



November 10th 2017 Issue 9

The Goods Wagon Arrives

This week has been so exciting! The staff are probably relieved it's here as I've become slightly obsessed with our new Goods Wagon. Being interested in local history, I knew that our school was on the site of the former Goods Station and yard so have been keen to develop links with the heritage of the area, and to develop the garden with a nod to the past. I have searched for three years to find something authentic and suitable for school and am delighted that we have been able to purchase the 19th Century Wagon. It has been beautifully restored with the only non-original parts being the windows. It will make a tremendous addition to the garden, allowing children to work and play in this amazing space. I am very grateful to the Teesdale Action Partnership and Councillors who funded the project and once more to Mrs Abi Smith, who helped with the grant application, arranged haulage, checked with planning and much more! Thank you!

School of the Year

Yesterday several members of staff and I attended the Pride of Teesdale Awards at the Witham Hall. These awards recognise individuals and organisations that are making a difference to our area and some of the stories we heard were both humbling and inspirational. We were delighted to be nominated for School of the Year and thrilled to have won!

Well done to all of our talented, hardworking staff and to our superb children!

Thank you Mrs Collin

Mrs Collin has decided to step down from her After School Supervisory Assistant's role after over 11 years in post. It is her last day today and we thank her for all her work – I know the children really enjoy being around her and there is always a nice atmosphere in 'Chill Out!' Until we secure a replacement, some of our Teaching Assistants have kindly agreed to help out with Chill Out and I thank them for that. Mrs Collin will continue to work in our School Office in her other role.

Great Fire of London

Last Friday Miss Blackburn's and Miss Lauder's classes had a fantastic time with the Fire Brigade as part of their topic. They had made some houses to represent Pudding Lane which the Fireman set alight to show the children how quickly the fire spread! This is another excellent part of our creative curriculum and I thank Miss Blackburn for organising this and the Fire Brigade for coming.

W.O.W. (Walk Once a Week) Initiative

We have been invited to take part in a sustainable travel programme which encourages children and parents to think about the ways they travel to school. The idea is to reduce car journeys, pollution, congestion and improve mental and physical health. The scheme works by rewarding children who walk, scooter or cycle to school. For children who live further away, the scheme encourages parking a little way from school and walking the rest of the way if possible (park and stride). We will make sure children who are transported by the school transportation team are rewarded too as the scheme encourages travelling by bus if car is not an option. If children are able to walk to/from school or park and stride at least once a week for a month then they receive a badge. Each month your child can receive a different badge, which I imagine will be very popular.

Remembrance Service

Last year we took part in the Remembrance Parade in town which started at St Mary's Church and culminated with the laying of a wreath by The Bowes Museum War Memorial. We have been invited to participate in this again. Any children who would like to attend need to be accompanied by an adult. The service is quite long and busy so we will not go in church but will meet in the church car park at 11.20am where the parade starts. It would be lovely to see some of you join us.

Children in Need

Friday, November 17th is Children in Need Day. We are encouraging the children to come to school in something spotty again on the day and make a donation to this fantastic charity! Thank you.

Parents' Evenings November 13th and 14th

Appointments can be made for Parents' Evening by contacting the School Office. This is a good opportunity to see how your child is progressing and to look at their work. We hope to see as many of you there as possible.

Christmas Plans

This year Nursery and Reception will perform their Nativity to their parents/carers on Thursday 7th December at 2pm in the school hall. Miss Lauder's and Miss Blackburn's classes will perform a Christmas themed play to their parents on 13th December and 14th at 6pm. Miss Richardson's class will set up their Christmas market stalls after these two plays. We have arranged with Reverend Harding to have our whole school Carol Service in St Mary's Church on December 15th at 1.45pm (in Christmas jumpers!) and all parents/carers and relatives are invited to this.

Dr Greenwell's and Miss Richardson's classes will lead on the Summer performance. Next year, if plans are agreed, we will be able to have more whole school plays in the hall utilising the extra space.

FOMs have kindly paid for and organised a Christmas pantomime (Aladdin) to visit the school on Wednesday 13th December. Christmas parties will take place in the last week of term and details of these will follow.

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.

Attendance for w.b. 30.10.17

Class	Present
Mrs Bartoli's Reception	99.4%
Miss Lauder's Class	96.3%
Miss Blackburn's Class	96.7%
Dr Greenwell's Class	96.8%
Miss Richardson's Class	97.4%

School Total 97.1%

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 8.45a.m. 23 minutes of learning was lost to lateness this week.

Dates for the diary

November 13 th /14 th	Parents' Evenings
November 13 th – 17 th	Book Fair after school each evening
November 14 th	Y5/6 to Safety Carousel
November 15 th	Y3-Y6 to Teesdale Leisure Centre (PE kits needed)
November 17 th	Children in Need events
November 22 nd	Y1-Y2 to Teesdale Leisure Centre (PE kits needed)
November 27 th	Y3-Y6 Centre for Life trip 8.30am departure
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 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) and Clarinets at Teesdale School 5pm
December 21 st	End of Autumn term
December 22 nd	Teacher Training Day

Mr Minikin

Head Teacher