



October 18<sup>th</sup> 2019 Issue 7

### **Show Racism the Red Card**

I am sure many of you saw and heard the abhorrent actions of some of the crowd at the England football match this week and it really is dreadful that this is still an issue in 2019. I know that the work we have been doing on equalities will help ensure that our children respect all ethnicities, races, and religions and I thank you for supporting the campaign this Friday.

### **Buddy Bench**

The school council would like to set up a 'Buddy Bench' on the playground. The buddy bench will be a place for children to go if they are looking for a friend to play with. The idea is, if you see any children sitting on the bench you could go over to talk to them and invite them to get involved in your game. School Council have chosen to organise a 'design a sign' competition for the Buddy Bench. Your design must contain the words Buddy Bench and should have a drawing depicting friendship/talking/playing. The winning design will be made into a sign courtesy of William Smiths and the winner will be able visit William Smiths to see the process of their sign being made. Designs to be handed to your class councillors by Wednesday 23rd October.

### **Eco Council**

This week in our Staff Meeting, we were visited by Joey and Seren to update us on the work of the Eco Council. They have been monitoring light use and checking if we are leaving projectors on unnecessarily when they are not being used. Saving energy is obviously important and we will try to do better! Charlie, Jasmine and Olly spoke in assembly about recycling fruit peelings in assembly as we try to be more careful with waste in school.

### **Reception Autumn Walk**

It appears to be a bumper year for conkers! The children in Reception went on a lovely Autumn walk around the local area on Monday, and came back with hundreds! They also looked for and collected other signs of Autumn. Thank you to our helpers for accompanying the children.

Mrs Patterson has sent home nature bags with our Nursery children and it would be great if families could collect signs of Autumn and return them to school so the children can explore them with their class. Thank you.

### **Year 6 visit to Bowes Lyon House**

Year 6 visited the residents of Bowes Lyon House to chat to them about their memories of the Meet. They also took along some sheets to design a Meet badge- these badges were traditionally sold each year of the Meet. The residents appreciated spending time with the children who were rewarded with some cake!

### **Gurdwara and Carpet Factory visit**

On Wednesday, Year 3 visited a Gurdwara, a Sikh temple, as part of their Religious Education work. They were fascinated to see the special holy book, the Guru Granth Sahib, and learn that it is tucked up safely in its own bed each night!

The carpet factory was a great hit, and the children were incredibly excited to see the different types of carpets. They were interested to learn that many carpets are made from plastic bottles as well as traditional wool. It was great to compare the traditional carpets we saw in the Bowes Museum to modern carpet as part of their work looking at the carpet industry, which used be a major employer in our town in the 1800s. Only Dr Greenwell could combine two such visits!

### Drop off times/children who walk to school

A number of children who are not attending Breakfast Club are arriving at school and waiting in the yard unaccompanied from before 8.30am. Staff do not supervise the yard at this time as they are setting up for the day. Please could you aim for 8.45-8.50 am as teachers start to go out ahead of the whistle going just before 8.55am. Thank you.

### Reception and Year 1 Parent Workshops Tuesday 4pm October 22<sup>nd</sup>

Miss Lauder and Miss Scott wanted the opportunity to share information with parents/carers about the way phonics and Maths are taught in Reception and Year 1. The meeting will contain lots of information and it would be easier if it were parents only. Thank you.

### Cheerleading cancelled

Due to the meeting above, cheerleading will need to be cancelled next week to allow the use of the hall. Any children who usually attend could go to Chill Out instead after school or a refund could be arranged. Please let us know.

### Halloween Discos

I know that the children really enjoy the Halloween Discos. As Halloween falls in the holidays this time, we will be holding the disco on Thursday 24th October.

Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 disco will run from 5.30pm -6.30pm and Y3-6 inclusive from 6.45pm to 7.45pm. Tickets cost £1.50 per child or £2 on the night. Admission includes a hot dog and drink. Tickets can be purchased at the School Office.

### Christmas Fair and FOMS

Plans are taking shape for the event on Tuesday 3rd December from 5-7pm. We have a good number of stall holders who will be selling a variety of goods as well as a special visit from Father Christmas himself. If you would like a stall please contact FOMS on [friendsofmontalbo@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofmontalbo@gmail.com). FOMS would like to hold a raffle and a bottle tombola. Any donations for these would be gratefully received.

### Reception Places 2020!

If your child turns 5 between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021 then you need to apply, even if your child already attends our nursery. By visiting [www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions) you can access a useful guide, which will help with your application. Paper application forms are available for your request. The telephone number for school admissions is 03000265896.

### Attendance for w.b. 14.10.19

Class	Present
Reception	99.3%
Year 1	96.3%
Year 2	98.15
Year 3	99%
Year 4	98.6%
Year 5	98.3%
Year 6	97.8%

School overall attendance is 98.3%

### Dates for the diary

October 21 <sup>st</sup>	Key Stage 2 Cross Country (selected children)
October 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Reception/Y1 Parent Workshop (details to follow)
October 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Year 3 Tag Rugby Festival
October 24 <sup>th</sup>	Year 5 Multiskills
October 24 <sup>th</sup>	Halloween Discos
October 28th –November 1st	Half Term
November 4th	Children back to school
November 7 <sup>th</sup>	EYFS Stay and Play
November 12 <sup>th</sup>	Science Fair
November 12 and 13 <sup>th</sup>	Parents' Evening

Mr Minikin  
Head Teacher

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

**1 hour and 29 minutes** of learning was lost to lateness this week.