



October 15th 2021

Great Teaching and Learning

This week has been very busy but rewarding. I have had the pleasure of visiting most classes to see children at work in a range of curriculum subjects. I was delighted with the children's learning behaviours, work ethic and confidence: they demonstrated our key values - to endeavour, to collaborate and to be inspired. Children were using high order vocabulary and are very knowledgeable about their topics. Our strengths in reading were evident with the fast-paced, systematic phonics programme allowing children to make pleasing progress. Well done to all of children and staff.

Year 6 Visit to Eden Camp

The Year 6s enjoyed a brilliant day at Eden Camp. They visited 29 huts which contained various displays and artefacts from World War II. There was also an entertaining puppet show involving World War II songs in the Music Hall! The children particularly enjoyed seeing the Spitfires too. Dr Greenwell commented on the excellent behaviour of Year 6 which is always great to hear.

Year 5 Visit to the Bowes Museum and the Locomotion

Today our Year 5 children are visiting the Bowes Museum and Locomotion to learn about automation. You may have seen on the local news that the iconic Silver Swan is being restored and children will learn more about how things work in preparation for their Design and Technology topic. I look forward to finding out more on their return.

Visits and Sporting Festivals next week

On Monday the Year 2 children will visit the Bowes Museum for the culmination of their work on the John and Josephine Bowes story, which they have been learning about in History. They will also learn more about one of the travelling curiosities, Clara the Rhino!

Also on Monday, selected Year 5/6 children will take part in cross country at Staindrop Academy.

On Tuesday, Year 5 visit Captain Cook's Birthplace Museum to aid their understanding of his life and explorations. I visited the class for a History lesson this week where the children were learning differing views on Captain James Cook's life and it was really pleasing to see them questioning and debating so maturely.

On Wednesday, Year 4 take part in a tag rugby festival at Staindrop Academy after learning more about the sport with an external coach in PE this half term.

On Thursday, Year 5 are attending a Multi-Skills festival at Staindrop Academy. Good luck to all of the children attending sports next week.

Uniform

Please could parents/carers support us by adhering to the uniform policy. Whilst the vast majority of children wear the school uniform, we would like all children to wear trousers not joggers. We would also like children to wear the correct PE kits, especially when competing in festivals as it helps with identification as well as teamwork. If you are struggling to purchase school uniform, please let me know. Thank you.

2 Litre Plastic Bottles

Year 6 would be grateful of any used clean 2 Litre Plastic bottles you may have for an art project that they will run after half term.

Halloween Discos

This year we will have phase Halloween Discos in school time on the afternoons of the last week of half term. The children can come to school in their costumes and I am sure it will be a great day – please try and think about the practicalities of the costume for the rest of the school day e.g. toileting, eating etc and things like face coverings/accessories will need to be put to one side for morning sessions.

FOMs have put together some small treats. You may wish to send £1 with your child for which they will receive a bag of sweets, a drink and glo-stick.

Nursery and Reception – Tuesday October 19th

Year 1 and Year 2 – Wednesday October 20th

Year 3 and Year 4 – Thursday October 21st

Year 5 and Year 6 – Friday October 22nd

Reception School Places September 2022

The window for applying for Reception places has opened and runs until January 15th 2022.

If you would like to visit school, please contact the School Office who will arrange this with you.

Parent/Carers of all children eligible to start Reception must submit an application.

Further details on the process can be found [here](#).

School Meals Menu

New Autumn Term menus have been issued for meals which start after half term holiday. Please indicate on the form your choice of main course for each day and return as soon as possible.

If any child currently on packed lunches wishes to have a school meal please contact the office for a menu, alternatively, if your child no longer wishes to have a school meal 2 weeks' notice is required by the school meals provider. If you have had a change in circumstances and believe you may be eligible for Free School Meals please contact the school office for an application form. This applies to all pupils including those in Reception, Year 1 & 2 who are in receipt of Universal Free School meals.

Morrisons It's Good to Grow

We have registered with the Morrisons It's Good to Grow Scheme. From September, for every £10 spent in store or online, you'll get one Grow Token that your local school can then redeem for a wide range of gardening and growing equipment. Download the MyMorrisons app to donate tokens to our school, you can see how we are doing by visiting [here](#). Thank you to the families who have donated to date.

Diary dates

October 18 th	Year 2 to the Bowes Museum (details to follow)
October 19 th	Nursery and Reception Halloween Disco
October 19 th	Year 5 to Captain Cook's Birthplace Museum
October 20 th	Year 1 and Year 2 Halloween Disco
October 20 th	Year 5 Swimming
October 20 th	Year 4 Sports Festival at Staindrop Academy
October 21 st	Year 3 and Year 4 Halloween Disco
October 21 st	Year 5 Sports Festival at Staindrop Academy
October 22 nd	Year 5 and Year 6 Halloween Disco
October 25 th -October 29 th	Half term
November 1 st	Teacher Training Day
November 2 nd	Children return to school
November 23 rd	Individual and sibling photographs

Mr C Minikin
Head Teacher