



**May 4<sup>th</sup> 2018 Issue 28**

### **Mrs Ridley**

Many children and parents have been enquiring about Mrs Ridley and I have now had consent to give you some information. Mrs Ridley is currently absent for health reasons and will be absent for the rest of this academic year. You may see her in the local community and I am sure you will wish her well. The children and staff hope that she will be able to visit us soon.

### **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>

To order for Reception – Y6 follow this link <https://studentuniform.co.uk/mops072>

### **Class Photographs**

On Wednesday, May 9th the school photographer will be in school taking **class** photographs. Nursery children who do not usually attend on Wednesday mornings are welcome to have their photograph taken with their classmates if you would like and should come to the main entrance for 9.25am.

### **STEM workshop**

On Tuesday Class 3 worked with a STEM Ambassador from Stanhope Aggregate Quarry. The afternoon began with a thrilling set of short films which showed the controlled explosions in the quarry, following by an explanation about how the rock is broken up and used. The next part of the session involved the children completing a challenge. They were provided with a variety of materials to prevent an egg from smashing when dropped from 3m. An added twist was that each of the materials had to be 'purchased' with the children working to a tight budget. The afternoon came to an excellent conclusion, with one team triumphant!

### **Extension Works**

This week has seen the foundations for the hall extension made and some initial blocks laid. The new playground has been finished and is very popular. Due to the large machinery that is on site, the builders have asked to extend the fenced off area and this is the correct approach. Bikes and scooters are now being stored on the grassed area outside Miss Lauder's Class.

As the space where we lining up on a morning has now been fenced off, we will line up on the new yard on a morning and each class will be brought around to that area to be collected safely at 3.25pm, apart from Nursery and Reception who are collected from the Base. I know that the access in and out can be busy at peak times and we have reminded children to push bikes and scooters around, and not to ride on them. Please can parents/carers reinforce this message?

The area for the four new classrooms has been marked out and the foundations will be dug out shortly.

### **Time Capsule**

One idea the construction team have had to engage with children and their families is to leave a time capsule deep underground! I thought that our families might like to leave a family photograph in the capsule with some details on the back such as your names and your child's age – any photo would be fine or even a scanned copy if you don't want to part with it. Please send the photograph to school by **May 11th** so that it can be buried along with some other items! We have had quite a lot of pictures in now and the children have thought of other items we should include.

### **Pedestrian Training**

Next week the Year 3 children will be taking part in Pedestrian Training with Durham County Road Safety Team. Please can all parents/carers of Year 3 children ensure that they have returned the consent form in order for them to take part.

### **Garden Developments**

This week saw the first of our produce passed on the kitchen. The polytunnel is now full of plants and we are growing a few new things this year such as melons, peppers and aubergines.

One project within the garden that has really developed lately is the viaduct and river bed. In keeping with the railway heritage theme, we are creating a small replica of Percy Beck Viaduct and the River Tees. Once finished, it will be fenced off safely but still allow children and visitors to get close enough to see and enjoy it. I am extremely grateful to Mr Daniels who has given up much of his free time to create this feature!

Over the Whit Holidays, the final remaining undeveloped part of the garden will be turfed and the whole garden will be tidy and useable. I have been waiting to see if the builders disturb the water and electricity supply that runs under there before having that work done!

### **Gymnastics**

Teesdale Leisure Centre are running a Gymnastics camp on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> May between 10am and 4pm. You can drop the children off at 9am if that helps. The cost of the day is £30.00. For further information please contact 03000260862.

### **School Meals**

Durham County Council has announced that the cost of school meals is to rise. The cost from September will be £2.05 per meal.

Due to the change in Universal Credit, all those children who are currently in receipt of Free School Meals will have this entitlement protected until 2022 regardless of any changes in circumstance. It is therefore prudent to contact school should you think that you may be eligible for Free School Meals.

### **Attendance for w.b. 30.4.18**

Class	Present
Mrs Bartoli's Reception	98%
Miss Lauder's Class	94.7%
Miss Blackburn's Class	96.2%
Dr Greenwell's Class	98.7%
Miss Richardson's Class	97.5%
School Total	96.9%

### **Dates for the diary**

May 7 <sup>th</sup>	May Day Bank Holiday
May 8 <sup>th</sup>	Pedestrian Training for Y3s
May 8 <sup>th</sup>	Chess Team to Cotherstone School
May 9 <sup>th</sup>	Class Photographs
May 9 <sup>th</sup>	FOMS Meeting at 5.30pm in school
May 14 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup>	Y6 SATs
May 17 <sup>th</sup>	Reception children to the Bowes Museum
May 21 <sup>st</sup> -25 <sup>th</sup>	Y2 SATs
May 24 <sup>th</sup>	Key Stage 2 Football Tournament
May 28 <sup>th</sup> -June 1 <sup>st</sup>	Whit Half Term Holiday
May 28 <sup>th</sup>	Procession in town

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. 41 minutes of learning was lost to lateness this week.