



April 21st 2023

Welcome Back

I hope that you all enjoyed the Easter break and managed to spend some lovely time together. I have talked to many children since we returned and they enjoyed a whole host of activities, some of which I mention below.

I would like to welcome our new Nursery starters and their families to the school and look forward to getting to know you and your children over the coming years.

Keep Active Challenge

I received some amazing photographs of children Keeping Active over the Easter Holidays. Special shout outs to Stella (Y6), Sophie and Ralph (Reception), Finley (Year 2) who have been incredibly active. Thank you to everyone who entered, the range of activities children have taken part in was amazing and it was lovely to see the enjoyment on the children's faces as they had fun keeping fit. Thank you to Mrs Daniels and Miss Henderson for displaying these in the hall.

Well done Mrs Patterson and Miss Lauder

I was asked by the Local Authority (LA) if our amazing Early Years Leads would speak at an event for senior leaders of schools in Durham about the Early Years curriculum and some of the things we do. This is a great honour and shows how highly we are thought of by the LA. Our school advisor told me the other Head Teachers were as impressed as I am with the knowledge, skills and passion for EYFS of Mrs Patterson and Miss Lauder. Well done!

Reception Places

Offers were made on Monday by the Local Authority to parents/carers of children due to start with us in September 2023. Miss Lauder and I will be in touch in the coming weeks to arrange to meet you and your child and give you important information.

World Cup Girls' Football Event

On the last Friday of term Mrs Dupuy and I had the pleasure of taking eight girls from Y5/6 to St John's in Bishop Auckland to compete against 18 other teams. We were drawn as Brazil and certainly produced some football befitting of that great footballing nation, winning five, drawing one and narrowly losing two. This led to us finishing second in the large group with only the first place team qualifying for the final. Huge congratulations to Grace, Stella, Phoebe, Mollie and Lily from Year 6 and Star, Macy, Charlotte (Year 5) for your superb play, teamwork and attitude.

FOMS Meeting

The next FOMS meeting is in school on Tuesday 25th April at 5.15pm. All are welcome.

Growing Healthy Team

Last year the Growing Healthy Team visited primary schools to measure the Reception and Year 6 children as part of the National Child Measurement Programme. In addition to the National Child Measurement Programme, County Durham are currently part of the MapMe research project run by Newcastle University. They will be carrying out the follow up measurements on children in year 1 and 7 where consent has not been previously withdrawn.

If you now, do not want your child's height and weight to be checked please let them know, as soon as possible, by emailing cdda-tr.childhealthinformation@nhs.net with your child's details

Industrial Action

I am sure you will be aware of the industrial action on April 27th and May 2nd by members of the National Education Union. Due to guidance, it has been quite difficult to ascertain how school may be affected but at this stage I believe school will run normally. If I am given any other information, I will inform you as soon as possible.

Bright Woods Forest School Days

As part of the Teesdale Action Partnership funded wellbeing project, all children in school will be visiting Bright Woods Forest School at Deepdale Woods. Children will need waterproof coats and waterproof trousers as well as wellington boots or hiking boots. Year 1 went today and I will let you know about the activities next week. Thank you to all the adult helpers who went too.

All Stars Cricket

Barnard Castle Cricket Club are keen to increase junior membership and will be running All Star Cricket activities in school on Monday for every class from Y1-6 inclusive. Children should come in their PE kits on Monday.

Eco Council Earth Day Display

Eco Councils amazing sculptures will be on display at the Bowes Museum this weekend to celebrate Earth Day. They look amazing and I hope that you can pop along to see them.

PCSO and Fire Visit

This week the local PCSOs visited school to talk to some of our older classes about anti-social behaviour in the community and sensible online behaviour. The fire service also talked to the children giving them important water safety messages.

Below is a summary of attendance for this week.

Class	Attendance (%)
Reception	93.8
Year 1	99.3
Year 2	91.7
Year 3	92.3
Year 4	99.5
Year 5	94.2
Year 6	89.5
Whole School %	94.4%

Dates for the Diary

April 24 th	All Stars Cricket Roadshow (All classes Y1-6)
April 25 th	FOMS meeting in school 5.15pm
April 28 th	Year 2 to Bright Woods
May 1 st and May 8 th	Bank Holidays
May 3 rd	Year 2 to Bright Woods
May 9 th -12 th	Key Stage 2 SATs
May 12 th	Year 5 to Bright Woods
w.b. May 15 th	Key Stage 1 SATs
May 24 th and 25 th	Year 3/4 Performance (details to follow)
w.b. June 12 th	Year 1 Phonics Screening

Mr. C Minikin
Head Teacher

School Lottery Link Membership Link below:

<https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/montalbo-nursery-primary-school>

