



January 29<sup>th</sup> 2021

### **Creative Children**

As we continue to drive forward with remote learning, I have had the opportunity to collect and look at examples of work children are submitting. There has been so much to enjoy, from household bubbles collaborating as older siblings support younger ones, to very creative and beautifully presented work. Today I spent a little time in Year 4 and was very pleased to see the number of children on the live lesson and to look at some of the work they had submitted recently. A special mention to Holly's very detailed and interesting work on the Greek God Zeus and Daisy's amazing representation of the human digestive system!

Mrs Patterson shared with me Joseph's adventure in Flatts Woods as he looked for Betty and the Yeti! Thankfully perhaps, he did not find them but did find some magical homeschooling fairy doorways! Perhaps you could look for them on a daily walk?

### **February Half Term**

This week the Department for Education confirmed that schools will close as usual over February half-term and are not expected to remain open to vulnerable children and the children of critical workers during that week.

### **BBC Own It App**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/safer-internet-day-resources/z6bbhbk> has some useful information on an app Prince William is promoting which encourages children from aged 7-12 to think about their online behaviours. As more and more children have their own devices and use them more and more for homelearning or pleasure, it is worth discussing appropriate online behaviour with your children.

The following link is a useful resource to help parents and children stay safe online.  
<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

### **Rotary Club Music Competition**

Please see information below from Barnard Castle Rotary Club

'Entries are now being sought for Rotary's local heat of their Young Musician of the Year competition. Music is the universal language to which we all can relate and, over the years, participation in this competition has been enjoyed and appreciated by many young people across Teesdale. This event aims to encourage development of musical talent by offering competitors the opportunity to showcase their musical ability and receive impartial feedback of their performance from a professional adjudicator.

Entries are sought from young musicians aged from 8 up to 17 years. There are two categories - Solo Vocal and Solo Instrumental - with no set pieces. We welcome music from any genre. Because of the COVID-19 restrictions, entries must be videoed performances recorded and performed live. This year, no entry fee is payable and cash prizes will be awarded in all categories. Please email [BCRotaryYoungMusician@gmail.com](mailto:BCRotaryYoungMusician@gmail.com) with expressions of interest and to receive an entry form and fuller details. Replies by Friday 5th February would be appreciated.'

### **Violins**

This week I received a lovely email from Seren in Miss Richardson's class. Seren is a very keen and talented musician. She has kindly offered to donate two violins to anyone who would like to play and enjoy them.

One of them is an electric blue 1/2 size violin and the other is traditional brown wood would 1/2 size. They both come in cases and have got bows. The blue one is in excellent condition and it has hardly been used. The wooden violin has got a few chips on (simply from usage) but is otherwise fine.

### **Reading at home**

You can now read new and exciting books online by accessing the Oxford Owl e-books Library.

The link to the website is here: <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page/>

You should log in using your child's class username below:

Username

Nursery, Reception and Year 1 - EYFSandYear1

Year 2 and Year 3 - Year2Year3

Year 4 - FantasticFours

Year 5 - LightningLearners

Year 6 - SuperSixes

The password for all pupils is: read@montalbo

Barnard Castle Library are also offering a Click and Collect Service. More information about this service can be found [here](#).

### **Assemblies**

A reminder that Mrs Bartoli uploads a Wellbeing Assembly each week and these can be found on your child's TEAMS page. Celebration Assembly is also uploaded on a Friday too. Hopefully all children who have won a certificate will have received these in the post.

### **Devices**

School has received some devices from the DfE to support learning at home. If you think that your child would benefit from loaning a device during this period, please let us know. Please bear in mind that we have limited devices to loan at present.

### **Wraparound care**

Please use this only when absolutely necessary to allow staff the opportunity to plan effectively for online learning and for those children in class, as well as responding to your emails. Thank you.

### **COVID 19 reminders**

During this period, please do not send your child to school if they are unwell in any way. Please continue to be especially vigilant around the symptoms of Covid-19. The medical advice is clear: you must self-isolate if you have coronavirus symptoms or live in the same household as somebody who does. The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If you or your household have any of the symptoms self-isolate and book a test. <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> has information about how to get a test.

### **Dates for the diary**

January 5<sup>th</sup> – February 12<sup>th</sup> School closed to all but children of critical workers and vulnerable children

February 15<sup>th</sup> -February 19<sup>th</sup> Half term

February 22<sup>nd</sup> – March 5<sup>th</sup> School closed to all but children of critical workers and vulnerable children

Mr C Minikin, Head Teacher