



**May 21<sup>st</sup> 2021**

### **Egyptian Themed Day**

This Tuesday, Year 3 took part in an Egyptian themed day along with the Hancock Museum in Newcastle. The day began with a virtual tour of the Ancient Egyptian gallery, where the children were shown some of the fantastic artefacts in the Egyptian collection. This was followed by a session with Jo, the Assistant Curator of Archaeology at the museum. The children asked a wide range of questions about how the Ancient Egyptians lived, who the most famous pharaohs were, and how to pursue a career in archaeology. The highlight of the day was a session where the children explored the two mummies in the collection, they investigated, Irtyru and Bakt-en-Hor, through CT scans, x-rays and written evidence, with them being able to see which organs were left inside the body along with any decorations. They ended the day with a lively debate about whether museums should have mummies, with the children having strong opinions on either side of the argument!

A special thank you to Jack for bringing in some delicious Egyptian baking and a wonderful papyrus scroll of the recipe!

### **Kindness Quilt**

Today children in Year 2 had the chance to work with staff from the Bowes Museum on a Kindness Quilt project. We are 'connecting' with three other schools and two local care homes in Barnard Castle to create a Kindness Quilt with textile artist Claire Ford. The aims of the project are to help reduce isolation and to improve emotional health and wellbeing in our community. As well as learning new textile skills, the children will have the chance to meet an older generation virtually which I am sure will have given the care home residents a lovely experience, helping our children understand more about their lives.

It is hoped that the children will have the opportunity to visit the Bowes Museum in July in which they can see the completed work.

### **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 using 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 two Saturdays (22nd, 29th) from 10am to 12 noon, 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.'

### **Bikeability**

Congratulations to the Year 6 children who completed their Level 1 or Level 2 training. They have had to put up with some horrendous weather during the week. I hope that the children continue to ride their bikes as safely as possible.

### **Swimming**

This week we have been notified that school swimming can resume. As our current Year 5's swimming year was curtailed due to COVID, we will be taking these children swimming beginning on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> June. Children will be given their own cubicle or will be adequately spaced in the larger changing rooms. We will have the changing rooms and pool to ourselves for this period.

### **New School Lunch Menus**

Please could parents/carers send in their child's menu choices as soon as possible. Please make sure your child's name is on the form. Thank you.

### **Phonics and English**

Over the past couple of weeks, I have been visiting classes, looking in books and talking to children with a focus on phonics in our younger classes and English in the older years. It is pleasing to see such high standards of teaching and learning. Our phonics teaching has produced some excellent results over recent years, allowing children to read fluently and accurately. In English and in many curriculum areas, we are trialling some new ideas based on the latest educational research and I was delighted to see this in action. Well done Team Monty!

### **Outdoor learning**

The children and staff have excelled themselves at gardening this half term and the polytunnel is full of fruit and vegetables. All we need now is a bit of warm weather! Next half term's outdoor learning will be more sports focused and linked to the Olympics.

### **Nursery**

Mrs Patterson tells me that her children are moving from learning about the jungle to learning about the garden as they have been noticing many snails who seem to enjoy this weather!

### **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](http://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](http://www.durham.gov.uk/covid19help) or by phoning 03000 260 260.'

### **Attendance for w.b. 17.05.21**

Reception	96.6%	Class 3	94.3%
Class 1	91.6%	Class 4	100%
Class 2	90%	Class 5	97.7%
		Class 6	94.6%

**School overall attendance this week is: 94.9%**

### **Dates for the diary**

May 31 <sup>st</sup> – June 4 <sup>th</sup>	Half Term Holiday
June 7 <sup>th</sup>	Teacher Training Day
June 8 <sup>th</sup>	Children return to school
June 14 <sup>th</sup>	Swimming sessions for Year 5

Mr C Minikin, Head Teacher