halloween activities and maybe even some treats!

## StoreHouse

StoreHouse is a foodbank project to help the people of Barnard Castle and the surrounding area. They are based at Influence Church on Galgate and their contact details are 01748823161 or [storehouse@influencechurch.co.uk](mailto:storehouse@influencechurch.co.uk)

## Reception Class Places 2021

Postcards were handed out earlier this term to nursery children regarding the application procedure for Reception Class in September 2021. The card has instructions on how to access the Parent's Guide (Primary & Secondary School Admissions Guide in County Durham 2021/22) and is available on the D.C.C website or via the following link: [www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions)

## Teesdale School Virtual Open Day

Teesdale School have asked to pass on information regarding a virtual open evening. More information can be found at [www.teesdaleschool.co.uk/open](http://www.teesdaleschool.co.uk/open)

## Secondary School Places 2021

If your child is due to transfer to secondary school in September next year, the application process will close on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020. The Parent's Guide "Primary and Secondary School Admission Guide in County Durham 2021/22" contains essential information that will help you in making your child's application and is available on the D.C.C. website [www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions)

If you live in County Durham, you need to complete an application to tell the LA which school you want your child to attend. You should list up to 3 school preferences and applying for just 1 school Does Not improve your chances of gaining a place at that school. You can apply for any school/academy in County Durham or in another Local Authority area. When you apply you will receive an acknowledgement and be offered a school place for your child by email on 1st March 2021. Please save your log-in details to enable you to accept your child's place on-line.

## Attendance

### Attendance for w.b. 5.10.20

Reception	90.7%	Class 3	99.6%
Class 1	96.9%	Class 4	98.9%
Class 2	94.4%	Class 5	98%
		Class 6	96.2%

**School overall attendance is: 96.2%**

## Dates for the Diary

October 12 <sup>th</sup>	Year 1 to the castle
October 26 <sup>th</sup> -30 <sup>th</sup>	Half Term
November 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Teacher Training Day
November 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Children return to school
November 11 <sup>th</sup>	Photographer in school (Individual photographs)

Mr C Minikin  
Headteacher