



May 25th 2018 Issue 31

Mrs Patterson

This year Mrs Patterson has been undertaking her Teacher Training with us in order to qualify as a Teacher. I am delighted to inform you that she has passed her training with flying colours, which does not surprise me in the slightest! Mrs Patterson has a wealth of experience in Early Years education, forms fantastic relationships with the children and has all the skills and characteristics to make an excellent teacher. It is never easy juggling teaching, family life and coursework and for that Mrs Patterson deserves huge credit. Thank you to Mrs Bartoli, who has been her mentor throughout the year. Together, and with the other staff in the Base, they make a tremendous team. Well done!

Year 2 SATs

This week the Year 2 children have been taking their end of key stage assessments. Testing in primary schools is often discussed and personally I am not a fan, especially of testing children in Key Stage 1. However, the tests only form part of the assessment process and teachers use this plus their judgements by looking at children's books, knowing the children well and making an assessment of their children's knowledge and skills over the whole year and this is the information that we report to parents at the end of the year. Well done to all the children for trying their best and the teaching staff for their efforts over the last few weeks.

Parade Club

On Whit Monday, our school has created a quite spectacular entry for the Procession! The Parade Club itself has been great and whilst a little manic at the start, it is lovely to see the children being so creative with parents/carers and some of our Teaching Assistants. A big thank you to Mrs Bowron, Mrs Daniels and Mrs Spence for their creativity and help with the club. I would also like to thank our local artist, Mrs Susan Williams, for her time and effort – one of her creations is really amazing! For once, I will be supporting from the side as Mrs Bartoli wanted to be involved this year: she likes dressing up far more than me! Have a great time!

Extension Update

The four new classrooms on the playground are progressing well and after a recent site meeting I am pleased to report that the programme is running to schedule. The aim is to have these completed and useable for September and this new area will house Key Stage 2, with separate classes for Years 3, 4, 5 and 6. There are extra toilets going in the girls' and boys' toilets as well as a separate accessible toilet being built. The hall extension will also be complete by September.

We are having to be quite flexible in our approach and move around the school as required, to avoid noise and disruption. This is because apart from the external work there is quite a lot of internal adjustments taking place in the existing building. For example, Miss Blackburn's old classroom will be turned into a Resource Room with the eventual aim of it being used as an ICT suite. I am very grateful to the children and staff for their flexibility as we are move around our site.

The new extension does give us a lot more options in terms of space, class structure and will really benefit teaching and learning. From September, we will be able to have single year groups from Year 1 to Year 6 and no mixed aged classes. After further work from September to December, Nursery and Reception children will have their own rooms too. The extra classrooms being built has meant that we are able to employ extra teaching staff and we have been interviewing a number of teaching candidates this week. I will update you after half term when the process is complete.

Stay and Play

It was nice to see many parents/carers in the Base for the Stay and Play session. I hope you enjoyed the Fairy Tale theme. Thank you to the Base Staff for offering these opportunities.

Sports Festivals

This week has seen us attend both cricket and football tournaments. The Year 4 cricket team did very well and were only pipped for the title on a run count back after tying with the overall winner. The Y5/6 cricketers came 2nd too which is a very good effort and the footballers continue to make progress despite having a very young squad! Well done to you all!

Lost Uniform

Luke in Miss Lauder's class has lost his school jumper. Please can you search your child's jumpers to see if they have picked it up by mistake? Schools accumulate quite a lot of uniform/sportswear. We have a box of unnamed clothing in school if anyone thinks that they may be missing something.

FOMs Bingo Night

Over the last couple of years FOMS have ran Bingo Nights and these have been very popular. They have arranged the next one on Thursday June 7th at 6pm. Tickets cost £1.50 for adults which include pies and peas. Children can come and watch a movie or play outside if the weather is nice. Their tickets cost £1 which includes popcorn and a drink. Tickets are available from the School Office from Monday 14th May. You will be able to purchase a ticket on the night but advanced booking helps with the ordering of food and refreshments.

Edinburgh

Please can parents/carers of the Y5/6 children who are going to Edinburgh settle their remaining balance as soon as possible? Thank you.

New Reception Starters

A welcome meeting for parents of new Reception starters will be held at 4pm on Tuesday 5th June. A number of 'taster sessions' will be held during next half term. If your child is due to start school at Montalbo in September please return your form as soon as possible to book a place to take part in the sessions.

Class Photographs

Group class photos are on display in the class rooms and order forms have been sent home with pupils. Please return the completed order forms by **Wednesday 6th June** together with the appropriate payment, cash or **cheque payable to 'New Age Studios'**.

Uniform Orders

Last date for orders to be received in school ready for delivery by end of term is June 15th. Online orders can be placed direct to the company and delivered to your home address for a small fee paid to suppliers after this cut-off date. To order for nursery follow this link

<https://studentuniform.co.uk/mon074> and to order for Reception – Y6 follow this link

<https://studentuniform.co.uk/mops072>

Attendance for w.b. 21.5.18

Class	Present
Mrs Bartoli's Reception	97.8%
Miss Lauder's Class	95%
Miss Blackburn's Class	90.6%
Dr Greenwell's Class	97.2%
Miss Richardson's Class	96.5%
School Total	95.1%

Dates for the diary

May 25 th	Meet Parade Afternoon Workshop for children and parents 1.30-3.30pm
May 25 th	Dr Greenwell's Class to Jarrow Hall
May 28 th -June 1 st	Whit Half Term Holiday
May 28 th	Procession in town
June 4 th	Children return to school
June 5 th	Y5/6 Girls Cricket (team of 8) at Willington Cricket Club 10-2.15pm
June 5 th	New Reception Starters Meeting 4pm
June 8 th	Quad Kids Athletics (selected children from Y3-6)
June 11 th -13 th	Y5/6 Residential to Edinburgh
June 13 th	FOMS Meeting in school 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 13 minutes of learning was lost to lateness this week.