



October 20th 2017 Issue 7

Play in a Day

Miss Richardson's Class had a great day on Wednesday and entertained parents, grandparents and the rest of the school with a play that they learnt in just 2 1/2 hours! We were very impressed with the children's acting skills, the way they improvised and told us about a series of mysteries through various sketches. The children thoroughly enjoyed their time and I could see the confidence grow in all of the Y5/6 children. Well done to you all!

Nursery and Reception Stay and Play

It was lovely to see so many parents and carers visit The Base for the Stay and Play Session. There is always so much to see and enjoy in Early Years, with the areas changing each week. I know the children have loved 'their travels' to different parts of the world this half term and have been especially busy in the Travel Agents. Thank you to Mrs Bartoli and the EYFS staff for arranging this.

Parents' Evenings November 13th and 14th

Appointments can be made for Parents' Evening by contacting the School Office for Years 1-6 or with Mrs Bartoli for Nursery and Reception appointments. This is a good opportunity for you to see how your child is progressing and to look at their work. We hope to see as many of you there as possible. The Book Fair will also be in the hall during those two evenings so bring your purses/wallets! Information about the books will be sent out after half term.

Attendance Awards

In today's Celebration Assembly I have handed out certificates for children whose attendance has been 100% for this academic year. There were 75 children who achieved this – well done to you all! Our target for the school is to have more than 96% attendance and last year we surpassed that. The vast majority of children in our school are very good attenders and arrive in time for registration each day. The local authority often highlights to schools the correlation between children's progress and attainment, and their attendance. We also recognise that children can be unwell and there will be other opportunities for children to be rewarded throughout the year.

After School Clubs

We have been pleased with the number of children attending after school clubs. As a result, we have kept some of the most popular and added some different ones too. Two of the new clubs are Christmas Choir Club and WE Club.

The Christmas choir club will be run by Dr Greenwell for children in Y3-6. The children will be singing traditional carols as well as more modern Christmas songs. The choir have been asked to perform in the Christmas tree festival in St Marys Church and will take a role in the school Christmas Carol Concert. Dr Greenwell is keen for both boys and girls to come along and enjoy singing in a group.

'WE Club' builds on our links with WE. This is a charitable organisation dedicated to making changes. Next half term, Mrs Ridley will run this free club for children in Y3-6. The children will be involved in choosing, organising and making positive changes in different ways.

Recorder and Clarinet Performance

Mrs Unwin, who works for the Durham Music Service and teaches Y4 recorder and Y5/6 clarinet players, has organised a joint concert with all of the schools she works with at Teesdale School on Tuesday 19th December at 5pm. Parents of children in Y4 and of the clarinet players are invited to attend.

Halloween Disco

FOMs have kindly agreed to organise the ever-popular Halloween Disco on Thursday 2nd November. There are separate discos as usual with the disco for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children from 5.30pm-6.30pm and the disco for Y3-Y6 from 6.45pm-7.45pm. Tickets cost £1.50, which includes a hotdog and a drink, and can be bought at the School Office. There will be a sweet stall and chance to purchase glitter tattoos or glow sticks. There will be a competition for the best fancy dress and I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Teesdale Sports Centre

Teesdale Sports Centre are running the following activities over half term:

26th October 13.00 until 16.00 Football Camp £6.00

26th October 10.00 until 16.00 Gymnastics Camp £30.00 (they are offering a 9.00 drop off)

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.

Half term

I hope you all have a safe and enjoyable holiday and hope that we have some good weather to enjoy. I look forward to finding out all about your break when we return on Monday 30th October.

Attendance for w.b. 16.10.17

Class	Present
Mrs Bartoli's Reception	97.4%
Miss Lauder's Class	95.3%
Miss Blackburn's Class	96.4%
Dr Greenwell's Class	94%
Miss Richardson's Class	97.7%
School Total	96.1%

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 8.45am. 53 minutes of learning was lost to lateness this week.

Dates for the diary

October 30 th	School starts after the half term break
November 1 st	Flu Immunisation Rec-Y4
November 2 nd	Halloween Disco Rec, Y1 and Y2 5.30-6.30pm; Y3-6 6.45-7.45pm
November 10 th	World Science Day
November 13 th /14 th	Parents' Evening
November 13 th – 17 th	Book Fair after school each evening
November 17 th	Children in Need events
December 6 th – 10 th	Christmas Tree Festival at St Marys
December 11 th	Miss Blackburn's Class Hockey Competition
December 12 th	Dr Greenwell's Multi-Skills Festival 9.30-11.30 at Staindrop
December 13 th	Christmas Pantomime in school hall
December 14 th	Reception to sports festival at Staindrop
December 15 th	Christmas Jumper Day
December 15 th	Whole School Carol Service at St Marys 1.45-2.45pm
December 19 th	Recorders concert (Y4) at Teesdale School (details to follow)
December 22 nd	Teacher Training Day

Mr Minikin

Head Teacher