



May 14th 2021

GlaxoSmithKline Virtual Visit

This week Year 5 met virtually with staff from GSK as part of their Geography work, where they have been looking at trade routes and supply chains of various industries. The children had chance to ask GSK staff about their products and which markets they send the goods to. Miss Bean received a lovely email complimenting the children on their knowledge and excellent questions.

We are always looking to improve and develop our curriculum and this week I have been looking at Geography throughout the school, collecting children's books and talking to them about their learning. The knowledge that the children have learnt and remembered is of a really high standard. I hope they are sharing some of their facts with you too!

Healthy Packed Lunches

Please could parents try to ensure that their child's packed lunches are healthy and balanced. This is important for both their physical and mental health. I have contacted the school nurse and she suggested that the following website may be useful for parents:- <https://www.nhs.uk/change4life/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes>. I understand that 1/3 of children in the UK are classed as overweight or obese and that together we should be educating and encouraging healthy options wherever possible.

New School Lunch Menus

This week new weekly menus were issued by Taylor Shaw, the school's catering team. Please can parents/carers of children who have a school meal complete the choices each day for the three-week rota and return them to school by no later than **Wednesday 19th May**. In September, we hope this process will be paperless via an app that we can use on Weduc and more details will follow, nearer the time.

Bikeability

A reminder that next week Year 6 children have the opportunity to learn how to cycle safely on the roads around school with trained professional instructors. They will need to have parental consent, a roadworthy bike, a helmet, the appropriate clothing and footwear.

Wellbeing at Montalbo

This week is Mental Health Awareness Week. During our assembly this week we explored this year's theme 'Nature'. The children were invited to take moment of calm and enjoy the sounds of running water and birdsong. There were lots of thoughtful suggestions from the children about how they could connect more with nature, and how this might make them feel good. We talked about the benefits of simple swaps like spending time noticing what's outside the window whilst eating breakfast, rather than looking at a screen. This week's affirmation is: 'I will make time for myself to be in nature'.

You can find more information about the benefits for you and your child of engaging with nature via this link:

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/sites/default/files/Nature%20Guide%20for%20Parents%20and%20Care%20givers.pdf>

If you or your child need support to improve or manage your wellbeing, please contact the school office and ask to speak to Mrs Bartoli, who will be happy to help.

Barnard Castle Mini Meet... to be seen on the high street this Whit Monday!

'TCR Hub are running a community campaign to celebrate Barnard Castle Meet with a series of workshops for families to create a Mini Meet, a homemade, handcrafted models to create the Meet parade.

Using recycled materials over a series of sessions in May 2021, everyone is welcome to join in and you can [book one of the sessions at the Hub here](#) - we will be joined by artist Suzanne Williams to help advise on model making. The sessions run on the next three Saturdays (15th, 22nd, 29th) from 10am to 12 noon, Tuesday 18th May from 4 - 6pm, and Tuesday 25th May from 6pm - 8pm. They are fully funded by the National Lottery so free to attend.

Whether you come to a session, create handmade items at home or at school, we will welcome all handmade creations for the parade at the Hub by Friday 28th May 2021.

We are also working with Filmmaker Sheryl Jenkins who is running a family filmmaking workshop on Saturday 29th May from 1pm to 4pm at TCR Hub. As a result, we will share a film of our cardboard parade by Whit Monday, including a soundtrack of local people talking about what the Meet means to them and sharing memories of years gone by.'

Year 3 Egyptian Themed Day

On Tuesday 18th May, Year 3 will be treated to a day of Egyptian themed activities along with the Hancock Museum in Newcastle. As part of this celebration of Ancient Egypt, Dr Greenwell would love the children to bring in related items from home that can be shared in the class, books, pictures or even artefacts. If any items could be brought in by Friday 14th May.

Sunflower Challenge

This week Mrs Patterson has given each child in nursery a sunflower seed and set a challenge to sow it, nurture it and watch it grow. Parents can send their child's sunflower progress via Weduc.

D-19 Local Authority reminder

Have coronavirus symptoms and need a test?

'If anyone in your household has symptoms you need to book a PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) test as soon as possible. For more information and to book a PCR test visit www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or call NHS test and trace free on 119. As coronavirus symptoms in children can vary it is advised that children who are unwell should not attend school until they are well again. Durham County Council offers support to people seeking further advice about coronavirus through the County Durham Together Community Hub, details of which can be found at www.durham.gov.uk/covid19help or by phoning 03000 260 260.'

Attendance for w.b. 10.05.21

Reception	94.1%	Class 3	92.2%
Class 1	96.3%	Class 4	95.3%
Class 2	98%	Class 5	95.3%
		Class 6	98.4%

School overall attendance this week is: 95.6%

Dates for the diary

May 17 th -20 th	Bikeability training for Year 6
May 18 th	Egyptian Themed Day for Year 3
May 31 st – June 4 th	Half Term Holiday
June 7 th	Teacher Training Day
June 8 th	Children return to school

Mr C Minikin, Head Teacher