



March 23rd 2018 Issue 24

Sports Fun

This week many of our children have attended sporting events and all of them have completed lots of other sporting activities within school. Being active is so important in childhood. As well as the obvious health benefits, many of the sports coached in primary schools are activities that pupils continue to enjoy as they get older. I loved the dances that the children have been working on. Well done everyone!

SATs Information Evening for Year 2 and Year 6 Parents

On Tuesday 27th March, Miss Lauder and Miss Blackburn would like to share some information with Year 2 parents on the Key Stage 1 assessment procedures from 5-5.30pm.

On the same evening, Miss Richardson would like to share information about the Key Stage 2 SATs with parents of Year 6 children. This session will run from 5.30pm-6pm.

Both sessions cover the type of assessments the children will take and give you more information about what the results/assessments mean.

Base Stay and Play

Nursery and Reception parents are invited to a Stay and Play session on Tuesday 27th March from 2.45pm. I know these sessions are popular and we look forward to seeing many of you then.

Extension Update

All being well, the new car park will be ready to use after Easter. The builders are currently digging out a new area near the playground for their welfare area, vehicles and machinery as their attention turns to this side of school. Four new classrooms will be built over that side of school, with the existing playground exit being extended and two classrooms built either side. As these are being built, the yard will be enlarged and give us back the space that we lose from the build.

After Easter, there will be no access to the playground through the current car park.

A path will be made outside Miss Lauder's class that will allow mobility scooters, pushchairs etc. access to the playground without going down the steps. This will obviously mean more people using that path and with this in mind I would like to ask the parents/grandparents of Miss Lauder's class to wait on the yard. After Easter, Miss Lauder will bring her class out underneath the canopy and wait with them there until she sees the child's adult and they will be handed over. This should help alleviate bottle necks and a crowded area.

Outside Learning

Dr Greenwell and I attended a workshop last week with Outdoor and Sustainability Education Specialists (OASES), looking at school grounds and how they can be developed to promote good outdoor learning. It was staggering to hear that children nationally spend on average less time outside than prisoners! The different skills developed outside are numerous alongside the additional benefits of aiding mental health and wellbeing. It is pleasing to see our teachers engaging in outdoor learning. This week we have had classes to the woods, investigating minibeasts in the garden and walking around town looking at the history of Barnard Castle.

GlaxoSmithKline Visits

Next week sees the whole school, except Nursery, visit GSK as part of their community engagement scheme connected to their new build.

Edinburgh Residential

The Y5/6 children are looking forward to their Summer Residential to Edinburgh alongside other Y5/6s from Cotherstone Primary School. Some parents are paying amounts in instalments and some have paid off the full amount, which needs to be paid in full by May 25th. Please could those parents/carers who have not returned the EV4 forms return them as soon as possible? Thank you. I have added the PowerPoint from the parents meeting to the latest news section of the website for parents who were unable to attend the meeting earlier in the term.

Parent Governor Vacancy

We currently have a Parent Governor vacancy and I would like to ask anyone who may be interested in the vacancy to express an interest either by phone, at the school office or by emailing Mrs Cole, Chair of Governors at l.cole400@durhamlearning.net

If you would like to find out more on the role of a school governor then please contact myself or the Mrs Cole to find out more. If there is then more than one interested party, then an election will follow. The Governing Body is very strong and it plays an important role in the life of the school.

Easter Egg Raffle

On Wednesday 28th, FOMS are raising money with an Easter Egg Raffle. We have had quite a few donations of eggs so far and are very grateful.

Miss Lauder's Class Assembly

We have changed the order of class assemblies a little and Miss Lauder's Class will be the next one on Wednesday 28th March at 9am. Parents/carers and grandparents are welcome to attend and we look forward to seeing you then.

Teacher Training Day

A reminder that children break up for on Wednesday 28th March. Teaching staff are in school the following day for staff training.

30 Hour Provision and Open Afternoon for Nursery

From September, we will be able to offer 30 hour childcare for eligible 3-4 year olds.

We would like to invite any parents who may be interested seeing our Nursery provision for their 3 year olds to an Open Afternoon on Tuesday April 24th. Mrs Bartoli and Mrs Patterson will set up some activities for your child to enjoy and you can talk to the staff about the provision.

Attendance for w.b. 19.3.18

Class	Present
Mrs Bartoli's Reception	88.1%
Miss Lauder's Class	95.3%
Miss Blackburn's Class	96%
Dr Greenwell's Class	97.2%
Miss Richardson's Class	95.2%
School Total	94.9%

Dates for the diary

March 26 th	EYFS and Key Stage 1 to GlaxoSmithKline
March 27 th	Y3-Y6 to GlaxoSmithKline
March 28 th	Miss Lauder's Class Assembly at 9am
March 28 th	Easter Egg Raffle for children
March 29 th	Teacher Training Day
March 30 th – April 13 th	Easter Holidays
April 16 th	Start of Summer Term
April 18 th	FOMS meeting 5pm

Mr Minikin

Head Teacher

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 5 minutes of learning was lost to lateness this week.