



March 8th 2019 Issue 23

World Book Day

It was lovely to see the children and staff dressed in their World Book Day costume – they all looked great. The children's spoon designs were also amazing so thank you all for making such an effort! I hope that the parents and visitors to school enjoyed looking at the designs and enjoyed sharing a book in school.

Reading is one the most important skills we teach and developing a life-long love of reading is important to us. We read many, many books in school to help to give our children the reading bug and appreciate all of the parents who read and sign their child's reading record several times a week. Reading at home makes a big difference.

This week we have been visited by a lady from the town's library who worked with Year 1 and 2. Remember that we have this fabulous resource in town and that they can order any book in!

Local History Books

Thank you to families who have returned the expression of interest forms for the local history books that the children are producing – we have had an amazing response! So far, I have read the first draft of the Year 2 book and the quality of writing is remarkable! I have learnt some new facts and am really looking forward to seeing it printed with the children's wonderful illustrations. We hope to have these books printed just after Easter.

Parent Groundforce Help

Thank you to the parents who were able to join me on Sunday morning to continue the work with the logs! The area is starting to take shape and I know that the children have been enjoying playing on them.

Parent Pay

As you will now know, we are switching to Parent Pay on April 1st 2019. Information was sent home this week and individual activation letters will be sent home next week to enable you to create a Parent Pay account. If you already have an account for a child at another school simply add your child(ren) to this account, there is no need to create a new account. If you would prefer a payment card to be able to use at a Pay Point please inform the office by **Friday 15th March** as these have to be ordered.

Please note the last day for cash payment will be Thursday 28th March.

Red Noses and Comic Relief

We have lots of red noses in school if your child would like to purchase one. This year they are £1.25 and can be bought from the School Office. To support this cause, children can come to school in non-uniform on Friday 15th March for a suggested £1 donation to the charity.

Cross Country Stars

On Friday last week, a selected team of Key Stage 2 Cross Country runners went to Bishop Barrington. This was a very large event with around 180 runners in each race. Our children tackled the gruelling course with a positive approach and we are very proud of them. A special mention to Megan and Katy from Year 6 who came 15th and 17th respectively which was a fantastic achievement. Well done to you all!

Great Gymnasts

Some of our talented gymnasts attended an event at Bishop Barrington on Wednesday. They enjoyed performing a floor routine and a vault. They created their own routine and performed in front of other school which was great experience. Well done gymnasts!

Cricket Coaching

We are really pleased to have been selected for some more All Star Cricket coaching this year. James Bell, who has started coaching the sessions with Y1-3, is a talented coach and his skills are benefiting our children. The teachers are enjoying the sessions too as they pick up some useful tips. Our new hall is certainly helping to allow us to improve our PE teaching, and this is such an important subject.

Fitbit

Before half term, a Fitbit was handed into the School Office. If you think that it is yours, please call into the School Office to check.

Miss Blackburn's Class Assembly

Our next Class Assembly is for Year 2 children on Friday 15th March at 9am. Parents/families of these children are welcome to attend.

Mother's Day

On March 29th starting at 1.30pm, we will be celebrating Mother's Day and welcoming Mums or other family members to school to do some fun events with their child. More details will follow as we get closer to the time.

Extension update

The project is drawing to an end and this week much of the fencing and barriers have been taken away. The site where the builder's compound was has been flattened and when the weather improves that area will be rotavated and seeded. Another longer gate will finish that area off to allow the grass cutters to access the area.

Nursery and reception have had a new sand pit built this week which will enhance their outdoor play.

Most of the building project is now finished and the only some minor snagging issues are to be resolved.

Attendance for w.b. 4.3.19

Class	Present
Reception	97.9%
Year 1	95.8%
Year 2	95.6%
Year 3	97.8%
Year 4	99%
Year 5	100%
Year 6	98.2%
School overall attendance	97.9%

Please ensure that your child arrives at school no later than 8.55a.m. in order to make a prompt start for lessons.

25 minutes of learning was lost to lateness this week.

Dates for the diary

March 15 th	Miss Blackburn's Class Assembly
March 15 th	Comic Relief
March 18 th	Chess Tournament – selected children
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
March 29 th	Mother's Day event
April 2 nd	Year 3 and 4 Spring Performance 1.45pm

Mr Minikin

Head Teacher