



February 15th 2019 Issue 21

Dr Greenwell's Class Assembly

Congratulations to our Year 3 children for their wonderful class assembly. Once again, the breadth of our curriculum was highlighted as the children entertained us with a French song and extracts from their local history project on Blagraves. They have been looking at what makes them unique and have thought about others in society, learning a super Makaton song and actions. Well done Year 3! Thank you to Dr Greenwell, Mrs Bowron and Mrs Dupuy for their help with this.

Changing rooms!

Lawrence Llewelyn-Bowen has nothing on us at Monty! After school finished on Friday many staff stayed back to help move furniture and resources out of the temporary office and Miss Blackburn's room. This allowed Miss Blackburn to swap rooms and Miss Lauder to move into her room. This is because the larger classroom is more suited to the Year 1 curriculum. We are very lucky to have such a team in school who constantly show how much they care about each other and the school.

Miss Lauder, Miss Blackburn and Miss Bean then came in to school with me on Saturday to clear the hall and make their new rooms look fabulous and ready for Monday. I am very grateful to them and know that the children love their new classrooms. Thank you also to Mrs Patterson who came in too to begin the daunting task of moving back into Nursery!

World Book Day

Thursday March 7th is World Book Day. I know the children look forward to dressing up as their favourite book character and we will do that again this year – so I thought half term may be a good time to have a think about this. We are not going to have an exhibition in the hall this year but plan to have a fantastic book event later in the year. Miss Richardson and I thought that the children might like to be creative too and are challenging them to make a book character out of a wooden spoon and craft materials. The winners will receive a prize! We would also like to invite parent/carer or a family member in to school on the March 7th between 2-3.25pm to read with their child and have some refreshments in a relaxed environment. I hope that you are able to join us.

Extension update

Last Friday we heard the sad news that our site foreman, Nigel Spratt, has been taken ill. Nigel has become a good friend to me and all of the staff over the past year. He is a kind, helpful man who has been fully committed to this job and has helped with innumerable extra work whilst he has been here. I understand that Nigel is in hospital receiving excellent care and we wish him a speedy, full recovery.

You will have probably noticed the canopy going up outside the new reception classroom to support their outdoor provision. We have purchased some fabulous new resources to go in this space and other areas and work has begun to alter the Early Years outside space and this will continue in the school holidays. This week internal magnetic doors and security have been worked on to ensure that the school is as safe as possible. Many of the construction storage containers have started to leave site. Once we return after half term, we will work on landscaping the site and I am looking forward to that! The logs around site will be moved to edge the tyre area and other areas, hopefully keeping the bark in place a little better.

Forensic Scientist Visit

This week Year 6 were visited by a forensic scientist as part of their 'crime and punishment' topic. The children were enthralled a got the chance to wear protective clothing, take their fingerprints and ask lots of questions. Thank you to Miss Scott and Miss Richardson for arranging this.

Year 6 Ford Castle Residential

The Year 6 Residential has been arranged for May 22nd - May 24th. Parents and children who were unable to make this week's meeting can find out more information by visiting <http://www.montalbo.durham.sch.uk/y6-ford-castle-residential-presentation/>
It promises to be an amazing residential and I know that some of the parents at the meeting would like to go too!

Dippy Artist and School Banner

A while ago I informed parents that we had signed up to be a Dippy Dinosaur School (Dippy the Diplodocus is currently residing in the Hancock Museum, Newcastle). An artist from the team came to work with Year 3 this week and they have produced a fantastic banner which will hang in the museum whilst Dippy is visiting.

Firefighters' Charity Clothing Collection

Please bring any unwanted clean adults or children's clothing including underwear, socks, paired shoes and handbags to help support this charity with a percentage of the collection being paid to FOMS. The collection date is Thursday 28th February at 9:00am and bags can be brought into school from Tuesday 26th February.

Valentine's Disco

Thank you once again to our fabulous FOMS who organised and helped to run the school disco. There were a number of parents who volunteered to help and thank you also to the staff who stayed back, especially Miss Richardson, Miss Scott and Miss Bean who had a very long day.

Half term

I hope that all our children, families and staff have a great half term break. I look forward to seeing you all on Monday February 25th. I have sent a separate letter out today to inform you of access arrangements after the half term. Do not worry if you are not quite sure, there will be lots of staff around on the 25th to direct you!

Attendance for w.b. 11.2.19

Class	Present
Reception	93.4%
Year 1	96.4%
Year 2	95.5%
Year 3	96.2%
Year 4	95.9%
Year 5	96.3%
Year 6	97.1%

School overall attendance 96%

Please ensure that your child arrives at school no later than 8.55a.m. in order to make a prompt start for lessons. 18 minutes of learning was lost to lateness this week.

Dates for the diary

February 18 th – 22 nd	Half term
February 25 th	2 nd Half Term Begins – children back at school
February 26 th	FOMS meeting at 5pm in school
February 28 th	All Star Cricket Y1-3 (every Thursday for 6 weeks)
March 6 th	Gymnastics event at Bishop Barrington (selected children)
March 7 th	World Book Day
March 15 th	Miss Blackburn's Class Assembly
March 18 th	Chess Tournament
March 26 th	Pedestrian Training Year 3
March 26 th and 27 th	Parents' Evenings
March 27 th	Year 1 Football Competition
March 28 th	Year 5 Multiskills festival
March 29 th	Band Workshop at Teesdale School 1-2.30pm
April 2 nd	Year 3 and 4 Spring Performance 1.45pm

Mr Minikin

Head Teacher