



September 22nd 2017 Issue 3

Informal Meet the Teacher Evening

There was a steady stream of parents attending Meet the Teacher on Monday. I hope you found it useful to see how your child has settled in their new class. The more formal Parents' Evening is arranged for November 13th and 14th however if you wish to speak to the Class Teacher at any time before then please contact the School Office where this can be arranged. Thank you.

Year 4's visit to Durham

Dr Greenwell's Class had a great day on Tuesday, where they visited the Oriental Museum to learn more about their topic, Ancient Egyptians. I know they are enjoying this topic and I have already seen the children wrapping Dr Greenwell, Mrs McIntyre and Mr Foster as mummies! The children were amazed to see real life mummies and were allowed to handle authentic Egyptian artefacts.

The day began with a visit to the cathedral as part of their RE topic 'Places of Worship'. The children learnt about the meaning of the stained glass windows, role-played a baptism and were given a tour around the building to understand the key points in a Christian church.

RE visitor

As part of the Durham Agreed Syllabus, the Year 5/6 children have been learning about Sikhism. They were visited this week by Cloud Singh who talked to the children about Sikh's beliefs and traditions. These visits/visitors are important as we try to prepare children for life in modern Britain and I know the children enjoyed the session. Thank you to Mrs Ridley, who leads on RE, for organising this.

Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural Education (SMSC)

As a school, we try to offer a broad range of teaching, learning, visits and activities which support the social, moral, spiritual and cultural understanding of our children. We are keen to develop the cultural understanding of our children and have various activities planned. Mrs Bartoli's class have sent a class email to Charter School in Bangkok to find out more about the school and life there.

Starting School

The application process for school places for children who will be 5 on or between 1st September 2018 and 31st August 2019 is open now. Applications can be made via www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions where you can access a guide containing essential information to help you with your application.

MacMillan Coffee Morning/Afternoon

A reminder that we are holding two MacMillan coffee events on Friday 29th September. Parents of children in Nursery/Reception Miss Lauder's and Miss Blackburn's class could attend between 9-10.30am. Parents of children in Miss Richardson's and Dr Greenwell's class could attend between 1.30pm and 3pm. Due to numbers of adults attending, children will stay in class, but this will be a chance for parents to have a chat and refreshments, and support this worthy cause.

Mrs Ridley would love volunteers to help with preparing the events. **We would really appreciate donations of biscuits and cakes that we could sell on the day and these could be brought into school on the day or the day before.** If you are able to help please let Mrs Ridley know or call in at the School Office. Thank you.

Miss Richardson's Class Assembly

On October 18th we are trying something different! For the last two years, a class has performed a class assembly at the end of each half term and this will still be the case. However, to tie in with their Mysteries of the Unexplained topic, the Y5/6 children are working with a theatre group to produce a 'play in a day' which will be performed to the school and their parents/family members on **Wednesday 18th October at 2.55pm** instead of the usual class assembly.

Giving our children the opportunity to showcase their skills in front of an audience, whether it be acting, art or sport is something I am very keen to build on and I am looking forward to this day.

Garden news

The final crops of the year (tomatoes, sweetcorn, beetroot, carrots and onions) have been harvested from the polytunnel. We have sowed some more lettuce and plan to plant potatoes to be ready for Christmas. Mr Hunt has been busy painting the new garden fence in readiness for espalier fruit trees and climbers which will be planted this term. He hasn't mentioned once how many panels there are to paint - thanks Mr Hunt!

Applications for Secondary School Places

It always seems incredibly early, but the application process for Secondary Admissions 2018 intake began on 12th September 2017. Parents can make their application for Secondary School online by visiting www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions which will be open now. The closing date for applications is 31st October 2017.

Paper application copies can be printed off by the parent/carer and emailed to schooladmissions@durham.gov.uk if you would prefer that method. Questions around admissions can be answered by the School Admissions and Transport team on 03000265896.

Swimming

I understand that there was a message given to some of the children by the swimming teacher about swimming hats. This was just a recommendation as some children's hair was going in their eyes. Swimming hats are not compulsory.

Attendance for w.b. 18.9.17

Class	Present
Mrs Bartoli's Reception	96.9%
Miss Lauder's Class	90.7%
Miss Blackburn's Class	93%
Dr Greenwell's Class	94%
Miss Richardson's Class	95.6%
School Total	93.8%

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. 1 hour 20 minutes of learning was lost to lateness this week.

Dates for the diary

September 29th Macmillan Coffee morning/afternoon
October 2nd /3rd Art Project for Dr Greenwell's Class at the Witham
October 16th Dr Greenwell's Class Tag Rugby Festival at Staindrop Academy
October 17th Miss Richardson's Class to Multi-skills Festival at Staindrop Academy
October 18th Play in a Day for Miss Richardson's Class and parents (details to follow)
October 20th Individual and siblings photographs
October 23rd-27th Half Term
November 13th/14th Parents' Evening

Mr Minikin

Head Teacher