



September 14th 2018 Issue 2

Primary Science Quality Mark

This week we received the great news that we have been awarded the much valued Primary Science Quality Mark. This is a superb achievement and a result of much hard work by Dr Greenwell, the staff and the children to help improve the way we deliver science. It is important that we spark the children's curiosity in Science and this year we are planning even more Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) activities as skills in these areas are so useful now and will be even more so in the future.

Parental Questionnaires

I mentioned at the end of the last academic year that I would feed back on the results of our annual parental questionnaire. Once again, I am very grateful for your feedback as it helps us to understand how we can improve. The relationship we as a staff have with you is crucial in helping our children and I am delighted that you feel this is strength of ours as I do. One family (2 questionnaires) did not agree with homework of any kind and whilst we will take this feedback on board, we believe as OFSTED do, that it can help consolidate learning, spark an interest and helps parents understand the kind of work the children are doing at school.

60 questionnaires received from Reception to Y6	Strongly Agree/ Agree	Disagree/ Strongly Disagree
My child is happy at school	100%	
My child feels safe at school	100%	
My child makes good progress	100%	
My child is well looked after by staff	100%	
My child is taught well	100%	
My child takes part in an engaging curriculum	100%	
My child can access a broad range of after school activities	100%	
My child receives appropriate homework for their age	96.7%	3.3%
The school makes sure children are well behaved in school	100%	
The school is well led and managed	100%	
The school responds well to any concerns or worries that I raise	100%	
I feel I have been well-informed of progress at Parents' Evenings	100%	
I receive sufficient information via the newsletter and the school app	100%	
I feel there are sufficient opportunities for parents to be involved in the life of the school	100%	
I would recommend Montalbo Nursery and Primary	100%	

The comments returned on the children's End of Year report were extremely positive too and we thank you very much for your feedback. Next week I will inform you of some of key priorities for this year.

Blue Cross Assembly

This week we welcomed Carolyn from the Blue Cross Pets Charity to school to talk about the work of the charity and to give the children information about keeping safe around dogs. The children listened well and the Year 1/2 did a further workshop about looking after pets and meeting their needs.

Extension Update

This week the hall roof has been completed which will allow the work on that to progress quite quickly. The completion date for the hall is the October holidays and then we will have a large space, perfect for PE, assembly and school performances.

Work towards the front of school has progressed well with the foundations for the new Reception Class, entrance foyer and school offices being laid and some block work started. The timber frame is due to start being erected on October 2nd which will give you an idea of how the whole school will knit together.

A reminder that you are welcome to come and have a tour of the work done to date as part of our Informal Meet the Teacher afternoon from 3.30pm to 5.30pm on Thursday 20th September.

Primary and Secondary School places for September 2019

It is time to apply for Reception and secondary school places for the next Academic Year. Nursery pupils have been issued with a postcard explaining the procedure and Year 6 pupils have received a letter with full instructions. Reception applications closes on 15th January 2019 and Secondary applications on 31st October 2018 via www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions and if you have any queries contact School Admissions Team 03000 265896

Batteries and stamps

Last year we recycled an awful lot of batteries and we still have collection boxes in the School Office to recycle this year. We are again collecting used stamps which help support the RSPB and there is a box in the School Office for these too.

Our School App Reminder

New parents/carers may not be aware that school uses an app than can be accessed via a phone, PC or tablet which helps you keep up to date. If you have a smartphone (Android or iPhone) you can download **OurSchoolsApp** from Google Play Android or the Apple Store for FREE.

School Council

School Councillors have been elected and I am keen for the children to have more of a voice on school life. Mrs Patterson, Miss Scott and Miss Bean will run weekly meetings with the school council and I will keep you updated with some of their ideas and work.

PE Days

Due to the ongoing work, we will continue to branch out to into the community and have been offered use of the Scout Hut where we can do PE. As a result we are going have long PE sessions there to avoid travelling back and forth too often.

Monday – Miss Blackburn

Tuesday – Mrs Leonard

Wednesday – Dr Greenwell

Wednesday – Miss Lauder's class with Mr Connelly (Gym Coach) in school

Thursday – Miss Richardson

Mrs Patterson's and Mrs Bartoli's classes will do PE as part of their Early Years Curriculum and do not have set days.

Attendance for w.b. 10.9.18

Class	Present
Reception	99.5%
Year 1	97.9%
Year 2	99.4%
Year 3	96.3%
Year 4	97.6%
Year 5	94.8%
Year 6	100%

School total 97.6%

Dates for the diary

September 20th Informal Meet the Teacher/Open Afternoon 3.30pm-5.30pm
September 28th MacMillan Coffee afternoon (details to follow)
October 2nd Teesdale School Open Evening 6-8.30pm
October 10th Photographer in school (individuals and siblings)

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.

Mr Minikin, Head Teacher