



September 21st 2018 Issue 3

Open Evening

It was nice to see so many of you being able to have a look around our school and become more familiar with the new layout. As you will know, we still have some further changes to make when the building work is complete but I think that all of the staff have done a marvellous job under the circumstances, making the very best of the available space and being flexible in their outlook. As a result, although some parts are shiny and new, it still feels like 'Old Monty' and the atmosphere in school is one that I am very proud of!

MacMillan Coffee Afternoon

Continuing our tradition of being involved in this very worthwhile event, we would like to invite parents/carers or relatives to an afternoon in school on Friday 28th September. Starting at 2pm, you are welcome to come and buy a tea or coffee and cake to support MacMillan. This year I have set the teachers and children a challenge to bake some cakes to sell and being a competitive bunch the teachers want to see which class raises the most money! I know many of you have contributed cakes in the past and we would still be very grateful for any donations again, to add to the ones we make. Thank you.

Reading including Extreme Reading

Each year we try and give reading the highest priority in school. We have reading raffles, reading assemblies, Read Write Inc sessions and the older classes use high quality texts. Miss Richardson's Year 6 children, for example, have been reading a powerful text about life in Afghanistan which I know has been an eye-opener and promoted excellent discussion.

On another note, I was amused to see some photographs from Dr Greenwell's class reading in unusual places! Reading can give great pleasure through humour, drama and description and is something that will keep promoting.

School Improvement

Like any organisation, we are always looking to improve. Each year we write a School Improvement Plan which focuses on many areas of school life. As well as looking to maintain and build on high academic standards and adapt to the new build, I thought I would share some of our key priorities in terms of the curriculum:-

1. To increase the opportunities in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths
2. To increase the children's cultural understanding through teaching, assemblies, visits and visitors
3. To introduce a Maths Mastery approach in Year 1 and Year 2
4. To utilise the school grounds and the local area to enhance teaching and learning
5. To develop a knowledge based curriculum that is as broad, balanced and promotes high standards in each subject

The school improvement document contains far more objectives and detail and this will be available on the website shortly.

Extension Update

This week the hall windows and fire doors have been fitted. This will make the hall extension watertight to enable work to be completed inside. The window fitters have begun to finish off the frames and missing glass on the new classrooms and they look fantastic. As well as having all of those windows, fresh air can be drawn into each classroom via fans.

Block work has begun towards the front of school and further work on drainage has taken place. The old nursery is being modernised with some changes taking place inside there.

School Council

School Council met this week and one of the tasks I would like them to work on is playground markings for games and sports. Our children are very imaginative and are quite lucky with the areas we have created for them to play on. I think that their ideas can only add to the choices. I will keep you informed of what they decide upon!

New School Nurse

This week I met our new school nurse, Lindsey Atkinson. She is very keen to meet you and attended the Open Afternoon. She would like to arrange monthly drop in sessions to speak to any parent needing advice. The first session is Wednesday 31st October between 3-4pm but if you would like to speak to her before this her telephone number is 03000261577.

Winter Menus

Yesterday, new menus were sent home with children. They will come into force after the October half term. Please circle your choices for each day for main meals and return them to school by October 12th. The current menu will be in place until after half term.

Letterjoin

As a school, we follow a handwriting scheme called Letterjoin. Children can access this at home to use if they would like and it is available on tablet or PC. You can print out sheets as extra practice too. To log on using a PC –

Username lj0107 Password home

To log on using a tablet User name: lj0107
Swipe code: A capital 'L' shape starting at top left.

Flu Immunisation

The parents and carers of children in Foundation Stage and Years 1 to 5 should have received either an email or a letter regarding this year's flu vaccination. Please remember that you need to give consent by visiting: www.hdft.nhs.uk/nasalfu-consent. Our school code is 46697. If you do not have internet access please contact the Immunisation team on 0300 0030 013

Attendance for w.b. 17.9.18

Class	Present
Reception	97.4%
Year 1	100%
Year 2	98.9%
Year 3	96.2%
Year 4	94.3%
Year 5	94.4%
Year 6	93%

School total attendance - 96.2%

Please ensure that your child arrives at school no later than 8.55a.m. in order to make a prompt start for lessons.

19 minutes of learning was lost to lateness this week.

Dates for the diary

September 28th MacMillan Coffee afternoon 2pm-3.30pm
October 2nd Teesdale School Open Evening 6-8.30pm
October 10th Photographer in school (individuals and siblings)
October 17th Tag Rugby Competition Y4 (selected children)
October 18th Multi Skills Festival Y6 (whole class)
October 31st Flu Immunisation for Y1-5
October 31st School Nurse Drop In 3-4pm

Mr Minikin, Head Teacher