



September 15th 2023

Around school

Last week most classes began with oracy work as speaking and listening are such important skills. Many of you who watched *Monty does the Decades* last year told me how impressed you were with the Year 5/6 speaking roles, and we believe our oracy work contributed to the children's confidence and skills.

This week many of the classes have begun to read their new class texts and subjects. The class teachers have provided some highlights below:-

Nursery class have been enjoying the story 'Owl Babies'. This story helps children to understand that their adults will always come back for them, just like the Mummy owl did in the story. We have been finding out some new facts about owls and we even created some 'owl inspired art' using printing and sticking techniques. In the small world area, we used props to re-tell parts of the story. Nursery staff have been so impressed with how well the children are settling in and learning their new classroom routines.

This week Reception have continued to settle in well. We have been learning new rules and routines and have impressed the adults in class with how well we have taken to being in Reception. We have been reading 'Our Class is a Family' and have created some lovely pictures and discussions about the special people in our lives. We have had our first PE lesson and showed our independence when getting changed, followed by some fun parachute games. What a great week!

We are having a very busy time in Year 1! We have started whole class maths lessons which the children are taking to amazingly. We are currently looking at numbers to ten. We have also started Read Write Inc. lessons which the children are thoroughly enjoying. On an afternoon, children are learning about lots of different subjects such as computing, RE, science, history, geography and PSHE. They have blown us away with their locked in learning knowledge, remembering some amazing facts from lessons. We have also made a start on our dance off dance!

In Year 2, during our Science lessons, we have been learning about things that are living, dead, and never been alive. We explored the school grounds identifying, classifying and grouping the objects we discovered. In PSHE we have been discussing what makes a good friend and how we can help each other in school. In English, we are reading 'George's Marvellous Medicine'. The children have suggested some fabulous adjectives to describe grandma!

This week Year 3 have been learning about the water cycle and the part rivers play in it. In Science we explored how some forces do not need contact to work. We have started our new book 'Brambly Hedge' in our English. In Maths we are learning how to partition numbers in different ways. We have done some recall work on what a religion is and named some. We have started learning the song 'I've been to Harlem' in our Music. The children really enjoyed problem solving when they built their own car tracks in outdoor learning as a group showing great teamwork!

What a week Year 4 have had! We began our week exploring different states of matter in Science, describing the different properties of gases, liquids and solids by investigating frozen, liquid and air filled balloons. Tuesday brought much excitement as Mr Bradshaw our brass teacher brought in a range of brass instruments; we can't wait to see the progress that the children will all make over the coming term. The weather has been kind to us this week, meaning that we have had lots of

opportunities for learning outside, from Autumn Scavenger hunts, to mindful reading outside after a visit to the library.

In Year 5, we have been learning all about James Cook. We have explored maps of different significant places in his life, as well as learning about his first voyage on the HMS Endeavour. In maths, we have been busy learning about numbers to 1 million! On Thursday, we went to our first swimming lesson - it was very successful. We have been busy organising our new reading books and taking part in guided reading lessons.

This week in Year 6, we have continued to learn more about our WWII topic. We are enjoying our class text - Rose Blanche - and building up to writing a diary entry. We have been focusing on developing our handwriting and vocabulary to become effective Year 6 writers. In history, we learnt about the key events of WWII, as well as researching some key events in our local area. We were amazed to discover ten bombs had fallen near High Force and there was an air raid in Barnard Castle! We placed these events on a timeline to help develop our understanding of chronology.

Flu vaccination

The nasal flu vaccinations will take place at school on Friday 29th September. Please use the below link to complete either a consent form or a refusal for the vaccinations. The link contains the consent form and additional information such as FAQs regarding the vaccination. The link will close on Wednesday 20th September.

<https://nhslmms.azurewebsites.net/session/b2cfb648>

If your child has already had the Nasal Flu vaccine since September 2023 please disregard this message. If you have any problems accessing the link, please telephone 0333 358 3397.

Data Forms

Thank you to families who have returned data forms – it is best practice to have these done each year. Once these are returned from our families new to school, Weduc and ParentPay accounts can be generated and you can keep up to date with what is going on in school.

Please ensure all sections are complete as these documents contribute to our safeguarding procedures. Thank you.

Music Tuition

It has been good to see Rosie, Mr Bradshaw and Mrs Unwin in school as they begin their tuition in piano, brass and woodwind. Mr Bradshaw will teach the whole of Year 4 until February half term as well as children who have chosen to carry on playing in Year 5. Mrs Unwin talked this week to children in Year 3 and a link was shared via Weduc for those children interested in taking up recorder with her. If you are having trouble with the link, please speak to Dr Greenwell. As these children progress, Mrs Unwin is able to teach a range of woodwind instruments. If you are interested in your child learning piano, please either contact the school office or Dr Greenwell.

Activity Clubs

Activity Clubs are filling up well and we hope to have an additional Gym Club in the near future.

Staff Update

Welcome to Miss Banks who has joined the school as a Teaching Assistant Apprentice in Year 2 this week. We hope that Miss Banks will soon feel part of Team Monty!

Open Afternoon for Parents/Carers of children to due to start Reception in September 2024

Parents/carers of children who are due to start Reception in September 2024 are invited to attend our Open Afternoon on September 27th. Tours will run from 1.30pm, 2.30pm or 4.30pm. If you would like to attend, please contact the School Office. If the day/times are inconvenient please let us know and we can arrange an alternative. Applications will close on January 15th 2024 and offers of school places will be made by the Local Authority on April 17th 2024.

Teesdale Pride Event

Curious Arts, a local LGBTQIA+ charity arts organisation, are producing the first ever Teesdale Pop Up Pride on the 23rd September. There are many free activities for all the family - in partnership with TCR Hub, Northern Heartlands and YMCA Teesdale. Teesdale Pop Up Pride runs from 10am - 4pm at TCR Hub.

Secondary school admission process

The application process for the Secondary School Admissions 2024 Intake is open. Parents/carers can make their application for Secondary School online by visiting www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions. The closing date for Secondary School Applications is the 31st October 2023.

If parents do not wish to apply online they can complete a paper application form, and these are available on request from the School Admissions Team.

These application forms can be requested by e-mail to schooladmissions@durham.gov.uk or by telephone from the School Admissions and Transport Team on 03000 265896.

FOMS Bingo Night

FOMS are currently arranging a Bingo Night on 12th October beginning at 7pm at Glaxo Sports and Social Club. Further details will follow with monies raised going to FOMS to provide extras for our children and Teesdale Cancer Research Group.

PE Days

Please see below for details of next term's PE sessions. Children can come to school in their Montalbo PE kits (plus tracksuit/jumper) on these days, apart from Reception whose kits are in school to help them practise getting changed.

Monday - Reception

Tuesday - Year 6

Wednesday – Year 2

Thursday – 4 **Swimming for Year 5 is also on Thursday.**

Friday - Year 1 and Year 3

Outdoor Learning Days

Children in Years 1 -6 will need to bring wellies/boots or suitable change of footwear for Outdoor Learning sessions on the following days. Children in Nursery and Reception have what they need in school and are outdoors every day!

Monday – Year 3

Tuesday – Year 5 and Year 1

Thursday – Year 4

Friday – Year 2 and Year 6

Race for Life

Miss Richardson met with Pam from Teesdale Cancer Research this week to finalise details of our Race for Life to support their charity. Information and sponsorship forms were sent home with each child today.

Parental Mental Health

Mental health problems are common with 1 in 4 people experiencing poor mental health during their lifetime. If you know anyone that might need a little extra support there is lots of advice and support available. Please see below:

- Adult Mental Health information is available at <https://www.durham.gov.uk/adultmentalhealthsupport>
- Support is available by contacting your local GP surgery.
- The Mental Health Alliance is a range of support services able to support a wide range of mental health concerns.

The service is open for self-referral or referrals made by organisations. Please click [Referral – Durham Mental Wellbeing Alliance](#) for more information or contact Tel. 0300 3044 5527

- Family Hubs can support families with all areas of family life from pregnancy right up until your child turns 19, or 25 if they have special educational needs and disabilities.

Information can be found on the [Help for families - your virtual Family Hub](#) pages.

Attendance

Last week Mrs Collin shared the following link which hopefully acts as a useful guide when deciding if your child is well enough to attend school. [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)

The correlation between good attendance and academic achievement are well documented. We set a target of over 95% for our school and hope to reach it. It can be quite surprising that 90% attendance is the equivalent of one day's absence every fortnight, every week of the year.

Below is a summary of attendance for this week.

Class	Attendance (%)
Reception	99.6
Year 1	98.5
Year 2	97.7
Year 3	98.7
Year 4	95
Year 5	97.9
Year 6	95
Whole School %	97.5%

Dates for the Diary

September 22 nd	Selected 5/6 children Netball (Bishop Barrington)
September 26 th	Year 1 to the Bowes Museum
September 27 th	Open Afternoon for Reception children of Sept 2024
September 29 th	Flu Vaccination team in school
October 4 th	Race for Life
October 9 th	Teacher Training Day
October 10 th	Year 1 to St Mary's Church
October 12 th	FOMS Bingo Night (7pm at Glaxo Sports & Social Club)
October 18 th	18 Year 3 children Tag Rugby Festival (Staindrop)
October 19 th	All Year 6 to Multiskills (Staindrop)
October 23 rd and 24 th	Parents' Evenings
October 25 th	Nursery/Reception Halloween Disco
October 26 th	Year 1/2 and Year 3/4 Halloween Disco
October 27 th	Y5/6 Halloween Disco
October 30 th – November 3 rd	Half term
November 8 th	All Reception to Multiskills (Staindrop)
November 10 th	Selected Key Stage 2 Children Cross Country
November 15 th	15 Year 1 to Multiskills (venue tbc)
November 16 th	All Year 4 to Multiskills

Mr. C Minikin
Head Teacher

Please see the QR code for the School Lottery. The more players we have, the more we raise for the school and the bigger the prize fund.

