



January 11th 2019 Issue 15

Welcome back

Happy New Year! I hope that you have had a lovely Christmas and relaxing break. The children have settled quickly and have been keen to share their experiences of the holidays with me. In assembly, I talked to the children about New Year's Resolutions and we have some great ones: from being kinder to siblings, helping at home, getting more fresh air and trying to sleep better. I will keep you posted on the success of these!

Mr Bell has moved on to his next school as part of his teacher training and this term we welcome Miss Smith who will be working in Miss Blackburn's Class.

PE Days

We have reorganised some class's PE days this half term as different classes get a turn with our external Staindrop sports coaches. The PE sessions until the end of the extension works will be for full afternoons and are as follows and children will require their Montalbo indoor PE kits on these days:-

Monday – Dr Greenwell's class

Tuesday – Mrs Leonard's class

Wednesday – Miss Lauder's class

Thursday – Miss Scott's class swimming; Miss Blackburn class's PE

Friday – Miss Richardson's class

Reception and Nursery will access the hall and their outside area regularly so should have their kits in school.

Clubs

I know that the children enjoy looking at the new club lists and making their choices. Each half term we try to blend popular traditional clubs with some new ones and I am pleased that we have managed to arrange taekwondo, design and technology and engineering this half term. Some of the clubs require more careful supervision and are limited in number so make your choices as early as possible!

Extension update

The builders were back early in the New Year and now things are starting to take shape towards the front of school. The old nursery, new reception classroom, offices and entrance foyer have had the majority of electrical and heating work completed. The rooms have been plastered and the painters are in this week.

Spring Performance

I have been thinking about the success of our Christmas performances for Nursery, Reception and Year 1 and 2. The skills and confidence that these performances bring should not be underestimated, as well as the enjoyment these occasions bring to the children, staff and families.

As a result, I have suggested to the Year 3 and 4 staff that they put on a performance at the end of the Spring Term for Lower key Stage 2. This will give these children more of a chance to shine as they have tended to have had lesser roles in the Key Stage 2 performances. The Year 5 and 6 children will put on their spectacular performance in Summer!

Bowes Museum Visit

As part of their history work, Miss Blackburn's class visited the Bowes Museum. They did some fantastic work on John and Josephine Bowes and were a credit to the school. As a special birthday treat, Georgie was allowed to set off the Silver Swan which was a nice gesture.

Space Camp

Dr Greenwell is organising a Space Camp for her class and Miss Scott's class. I have sent a separate letter to parents of children in these classes to invite you to a presentation about the event. I know that the children are very excited about the range of the activities.

The rest of the school will participate in a carousel of space activities and I will give you more information about this in the coming weeks. We are hoping to work towards a Primary Space Quality Mark to add to our recent scientific awards.

DigVenturers Miracles to Medicine Workshop

Next week the children from Year 1 and Year 4 will have the opportunity to take part in an educational session (lead by 'DigVenturers') about medieval medicines called 'Miracles to Medicine'. The session introduces children to medieval medical practices and maladies through the eyes of an archaeologist. With our community archaeologist leading their adventures, they will discover and analyse bones, strange ailments, medieval medicines and a host of exciting historic characters.

The Bowes Museum day, space camp and the archaeology workshops demonstrate our commitment to enriching the curriculum in innovative ways. They also sound great fun and I look forward to letting you know how the children get on!

Swimming begins

Swimming lessons will recommence on Thursday 17th January for Year 4 children and selected Year 5/6 children. Please ensure that your child has the correct kit in school and warm clothes to make the journey back and forth. Thank you.

Flu Catch Up Sessions

If you have a child in any of the classes from Reception to Year 5 inclusive and they missed the flu immunisation then there are a couple of catch up sessions fairly locally that you might like to attend. They are both on 19th January: one is at the Dolphin Centre in Darlington from 9am-12noon; the other is at Spennymoor Leisure Centre from 1.30pm-4pm.

To book an appointment please call 03000 030013.

Attendance for w.b.

Class	Present
Reception	99.3%
Year 1	97.4%
Year 2	91.2%
Year 3	96.3%
Year 4	100%
Year 5	100%
Year 6	100%
School overall attendance	97.9%

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

25 minutes of learning was lost to lateness this week.

Dates for the diary

January 14 th	Mrs Unwin's Music Tuition begins
January 15 th	Space Camp meeting at 5:30pm
January 16 th	DigVenturers Miracles to Medicine Workshop for Year 1 and Year 4
January 17 th	Swimming starts again for Year 4 and selected Y5/6 children
January 25 th	Year 5 Class Assembly
January 31 st /1 st	Space Camp
February 13 th	Year 6 Netball festival
February 14 th	Year 2 Multiskills Festival
February 15 th	Band Workshop
February 18 th – 22 nd	Half term

Mr Minikin

Head Teacher