



January 6th 2017 Issue 15

Welcome Back

It is wonderful to see the children back at school after their well-earned break. The run up to Christmas can be tiring and exciting for them and I know many of the children were ready for the holiday. Having been round all the classes each day, it is lovely to see their positive attitudes and that the children are refreshed and ready for the new term.

New Year's Resolutions

This week in assemblies I have been talking to the children about New Year's Resolutions. Parents will no doubt be thrilled to know that their children have promised to be more helpful around the house, tidy their rooms, eat fewer sweets, play less computer games and go to bed earlier without a fuss! I look forward to reminding the children from time to time and checking with you to see if these resolutions are coming to fruition! The tree in the hall is going to be decorated with children's New Year's Resolutions.

Welcome Mrs Dupuy

At the end of last term, we appointed three extra support staff to join the team. As some of them have to serve a notice period, I will introduce each of them as they start. Mrs Dupuy started on Wednesday and will largely support teaching and learning alongside Miss Richardson in Class 4. Welcome aboard Mrs Dupuy!

Well done Mrs Miller!

Congratulations to Mrs Miller who has achieved a Level 5 Certificate in Primary School Physical Education Specialism. This involved a lot of work in school and through coursework. Several other members of staff are attending courses to enhance their understanding and expertise and I will keep you updated over the year.

Chickenpox

There have been several cases of chickenpox around school. I wish these children a speedy recovery and hope that others remain well. Advice around chickenpox is that any blisters should be scabbed over before returning to school to avoid the risk of spreading the illness. Thank you.

Clubs

Clubs will start next week beginning 9th January. You will have noticed several different clubs. Part of the guidance we receive as a school is to try and offer a range of sporting clubs and signpost children to other sporting clubs in the area. We have tried to add a range of other clubs that offer an opportunity to develop non-sporting pursuits as well. We will review the clubs each half term as we want to offer a broad range of choices throughout the year. Please return any club forms as quickly as possible. Thank you.

Musikality

Dan and Amy from Musikality worked with Key Stage 2 children this week and will continue to on each Wednesday of this term. They are very talented and passionate about delivering high quality and fun music to children. After talking to year 3-6, I know they thoroughly enjoyed the first session. I look forward to seeing how this develops and know that their after school club will be popular.

Swimming

A reminder to parents of Year 4 children that swimming starts on Thursday 12th January. The children will need their swimming kits and a towel each Thursday. Several Y5/6 children have been advised individually if they are to continue swimming.

Lockerbie Manor Residential for Class 4

I am pleased to say that deposits have been paid for the residential to Lockerbie in May. It promises to be a fabulous opportunity and I know that the children and staff are very excited by the prospect. Next week, a representative from The Hub is coming to talk to Y5/6 about opportunities to develop some of these skills locally and tell them about the types of activities that occur there.



FOMS Meeting

The next FOMS meeting is at 5pm on January 24th. The Friends would love to see any existing or new members where they are planning to discuss the year's forthcoming events. They have done a sterling job raising funds to help the children and we have really big plans to develop the school garden. I will keep you updated when we have approved plans but there is a lot of work going on behind the scenes to create something very exciting...

Contact Details

Please keep the School Office informed of any change of contact details. Thank you.

Guitar or Ukulele Tuition

Mr Rudkin, who has worked with many local schools in the past and is a registered guitar tutor, called into school this week. He passed on his contact details and wondered if any children would be interested in some private tuition. His details are: - tel: 01833316128 or email fredrudkin1835@sky.com

School Council

Mrs Ridley and I would like to thank School Councillors for their work in the Autumn term. They received a certificate in assembly and new councillors will be chosen by the children for the Spring term.

Attendance for w.b. 3.1.17

Class	Present
Reception	85.4%
Class 1	95.2%
Class 2	98.9%
Class 3	97.8%
Class 4	96.6%

Overall attendance this week was 95.8%

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.
15 minutes learning time lost this week

Application for a School Place (Primary School) for September 2017

Cards have been handed out to Nursery parents detailing the procedure for applying for a Reception place for their child. All information is available online from www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions and the deadline for applications is midnight on **15th January 2017.**

Dates for your Diary

- January 12th Swimming for Year 4 children
- January 24th FOMS meeting at school 5pm
- February 8th Reception at Teesdale Leisure Centre for Multi-Skills Festival
- February 16th Class 3's Assembly 9.00am
- February 20th-24th Half Term
- March 20th-22nd – Parents' Evenings

Mr Minikin

Head Teacher