



September 13th 2019 Issue 2

Reception Places 2020!

It seems hard to imagine with some children just starting nursery, that it is time to think about applying for primary school in Reception Classes. If your child turns 5 between 1st September 2020 and 31st August 2021 then you need to apply, even if your child already attends our nursery. By visiting 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. The application window is open from now until 15th January 2020.

Secondary School Applications

Similarly, the application period for Secondary places has opened for children in Year 6 and will remain open until Thursday 31st October 2019. Online application forms can be found at www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions. Alternatively, paper copies can be requested by e-mailing schooladmissions@durham.gov.uk or telephoning 03000265896.

ParentPay

I would like to apologise for any mistakes appearing on parent's bills via ParentPay. There have been a number of errors, which we are working with the company to address. This is problem with ParentPay and not a mistake by school but I understand that this can cause confusion and stress. I am hopeful that these issues will be resolved quickly.

Nut Allergy

Thank you to all parents who have changed their children's snacks from nuts to other healthy alternatives, and made adjustments to their children's packed lunch to help keep children safe who have nut allergies.

Harvest

This year we are hoping to contribute to St. Mary's 1000 cans initiative to provide support for the Local FoodBank at The Well in West Auckland as well as ensuring that the local CAB has funding for food parcels for those in need. We know from both of these organisations that food poverty is an issue for an increasing number of families. Although the title of the initiative is 1000 cans any dry foodstuffs such as pasta can be brought in. If you would like to contribute to this cause please bring your item(s) to the entrance foyer where there will be a collection box. Thank you.

School Meals

Any parents/carers who wish to change from school meals to packed lunches should provide 2 weeks' notice as much of the food is ordered in advance by numbers. Thank you.

Meet Project

After the success of our Local History Books that the children from Y2-6 produced last year, this year we are going to try to support Barnard Castle Meet. The Year 6 children are researching the history of the Meet. Within this, they want to capture local's memories and borrow any photographs that people in our community have taken over the years. If you or any friend/relative have any photographs of recent or older Meet Parades then please could we borrow them? Any details e.g. the year and who are on the picture would be useful too. We will ensure that they are returned to you as quickly as possible.

Paperwork

Last week we sent home lots of forms for you to sign! Please could these be returned to school as soon as possible so that we can update our records? Parent Pay activation letters have been sent home for new pupils and those existing pupils whose account needs to be activated.

Nursery and Reception Photographs

This week our two younger classes had their photographs taken for the Teesdale Mercury new starter's pull out. Lookout for these in the near future!

Reading Superstars

Dr Greenwell was thrilled to report to me that **all** of her class have read every day and had their reading records signed by an adult! This is tremendous news and will help develop a love of reading which is one of our key aims. Well done everyone!

School Council Elections

I was very pleased how school council developed last year and with the changes they made and experiences received. Prospective councillors volunteered and were asked to prepare a speech to present to the rest of their class. All candidates were incredibly brave and I congratulate you all for having a go! This term's school councillors were elected by the children and announced in Celebration Assembly. Councillors will be changed each term to allow different children to gain confidence and experience. Well done to you all and thank you Mrs Patterson, for leading on this!

Eco Club

Dr Greenwell is keen to work with children from Years 1-6 to help make changes to the school and improve awareness of environmental issues. I know that children care a lot about the environment and have a powerful voice, and I am keen to support this too.

Clubs

I am pleased to see that many children have signed up for after school clubs and thank all of our staff for either running or supporting in these. In the first half of the Autumn term, we do not open up clubs to Reception children as they are generally tired out!

Meet the Teacher

On 17th September from 3.30pm-5.30pm, there is the opportunity for parents to meet and chat to their child's new teacher. No appointment is needed.

Flu Vaccine Information

The flu vaccination team have sent some information regarding the programme that will be run over the autumn term. Please follow this link for more information. Please note the vaccination is for any child in Reception to Year 6 inclusive this year. www.hdft.nhs.uk/electronic-consent School Name: Montalbo Code No: 114115

Attendance for w.b. 11.9.19

Class	Present
Reception	97.2%
Year 1	97.9%
Year 2	99%
Year 3	91.4%
Year 4	89%
Year 5	96.8%
Year 6	88.9%

School overall attendance is 94%

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 of learning was lost to lateness this week.

Dates for the diary

September 17th	Meet the teacher (informal meeting with new class teacher)
September 17 th	Year 3 River visit with Northumbrian Water
September 26 th	Year 1 Visit to the castle
September 20 th	Y3 visit to the Bowes Museum
September 27 th	MacMillan Coffee Afternoon
September 30 th	Year 6 Bikeability
October 1 st	Year 6 Bikeability
October 4 th	Year 2 visit to the Bowes Museum
October 9 th	Individual and siblings photographs
October 11 th	Year 6 Class Assembly

Mr Minikin
Head Teacher