



March 9th 2018 Issue 22

Snow closures

Last week's weather, although forecast well in advance, caused problems both locally and nationally. We were one of hundreds of schools forced to close but it is never an easy decision. The health and safety of all children, parents, staff and visitors is paramount and it was felt that the site and access could not be made safe enough, especially with the amber warning of more snow to come, still in place. Health and safety regulations are much tighter than in the past and whilst schools did close in the past, key staff members, such as a caretaker or cook, are often no longer local and children/staff come from much further afield, as you will have noticed a drop off times. We apologise for the inconvenience this will have caused on the days that the school closed.

World Book Day

On Wednesday, school was awash with fantastic book characters as children and staff got into the spirit of World Book Day. It has been so nice to see the whole school engaged in the same text to produce creative writing and art work, which we exhibited in the hall. The chance to see the progression in these skills from 3 to 11 year olds was nice to see. The children and staff transformed the hall into an enchanting space based on *The Flower* book that they were studying and I thank them for their efforts. I hope you all had a chance to look around the work and enjoyed it. Celebrating days like World Book Day remind us of the high profile reading has in school and adds to other reading initiatives such as Read Write Inc, Guiding Reading, class texts and reading raffles.

Marvellous Maths Results

This week I was delighted to receive a letter from Rt. Hon. Nick Gibb, MP, Minister of State for School Standards, praising the school for its results and the fact that 100% of Year 6 pupils met or exceeded the expected standard in mathematics at the end of Key Stage 2. This puts us in the top 1% of primary schools in England for attainment in Maths and something that the School Governors and I are very proud of. Huge credit must go to the teaching staff and children for all of their hard work and skill. Well done everyone!

Edinburgh Residential

The Y5/6 children are looking forward to their Summer Residential to Edinburgh alongside other Y5/6s from Cotherstone Primary School. Some parents are paying amounts in instalments and some have paid off the full amount, which needs to be paid in full by May 25th. Please could those parents/carers who have not returned the EV4 forms return them as soon as possible? Thank you. I have added the PowerPoint from the parents meeting to the latest news section of the website for parents who were unable to attend the meeting earlier in the term.

FOMs

Last week Mrs Smith and Ms Steele sent out some letters thanking you and local businesses for your support this year and the amazing amount of money that has been raised to improve the school for the benefit of our children. I am also very grateful and cannot wait for the weather to improve and for children to maximise the use of the garden. Outdoor play and learning is so important and I know that the children will learn a lot through the opportunities that we are creating. The Friends have supported us in many ways such as subsidising trips to the Centre for Life which is much appreciated.

The next event we would like support with is the Easter Egg raffle on 28th March. If you could we would really like donations of Easter eggs so that we can raffle them. Last year, each child received an egg which was lovely.

Mother's Day

Today we celebrated Mother's Day in school and hope that everyone who was able to attend had a good time. We are always looking to offer as many opportunities for parents/carers and families to come in to school and hope that you and your child enjoyed the activities!

Parents' Evening

Our Spring Term Parents' Evenings are on 14th and 15th March. During the Autumn Term, almost 100% of parents attended the Parents' Evening which was great to see. If you would like to make an appointment, please phone or call in at the School Office. Parents of Nursery and Reception can see Mrs Bartoli or phone to make an appointment.

Miss Lauder's Class Assembly

We have changed the order of class assemblies a little and Miss Lauder's Class will be the next one on Wednesday 28th March at 9am. Parents/carers and grandparents are welcome to attend and we look forward to seeing you then.

Golf

Barnard Castle Golf Club are trying to increase the number of young people playing golf and have arranged some coaching sessions for children, beginning on 10th March from 11.30-12.30 at the golf course. A course of 6 lessons costs £20 and the children would not need any equipment, as this will be provided. For further information please ring 01833631980.

30 Hour Provision and Open Afternoon for Nursery

From September, we will be able to offer 30 hour childcare for eligible 3-4 year olds.

We would like to invite any parents who may be interested seeing our Nursery provision for their 3 year olds to an Open Afternoon on Tuesday April 24th. Mrs Bartoli and Mrs Patterson will set up some activities for your child to enjoy and you can talk to the staff about the provision.

Farm Vehicles

Do you have any unwanted play farm vehicles e.g. tractors, trailers? The Base staff would be grateful for any vehicles you may be able to donate for the children to use for their next project which is based upon farming.

Lost Uniform

Missing - a pupil sweatshirt size 25" – 27", with their name embroidered on it. Please check your child's uniform to ensure you haven't got it at home by mistake.

Attendance for w.b. 5.3.18

Class	Present
Mrs Bartoli's Reception	96.3%
Miss Lauder's Class	98%
Miss Blackburn's Class	99.3%
Dr Greenwell's Class	94.4%
Miss Richardson's Class	100%
School Total	97.9%

Dates for the diary

March 14 th	Science Day
March 14 th and 15 th	Parents' Evening
March 19 th -23 rd	Sports Relief activities in school throughout the week
March 19 th	Miss Lauder's Class Football at the Alun Armstrong Centre 9.30-11.30am
March 20 th	Miss Richardson's Class Multiskills at Staindrop Academy 9.30-11.30am
March 22 nd	Reception Festival at Staindrop Academy 9.30-11.30am
March 22 nd	Football League Matches (KS2) at Staindrop Academy
March 23 rd	Clarinetists to Teesdale for a Music Workshop
March 26 th	EYFS and Key Stage 1 to GlaxoSmithKline
March 27 th	Y3-Y6 to GlaxoSmithKline
March 28 th	Miss Lauder's Class Assembly at 9am
March 28 th	Easter Egg Raffle for children
March 29 th	Teacher Training Day
March 30 th – April 13 th	Easter Holidays
April 16 th	Start of Summer Term
April 18 th	FOMS meeting 5pm

Punctuality

Please ensure that your child arrives at school no later than 8.55a.m. in order to make a prompt start for lessons. Remember Wake Up, Shake Up usually starts at 8.45a.m. 17 minutes of learning was lost to lateness this week.